

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A very Happy New Year to everyone; we hope you had a peaceful Christmas holiday. It was lovely to see you all return and getting back into a school routine! Mr Thompson and I have visited all the classes this week and we were very proud of the children working so hard after the Christmas break. We would also like to welcome new children into our Nursery class along with Mrs Pullen who started on Monday too; they have been very warmly welcomed by the children, parents and staff.

New building project

It has been an exciting start to the term with the start of our small extension at the back of Nursery and Year 1. The younger children especially have been fascinated by the diggers, dumper trucks and mounds of mud which have been transported through their play area and playground this week. The children have been very sensible in making sure they have stayed safe behind the fencing and the staff have been developing a set of safety rules with the children, whilst being next to a construction site! Very important learning and one of our school rules 'to be safe!'

Thank you to everyone in school and parents for being so flexible and patient this week. We have had to make a number of adaptations and changes to accommodate the construction workers and playtimes for the children making sure that safety comes first! I am always so proud of the children and staff as they carry on regardless of the disruption with the learning and lessons and taking the changes in their stride! Well done and thank you!

I also think we might be inspiring our next generation of builders and construction workers!



Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beale.

ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

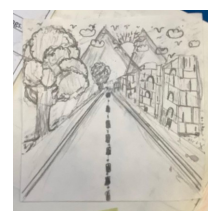
'Our school family values us all as unique individuals and children of God.

We **aspire** to be the best version of ourselves; **believing** that through the gifts God has given us, we can make a positive contribution, flourish and **achieve** together to make a difference in our ever-changing world.'



Classroom Learning this week.

Back into the routine of learning and high expectations following the Christmas break! There has been lots of exploring in the Early Years. Year One have been studying and replicating the abstract artist Paul Klee and making stick men to bring their text 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson alive! Year 2 have been learning about money in their Maths lessons— an excellent life skill needed! Year 3/4 have been designing and making printing blocks in their Art lessons. Year 5 have been measuring weight using force meters in Science and working collaboratively, a great skill to learn. Year 6 have investigated one point perspective and colour mixing using three primary colours whilst learning about and copying techniques from two artists 'Henri Rousseau' and 'David Hockney'. Well done everyone - Aspire, Believe and Achieve!



Outside Achievements

We have already started to celebrate our outside achievements this week. They were shared in our Worship this morning and we hope to inspire lots of you to share your outside achievements with us in school!

Bertie Y1, for achieving his level 3 swimming certificate and badge! Well done Bertie we are proud of you!



Dealing with Ice, Snow & Prolonged Winter Weather

If the weather is very frosty or snowy, the caretaker and I will assess whether the access to school is safe enough for adults and children to use the usual entrances and whether the playgrounds are safe enough to cross. Worcestershire County Council have circulated their recommendations which I discussed and agreed the following at recent **Governors' Meeting**.

It is recommended, for best effect, to salt our school front entrance only prior to freezing conditions. We will close all other access routes on bottom playgrounds and all children will enter by the main entrance. All adults and children are asked to be extra careful to avoid slipping and be aware that the entrance will be congested and everyone needs to help each other by not rushing and making sure they wait in a sensible way. I'm sure that you will all be patient and kind to each other.

Please note we are not allowed to clear pavements or roads so you need to take extra care.

We will text all staff and parents at about 8.15am if we are going to close the gates by the church path.



School closures due to severe weather

During periods of severe weather such as heavy snow or flooding, or any other circumstances beyond our control we may need to close the school at short notice.

We will obviously do everything we can to keep the school open and will only make the decision to close the school if we have no other choice and there are serious health and safety issues. Should we need to close the school we will let you know by **text message**.

Free Radio (previously known as Radio Wyvern) and Radio Hereford and Worcester will also list all the schools closed each day.

Please assume the school is open unless we inform you otherwise.

Primary School Applications for children starting in Reception in September 2024– closing date 15th January



Time is running out for parents and carers to submit their applications for children starting school in September 2024. Applications close at **midnight on the 15th of January 2024** and parents hoping to be offered a place for Primary school in September, should apply before the deadline. Applying online is the easiest and most efficient way to apply by visiting the Council's dedicated School Admissions website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Parents and carers are able to log on to the website at any time during the day or night, meaning last minute changes are possible up to 12 midnight on the closing day. If additional assistance is required, parents and carers can contact the School Admissions team on 01905 822700.

Understanding Your Child, Parent Workshop Group

Don't forget we have our 'Understanding Your Child' course starting on Tuesday 9th January at 9.15am. Come and share ideas, network with other parents and enjoy a drink and biscuit while learning about children. This is a fantastic opportunity to ask those parenting questions we all want to ask in a safe environment to make our lives a little easier! If you have not signed up yet and would like to, please speak to Mrs Kazerooni in the office. If you have signed up we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Dates for your diary and events coming up!

NSPCC Number Day– Friday 2nd February On this day we will celebrate 'Number Day' by engaging in a range of Maths related activities while recognising the wonderful work that the NSPCC do as a charity to support children. More information to follow.

Internet Safety Day—Tuesday 6th February. During this week children will be taking part in activities linked to the National Internet Safety day with the theme 'Inspiring Change' making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.'

