

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

The children have been enjoying their learning again this week and both myself and Mr Thompson were very impressed as we took an impromptu walk through every classroom. We are always proud to visit classes and observe how the children are being challenged and how they respond to questions and challenges with thought and prior learning. Activating our brain and recalling previous learning to problem solve is a super skill to have, along with reflection and building new knowledge.

We were impressed with the children responding to marking and editing their work using their purple pens. Being able to edit and improve work, ready for publishing, enables the children to have high expectations of themselves to achieve their very best.

Mrs Maidens has completed a book look this term and has noted progress, improved presentation and increased implementation of writing skills which are also seen in other areas of the curriculum. Mrs West has also completed a Maths book look, she was also impressed with the progress seen and how children are applying mathematical skills they have learned to problem solving and reasoning. Teachers have high expectations of your children and always strive to get the best from them. You will be able to see your child's books during Parents' Evening which is being held after half term.



Year 6 SATS Information Briefing

Year Six parents are invited to a KS2 SATs Briefing on **Monday 29th January at 2.45pm**. This will be held in the school hall so please come to the office for this time. Mrs West and Mr Thompson will present information regarding the KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests and how you can support your child during the assessment period. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parents' Evening this term will be held after half term and a text to book in for this event will come out next week.

Parent Consultations will be held on **Monday 19th FEBRUARY** or **Tuesday 20th FEBRUARY** for parents of pupils with SEND to see their class teacher.

Parent Consultations will also be held on **Wednesday 21st FEBRUARY**.

The Parents' consultations will be face to face and will be held in the school hall. This will give you an opportunity to speak to the class teacher, find out how your child is getting along and ask any questions you might have. If you have any worries or concerns in the mean time, it is important that you do not leave them until Parents' Evening. You can raise any worries you have or questions via ClassDojo or ask for a telephone appointment if you wish.

We will send out a booking text for Parents' Evening nearer the time so that you can book in with the class teacher.

If any parent is unable to make either of those dates, we will send home a short update report and if you need to discuss any part of it you may make a separate appointment with the class teacher after the event.

If you do not receive a text by Monday 29th January to make an appointment please contact the office to make an appointment.

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.'



Every moment matters and this is OUR moment to work together as a school family.

On the 8th January the Government launched a new national campaign highlighting the importance of school attendance.

‘ Moments Matter, Attendance Counts.’

St Matthias has joined that campaign as we know that good school attendance not only gives your child the best education for their future, but it develops social skills, builds positive peer relationships, routine, life skills and enjoyment in a child’s life building long lasting memories.

Primary school education builds the foundations for further education and knowledge into career paths. We are shaping lives and creating our next generation of doctors, nurses, mechanics, educators, emergency service workers and so much more. We want to work with you to provide the best for your child and in order for success to happen they need to be in school to receive their education and positive attitudes to learning.



We also recognise that children can be poorly; life throws us challenges and it isn’t always easy when a child is upset or refusing. We are here to listen, support and work with you to increase attendance. You are not alone and you will not be the only parent to have struggled at some point and talking to us is the first step!

Education Engagement Officer

Not only have we requested to join an Attendance Hub through the DfE, we have a new Education Engagement Officer (EEO) working with us. They will look at our data, our Persistently Absent children and work with us to raise attendance for children who may be missing school. Persistently Absent children are children who have an attendance percentage of lower than 90%. Children below 50% attendance are now known as ‘severely absent.’

We aim for your child to have an attendance of 96% or above which means less than 7 days absent per year.

Is my child too ill for school? <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> this website has been developed to support parents in making a decision on whether your child is too ill for school.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing: [The Education Hub](#) has a range of websites to give resources to support mental health and wellbeing.

What we will do as a school to support the campaign and raise attendance.

- Welcome your child into school every day and provide them with a high quality education
- Give them toast and fruit, as snacks
- Praise improved attendance and good attendance through incentives in school and certificates.
- Contact you for a reason on the first day of your child’s absence, if you have not contacted us first
- Send regular updates to inform you of your child’s attendance and/or lates
- We may ask you to provide medical evidence, appointment evidence or medication evidence
- Ask you to make medical appointments outside of school hours
- Make home visits, send emails or make telephone calls
- Listen to any concerns or support that is requested
- For persistently absent pupils create a plan to enable your child to successful attendance school
- Work with the Dfe and share our attendance data
- Continue to signpost families to external support and information websites for advice
- Promote Family Learning programmes
- We do not authorise holidays in term time and have a duty to report holidays booked through the attendance portal.

WHIZZ KIDS REMINDER

Our Whizz Kids wraparound care is becoming more and more popular and numbers are rising, which we are very please about. However, this makes it very difficult for last minute bookings. Therefore, please can I remind you that it is expected and essential for our staffing ratios, that Whizz Kids places are pre booked. This is important on every day of the week but particularly on Fridays as Mrs James is not here on a Friday and is responsible for organising the staffing. It is sometimes difficult for staff to cover longer Whizz Kids hours at short notice. Please could I ask that you be mindful of this to avoid any disappointment if we have to say no to a last minute booking. Thank you for your consideration. Booking forms are available on request by email or on paper in the main office.

