

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have come to the end of a very short but very busy half term. Next week is February half term and we return on Monday 19th February at 8.40am. Please remember that our Parents Evenings' will be held in the first week back and your appointments will have been emailed to you following the booking that you made. We will look forward to sharing your childrens successes with you and our planned next steps.

This week has seen us celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, Internet Safety Day and also 'Wear it Red' Day for our chosen charity the Air Ambulance. The children have taken part in many activities and focused on keeping safe online and in our community, but also remembering to look after themselves and being kind to ourselves.



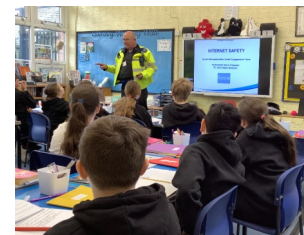
Internet Safety Day 2024

Safer Internet Day 2024 was on Tuesday 6th February, the theme for this year is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, Managing influence and Navigating change online.' During this week we invited our Community Support Officer in to school to talk about Internet Safety, to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The Community Support Officer also discussed safety in the community and being respectful young citizens. They are all really important messages especially as most communication these days between young people is via technology.

As part of Mental Health week and Internet Safety Week, PC Freeman visited our youngest children and shared an animation called 'Jessie and Friends,' it helped them learn and give them the knowledge, skills and confidence to help them respond safely to risks they may encounter online. The children discussed how they can keep safe when using phones or tablets. He also talked to the children about keeping safe in cars by wearing seat belts and sitting in booster seats and making sure they hold grown-ups hands when by the road.



With our older children PC Freeman talked about how to stay safe online, how to block and report concerns and age limits on games and reasons for this. Lots of children socialise through gaming and these can provoke both positive and negative experiences for children. We encourage all parents to monitor the games children are accessing, the age ratings for the games and ensure that you know who they are talking to online. We also encourage a switch off time to ensure that children do not access gaming into the late evening. Ensuring good sleep patterns is important for mental health and wellbeing.



Have a lovely half term, Mrs Beale.

ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

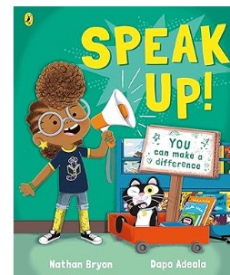
'Our school family values us all as unique individuals and children of God.

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.'



Children's Mental Health Week.

The theme for this year is 'My Voice Matters.' It is about empowering children and young people and giving them the tools they need to express themselves. The younger years shared a book called 'Speak Up, you can make a difference.' by Nathan Bryan. This fits beautifully with our school vision too where we celebrate how we can make a difference to our ever changing world. It is about a little boy called Rocket who used his voice to raise awareness about something he felt passionate about. His voice was heard and the library was saved by people listening and donating money.



We also enjoyed our 'Let's Connect' sessions with our parents in Early Years, Year one and Year two. We loved watching the parents get as messy as the children and enjoying time together. I know the children loved having their families involved in their learning. Early Years combined their 'Let's Connect' session with their celebration of the Luna New Year. Year one linked their 'Let's Connect' session to their art project, from a famous quote by the artist Paul Klee as he described a line as 'a dot that went for a walk.' The Year 1 children and their parents created their own drawings and took their dot for a walk! Year 2 had fun with their parents by playing lots of games in their 'Let's Connect' session.



Parenting Smart website

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

This website holds a wealth of parenting advice from child mental health experts. It gives you practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour.

There are 51 topics such as...

- My child doesn't want to go to school
- My child keeps getting angry and lashing out
- My child is anxious
- Playing with my child
- Co-parenting after a separation or divorce
- Understanding shyness in children
- My child has trouble going to sleep



Each topic has a very short video clip and suggestions for ways that parents can support their children. These are really easy self help suggestions which can be done in the home.

'Wear it Red Day'

Thank you to everyone who supported our charity event this term by wearing as much red as possible and bringing in £1. The Air Ambulance is such an important charity as it is run entirely on funds raised by donations and events like we have held today. All the Malvern schools were invited by the Air Ambulance charity to raise money this week by showing their love for the Air Ambulance service and wearing as much red as possible. Last year 31 schools signed up, I think this year will be similar!

This is a reminder of what we know about the Air Ambulance service...