'Wear it Red Day' - Friday 9th February. To raise money for the Air Ambulance please bring in £1 by wearing as much red as possible to show our love for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity this Valentine's season! Our School Council will let us know more soon!

Parents' Evenings

Monday 19th February Parents' Evening for parents of children with additional needs. Appointments to follow.
Wednesday 21st February Parents' Evening—appointments to follow.

World Book Day– Thursday 7th March. At St Matthias we love to read and promote the love of reading for pleasure. So look out for more information coming up about our exciting World Book Day event.

REMINDERS about School Uniform plus Health and Safety

1. Please remember children must not wear earrings on their PE / Swimming days. If your child is unable to manage their own earring please remove the earrings before they come to school. Thank you. Please read our Prospectus and Health and Safety Policy.
2. Please remember that our pupils are not permitted to wear gel nails or false nails at school.
3. Please remember that our pupils are not permitted to wear make-up in school.

They will not be allowed to do any of the above in High School.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

Attendance The table below shows class attendance statistics for **this week**. The certificate will be given next Friday.

	Percentage	Days missed		Percentage	Days Missed
Nursery	88.9%	6.5	Year 3/4	96.8%	5
Reception	97.5%	3	Year 5	100%	0
Year 1	93.5%	6.5	Year 6	95.8%	5
Year 2	98.5%	2	Whole School	96.7%	28

There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.

Congratulations Year 5. Perfect attendance. We are pleased that four classes are at or above our target of 96% - Well done to you!



Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements.

Certificates (Effort in their work): R. Gracie, 1. Gabriel, 2. Mila, 3/4. Isabella, 5. Evie-May, 6. Rosie.

Value Leaf for showing DIGNITY: R. Ayra, 1. Bertie, 2. Theo, 3/4. Loki, 5. Poppy M, 6. Michael.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Astria, 1. Ella D, 2. Oakley, 3/4. Logan M, 5. Coby, 6. Archie.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Susie Yr5

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Sophie Yr6

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us this morning !



Dignity



As a church school, every half term we concentrate on an important value for life.

Each half term we choose a special Value which we think about very carefully in our worship, our classrooms, in our playground and everywhere in school. We will focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.

Dignity



Our Value this half term is DIGNITY "Dignity — to behave in a composed or serious manner."

Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Peter 2:17 "Treat everyone you meet with dignity."

Dalai Lama "Love for others and respect for their rights and **dignity**, no matter who or what they are: ultimately these are all we need. "

Gandhi "The truest test of civilization, culture and **dignity** is character and not clothing."

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to show dignity in lessons and around school.

Let's all be dignified in our lives especially in challenging times.



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

NEW After School Activity Clubs will be sent out today.

Number Day
Friday 2nd February

Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 6th February

"Wear it Red Day"
Friday 9th February

Parents' Evenings
19th and 21st February

World Book Day
Thursday 7th March

CLASS EVENTS

Reception Hearing Tests
Monday 18th January 2024.

Year 5 & 6 Optional Bikeability
Course 4th to 8th March 2024.

WHO TO CONTACT IN SCHOOL

MRS KAZEROONI (Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri) for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us before 9.15am), to request forms, changes of address, email or phone numbers, general enquires, urgent contact, to inform her of medical appointments, (inform her of other persons collecting from school **preferably before 1pm**).
email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or Telephone 01684 574984

MRS JAMES (Mon - Thu) for finance issues ie:- Whizz Kids or Nursery bookings, paying any bills or invoices, trips, music lessons, purchasing PE kit or 2nd hand Uniform; please email finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk or Phone 01684 574984 and ask to speak to Mrs James.

CLASS TEACHER for:- classroom issues, learning or behaviour related, use ClassDojo. To request a telephone call from a teacher call 01684 574984 or email admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters on
head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

Black Pepper Lunches for:- booking your child's meals **every half term (so 6 times per year)**, visit their website <https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

HELPFUL INFORMATION



Worcestershire Virtual Family Hub

Scan this QR code to access support for you and your family. There are a range of resources that are available online, on the phone or face to face, that you can access.

Support and Advice

Adult Mental health support
([click here](#))

Starting Well - for parenting, health and wellbeing support ([click here](#))

Here2Help ([click here](#))

Bereavement Support ([click here](#))

Citizens Advice Bureau ([click here](#))

Child Line - 0800 1111

Male Domestic Abuse 24 hour Helpline 0800 014 9082

Women's Aid 24hr Helpline 0800 980 3331

School Nurse – 01684 612668

Family Front Door - 01905 822666 to request help/report a concern about a child.

The Family Hub for parenting support and advice ([click here](#))

Parent Online Safety Information ([click here](#))

Malvern Hills Housing support ([click here](#))

Report Scam Emails - forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk

TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

Spring Term 2024

HALF TERM BREAK
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024
Friday 22nd March 2024 at 3.15pm.

Summer Term 2024

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN
MAY DAY (School Closed)
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE
HALF TERM BREAK
Staff Development
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN
SCHOOL & NURSERY END

Monday 8th April 2024 at 8.40am.
Monday 6th May 2024 - School Closed
Friday 24th May at 3.15pm
Saturday 25th May to Sunday 2nd June 2024
Monday 3rd June 2024 – School Closed
Tuesday 4th June at 8.40am
Friday 19th July 2024 at 3.15pm