

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back after the half term break. This is another short half term with lots of excitement to pack into five weeks. As well as our normal curriculum offer of high quality teaching and learning we have our World Book Day event in another week's time. Please read on to find out more and book your slot in the reading café using the link!

We also have Bikeability for our Years 5 & 6 children and our Easter Service. Please take note of the dates on the 'Noticeboard' page of this newsletter.

'The Wizard of Oz'

We have ended this week with an M&M Productions show, 'The Wizard of Oz!' We were really privileged to have been offered this wonderful experience as a last minute booking. The children watched this famous story unfold and the characters come to life. We all loved the production and let our imaginations come to life. There was lots of 'boooooing' at the wicked witch and Dorothy and Toto were loved! It was a wonderful morning and a super experience for the children.



Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening this week, we hope you enjoyed looking at your children's books and hearing about their progress in class. Out of 177 children in our school, 166 booked parent consultations over the three evenings and 140 of them you attended and met with your children's class teacher which was just lovely to see. Our staff work incredibly hard to write the interim reports and they love sharing the successes your children have achieved so they are pleased when they can share this with you in person. I know lots of children have also appreciated their parents looking at books and congratulating them on their progress. If you were unable to make the parent consultations we will be sending home the written interim report to you over the next week.

Building work Update.

In order to make our school more accessible for wheelchair users we are having another external ramp built. The ramp will be situated in the KS1 playground where the majority of children enter the school from the playground; this is near the red boiler room doors. See photograph.

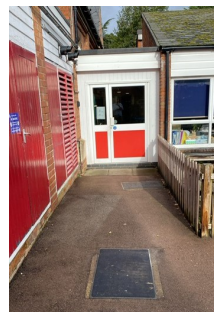
The ramp will take a week to build and therefore the access to school for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will change for just one week.

Years 1 and 2 children will enter and exit school from the Year 2 external classroom doors.

Years 3 and 4 children will use the ramp at the back of their classroom where they usually exit their classroom, as an entrance as well as an exit next week.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this period of change.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Beale.



ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

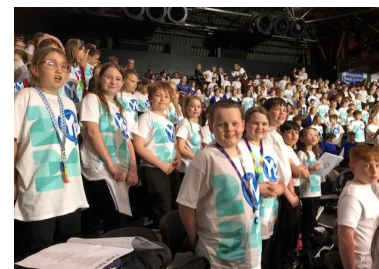
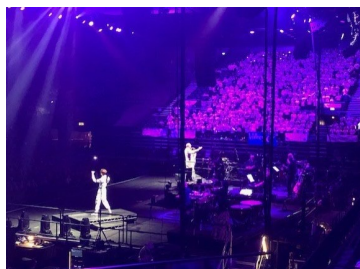
'Our school family values us all as unique individuals and children of God.

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.'



Young Voices Choir

The Young Voices choir thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and evening at the NEC with over 6000 other children! For some children it was their second time and for others it was their first encounter of Young Voices! All the children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. There were some very excited children when M C Grammar came out, he is a famous rapping teacher who is also a 'You Tuber.' He raps about reading and writing and is very cool! We joined in moves with the 'Urban Dancers' who impressed us with their dance skills. During the evening, the lights went off, the torches and spotlights came on and it was magical experience watching the final performance and joining in with all the songs we had learned. The children (and staff) were exhausted by the time we returned at 10pm! A big thank you to the children and the staff for making this another successful trip to Young Voices! We would also like to thank the parents and carers for their prompt pick up back at school, it was really appreciated!



MOTHERING SUNDAY—Sunday 10th March.

There is a very important Mothering Sunday letter coming home today with your child. St Matthias has been invited to attend the St Matthias Church Mothering Sunday service. There will be a small bunch of flowers for each carer/ parent or loved one as part of an interactive service. There are also activities for the children to do. We would love as many of you to take part and during the service they have asked that St Matthias children sing a song for the congregation. We love singing as part of our Worship time so we would love to show off our voices. Please return the letter which will be emailed and sent home today so we know how many children will be available on the day.



The service starts at 10.30am so if families or children arrive from 10.15am a member of staff will be there to greet them. The service will finish at about 11.30am so if parents are dropping their children at church to be with a member of staff then please wait outside the church from 11.20am for collection. We hope that families will stay and take part in this beautiful service where we will celebrate anyone who 'mothers' us or cares for us on a daily basis.

Attendance Information for your Children.

As part of the 'Attendance Matters' initiative we will continue to keep all parents up to date with their childrens attendance and celebrate success. We regularly hand out slips linked to percentage attended, however we have devised a half year update on a range of data linked to attendance.

Attending school is really important and when a child has time out of school they can miss vital learning and knowledge. Sometimes this is very difficult to catch up on as children learn new things every day!

Please do not find the information we are sending out offensive; please take it as information and us fulfilling our legal duty to inform you about your childrens personal attendance data. If the data isn't as positive as you would like, then please do not hesitate in speaking to a member of the senior leadership team who would be very willing to support in any questions you have. Remember we are only half way through the year and attending school will keep the percentages rising!

Please also take positives from the data. Your children might have been poorly at the start of the year, however has not had time off since that bout of illness. Celebrate that achievement.

We all have your childrens best educational interest at heart and don't want them to miss out on learning they might need for their futures. Thank you!



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!

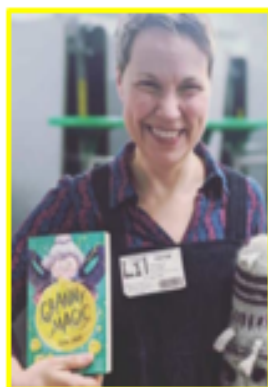


Author Trip – Years 5/6 (Friday 1st March)

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.

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	97.5%	1.5	Year 3/4	94.5%	8.5
Reception	92.5%	9	Year 5	94.1%	9
Year 1	99.0%	1	Year 6	94.8%	6
Year 2	95.9%	5.5	Whole School	95.2%	40.5
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 two classes, Nursery and Year 1 are at or above our target of 96% - Well done to you!

Congratulations to Year 1 for the best attendance this week.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



We are really pleased that all classes achieved over 90% this first week back. Nursery have done incredibly well!

Celebration Worship Awards

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

Due to the amazing 'The Wizard of Oz' pantomime this mornings Celebration Worship has been postponed until next week.

Please hold onto any outside achievements and we will share them with the school next week.



Hope



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.

Hope



Our Value this half term is "Hope"

Isaiah 40:31 "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"

Christians see their hope in God's promise, "that love and goodness have and will ultimately overcome all evil"

Dalai Lama "When faced with problems don't lose hope. Keep up your self confidence and don't be too impatient to achieve quick results."

Gandhi "Only he can be a leader who never loses hope"

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



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

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

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](#))

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

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

Saturday 10th to Sunday 18th February 2024

Monday 19th February at 8.40am.

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

Dates for Next Year are on Newsletter 17