- ♦ They have 3 air ambulance helicopters and 3 critical care cars across 6 Midlands counties (Worcestershire, West Midlands, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.)
- ♦ Helicopters can fly with a top speed of 160mph (2 miles every minute)!
- ♦ They can reach 90% of their patients in the 6 counties in around 10 minutes.
- ♦ Each air ambulance and each critical care car carries full medical equipment and medicines worth over £150,000 inside each one; it is like flying a mini hospital!
- ♦ Each air ambulance mission costs £2,950 and each critical care car mission costs £288!
- ♦ Since launching the air ambulance charity they have attended over 69,000 missions averaging 12-13 a day.
- ♦ On average they attend 4,500 missions per year.
- ♦ Top 3 mission call outs– cardiac arrest, road traffic accidents, falls and collapses
- ♦ 75% of the missions are to males and 25% are to females
- ♦ 77% of missions are to adults and 23% of missions are to children.





World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year and the theme this year is, 'Read Your Way'.

Dress as
a word!

World Book Day 2024

To celebrate World Book Day, we have organised a range of exciting, book-related events during the first week of March. Take a look at some of the activities on offer!

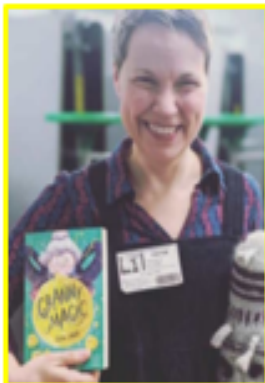


Author Trip – Years 5/6 (Friday 1st March)

The children in Years 5/6 will visit Malvern Cube to hear the multi-award-winning author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, Onjali Q. Raúf, tell her story and answer questions.

Online Fairy Stories Event – Years 2-6 (Monday 4th March)

We have booked an online 'Fairy Stories and Traditional Tales' workshop with authors Michael Rosen and Jasbinder Bilan, with live illustrations by Allen Fatimaharan. This creative event will take place in school and encourage children to cook up their own tales!



Author Visit – Whole school (Tuesday 5th March)

We are delighted that Elka Evalds, author of *Granny Magic*, will be spending all day with us in school on Tuesday 5th March. She will visit every one of our children; reading stories and running workshops, giving our pupils tips on how to bring characters to life and how to write creatively. Elka will stay for a book signing after school – please complete the attached order form and send with money in a sealed, named envelope to your class teacher if you would like to pre-order a copy of *Granny Magic*.

Extreme Reading (Entries submitted before 7th March)

Where do you like to read?



We invite all children to send in pictures to their teacher of them 'reading their way' in unusual places. Judging will take place on World Book Day, with prizes for the best entries!

Dress as a Word! (Thursday 7th March)

To encourage our children to broaden their vocabulary, we are inviting all pupils to **dress as a word** on World Book Day. We will show off our new words and definitions in a **vocabulary parade** in school.

St Matthias Reading Café (Friday 8th March)

Come and join us on Friday 8th March for our World Book Day reading café. We will provide the books, refreshments and space; you just need to book in for one of our sessions and enjoy sharing a story with your child/ren, looking at the illustrations, asking questions and enjoying your time together.

The sessions are half an hour long and run from:

9.45am – 10.15am

2.30pm – 3.00pm

3.30pm – 4.00pm



There will also be an Usborne Book Stall where you can purchase or order books to share at home.

The link to book a place will be sent out via text on: <https://forms.office.com/e/wrYnx8Fe29>

Please only book one session per family. If you are unable to attend, you do not need to complete the online booking form.

Book Sale - At the reading café, there will also be an opportunity to buy Usborne Books!

The Big Book Giveaway! (Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March)

We have been developing and re-organising our library and have some books to give away. Please feel free to rummage through the selection and give a book a new home! Donations to our 'Improve the Library' fund would be most welcome.

Book Swap (Every Day!)

You don't have to wait for World Book Day to take advantage of our 'Book Swap Library' in our front reception area – just borrow a book and when you've finished reading it, swap it for another!

Order Form – Granny Magic by Elka Evalds

Name: _____

Year: _____

copies @ £6.99 each

Total amount enclosed: _____

Please return the completed order form to your class teacher with the correct money in a named, sealed envelope. Books can be collected on Tuesday 5th March when Elka is visiting St Matthias. There will be an opportunity for Elka to sign the book between 3 and 3.30pm.

REMINDER - Black Pepper School Lunches

Please remember you are responsible for ordering meals for your children before we return to school; please order them on or before midnight of 17th February.