Number Day 2024

Across the UK, Schools are joining in with the NSPCC Number Day on **Friday 2nd February**. St Matthias will be joining in with this event to celebrate numbers, maths activities and raise money for the important charity the NSPCC. We would like each child, if they wish, to design and create a '**Maths Hat**' to bring or wear to school. This can be as simple as a hat with a number on it or as creative as you wish! We look forward to seeing your 'Maths Hats'; there will be prizes awarded in each class! We know that some children will worry about wearing a hat, so they can just bring one with them on the day or observe the hats arriving at school. Our teachers will plan an exciting day of celebrating numbers through planned activities and practical work. We will be also asking for a small donation which will go to the NSPCC.

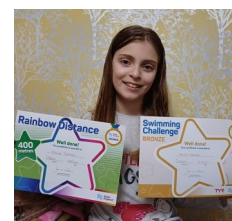


Outside Achievements

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!

Anisia, Y6 for achieving her Bronze swimming award and also her 400 metre swimming award which is an incredible 16 lengths without stopping! We are very proud of you!



Miriam Y2, for completing some extra counting at home in her home maths book and working towards a certificate. Well done!



Oliver Y5, for working well with his football team and supporting them to win their match 0-6. Super effort.

Coby Y5 for trialling and joining a kickboxing group which is a new skill for him. This is great for complementing our value of dignity and respect.

Tyler Y5, for trialling and joining a kickboxing group. We wish you all the best in developing new skills in a new sport.



The term and holiday dates for the rest of this academic year and all of next academic year are on Page 6 of this newsletter.

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	93.6%	4	Year 3/4	98.7%	2
Reception	99.6%	0.5	Year 5	98.0%	3
Year 1	97.1%	3	Year 6	90.0%	11.5
Year 2	90.4%	13	Whole School	95.6%	37

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

We are pleased that four classes are at or above our target of 96% - Well done to you!

Congratulations to Reception for the best attendance this week.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



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. Teddy, 1. Rio, 2. Hope, 3/4. Tommy, 5. Elise, 6. Kaede.

Value Leaf for showing DIGNITY: R. Scarlett, 1. Heidi, 2. Eva, 3/4. Addison, 5. Zach, 6. Molly.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Logan, 1. Alice, 2. Leo, 3/4. William D, 5. Izabela, 6. Sophie.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Eva Yr2

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Bertie Yr 1

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

Number Day
Friday 2nd February

Children's Mental Health Week
from Monday 5th February

Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 6th February

"Wear it Red Day"
Friday 9th February

Parents' Evenings
19th, 20th and 21st February

World Book Day
Thursday 7th March

CLASS EVENTS

Nursery and Reception Parents
Luna New Year – Stay and Play
7th Feb 9am

Year 5 & 6 Optional Bikeability
Courses 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

ACADEMIC TERM DATES for St Matthias of The Spire Learning Trust

2023 to 2024

SPRING TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 8 th January 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 9 th February 2024
HALF TERM BREAK	Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 19 th February 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 22 nd March 2024

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 8 th April 2024
MAY DAY (School Closed)	Monday 6th May 2024 - School Closed
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 24 th May
HALF TERM BREAK	Saturday 25th May to Sunday 2nd June 2024
Staff Professional Development	Monday 3rd June 2024 – School Closed
SCHOOL & NURSERY END	at 3.15pm Friday 19 th July 2024
Staff Professional Development	Monday 22nd July 2024 – School Closed

2024 to 2025

AUTUMN TERM

Staff Professional Development	Monday 2nd September 2024 – School Closed
Staff Professional Development	Tuesday 3rd September 2024 – School Closed
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Wednesday 4 th September 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 25 th October 2024
HALF TERM BREAK	Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 4 th November 2024
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Thursday 19 th December 2024
Staff Professional Development	Friday 20th December 2024 – School Closed

SPRING TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 6 th January 2025
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 14 th February 2025
HALF TERM BREAK	Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd February 2025
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 24 th February 2025
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 11 th April 2025

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN	at 8.45am Monday 28 th April 2025
MAY DAY (School Closed)	Monday 5th May 2025 - School Closed
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE	at 3.15pm Friday 23 rd May 2025
HALF TERM BREAK	Saturday 24th May to Monday 2nd June 2025
Staff Professional Development	Monday 2nd June 2025 – School Closed
SCHOOL & NURSERY END	at 3.15pm Friday 18 th July 2025
Staff Professional Development	Monday 21st July 2025 – School Closed

The children attend school each year for 190 days. The staff work for 195 days per year.

The five Teacher Education Days are for staff training, the dates vary each year and are often held at other venues or online.