You need to choose your child's meal options whether your child is entitled to free meals or whether you pay. Remember all pupils in Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to free meals (UFSM) regardless of your income. Plus all children from low income families are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

<https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

Attendance Profiles — February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we have a legal duty to keep you informed of your child's attendance. We have now reached the end of the 3rd half term of this school year, every child in school will bring home our newly designed Attendance Profile on 19th February or during the week they return to school. The Attendance Profile will show your child's attendance percentage, the number of school learning days they have missed, how many late arrivals they have had and how many minutes of lessons they missed and whether your child's attendance is improving or slipping downwards. It will also give you key information about attendance in general.

We will send these out at the end of each half term ie. Six times per year.

These profiles are not intended to cause offence; they are merely our new way to keep you up to date with your child's progress throughout the year. We do understand that in most cases we have had valid reasons for absences.

In addition to the Attendance Profiles we will continue to monitor every child's Monthly attendance and issue certificates to those who have 96% or above.

Don't forget...

at the end of every month all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a voucher. and ...

at the end of every full term (ie. 3 times a year) all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a voucher.

and ...

at the end of every full year all children with 100% are rewarded with a voucher.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

111 pupils had 100% Attendance for January 2024 plus a further 8 pupils had between 96% and 99.9%. So 119 out of 177 pupils have attained the DFE target. Well done to you all ! The winner of the prize voucher for January is Shanti !

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!

Stanley Y3 — for achieving his level 4 swimming certificate and badge in January. Well done a super achievement, we are proud of you!

Kyle Y2 — for achieving his level 2 swimming certificate and badge. Well done, we are very proud of you!

Imogen Y1 — for achieving a go-karting medal and showing us all the badges you have achieved in your Rainbow group. Well done!



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	96.7%	2	Year 3/4	87.7%	19
Reception	94.2%	7	Year 5	91.9	12.5
Year 1	90.0%	10.5	Year 6	94.1%	7
Year 2	92.9%	10.5	Whole School	92.0%	68.5
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 one class is at or above our target of 96% - Well done to you!

Congratulations to Nursery 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. Paula, 1. Anastasia, 2. Daisy, 3/4. Logan, 5. Esmee, 6. Bonnie.

Value Leaf for showing DIGNITY: R. Amelia, 1. Hunter, 2. Hope, 3/4. Ellis, 5. Susie, 6. Archie.

Spotted (Improve Spelling & Editing): R. Reggie Wi, 1. Kyra, 2. Libby, 3/4. Ralphie, 5. Harvey, 6. Alumie.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Archie Yr6

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Mia D Yr 2

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

Parents' Evenings

19th, 20th and 21st February

Author Elka Evalds Visit

Tuesday 5th March

World Book Day - Various Activities

Thursday 7th March

Read newsletter for details

World Book Day - Reading Café

Friday 8th March

Read newsletter for booking details

CLASS EVENTS

Years 5 & 6 Author at The Cube Trip

Friday 1st March

Years 2 - 6 Online Fairy Story

Monday 4th March

Year 6 Optional Bikeability Course

Monday 4th to Thursday 7th March

Year 5 Optional Bikeability Course

Friday 8th March

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 OPEN

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

Summer Term 2024

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

MAY DAY (School Closed)

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

HALF TERM BREAK

Staff Development

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

SCHOOL & NURSERY END

Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024

Monday 19th February at 8.40am.

Friday 22nd March 2024 at 3.15pm.

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

Dates for Next Year are on Newsletter 17

INTERNET SAFETY WEEK! 😊



Passwords
NEVER share your password online.

People can get into your ~~acc~~ details and hack you.

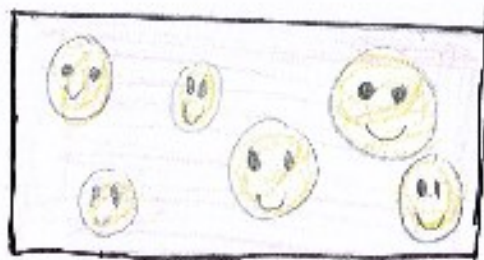
Friends
Only add people you know. NEVER add strangers. Add friends and it'll be fun!



Videos and Photos
Do not share photos and videos. You can to family and friends



If you want to share a picture ASK!



Fun!
You can still have fun online but you still need to be safe!

STAY SAFE!



Tuesday 6th February 2024