

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 5th September 2025

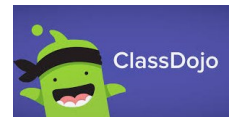
Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been lovely to see you all return safely after the summer holidays and a warm welcome to 6 new children and families. As reflected upon in our School Vision below, we hope you feel part of our wonderful school family and that you have made some new friends to help you feel at ease! We endeavour to ensure everyone, including adults and children, flourish and 'Aspire, Believe and Achieve.' Look out for information in our newsletters each week which highlights the learning we do, events which are happening, attendance, celebrations and important dates. The newsletter will be emailed to you, but you can collect a paper copy from the office from Monday each week if you wish.



ClassDojo

ClassDojo is our communication app where parents can contact their child's class teacher privately or see whole class information. You can also contact the Senior Leadership Team and see whole school news too. If you have not already signed up, please let us know and we can send our link to your email address.



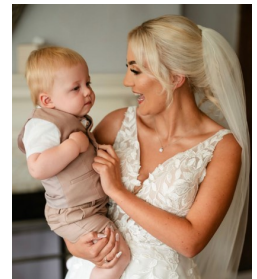
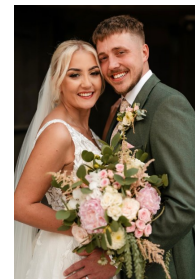
A Real Fighter!

I wanted to let you know that Mrs Howden is doing really well with her treatment for Myeloma (blood cancer). Her strength, determination and faith has really got her through a summer of very tough and intense treatment but she has turned a corner and although she is feeling weak and tired she is progressing well. We are immensely proud of her, we miss her in school, but we know she is on a journey to recovery. I know you will all continue to keep her close in your thoughts and prayers until she is able to return. I will keep you updated.



Exciting News!

We welcomed back Miss Houlston at the start of July and during the summer holiday she got married! So I know you will all join me in congratulating Mrs Cottrell on her marriage and wishing her, her husband and their son Finley long and happy lives together!



We are also congratulating Mrs Kazerooni who also got married back in the New Year; as we are starting a new academic year, she felt it was the right time to introduce herself as Mrs Lewis! Therefore, you will now receive emails and calls from Mrs Lewis! We also wish Mr and Mrs Lewis a long and happy life together!



Polite Parking and Respect for our Resident Neighbours request

Please can I ask parents to be respectful when parking in our neighbouring streets. Hampden Road is an 'Except for Access' road for the residents. Please try to use Church Road and walk along the alleyway to access the school gates or Cromwell Road for the main entrance. If you do park in the residential streets can I remind you to not block or park across driveways or dropped curbs; do not park or stop on double yellow lines or zig zags and keep your speed to a minimum as there are children walking to school - '20 IS PLENTY!' Please DO NOT stop and smoke cigarettes outside residents homes. We try to keep our local residents working with our school and would like parents to help us maintain that positive relationship. Thank you!

Have a wonderful 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.'



Teacher Education Days

I welcomed the staff back on Monday with our two Teacher Education Days (TED). During our first training day we welcomed Miss Prince our new teacher, Miss Mansell our new Teaching Assistant supporting Year 1, Miss Stimson our Early Years Apprentice plus Mrs Palma and Mrs Burkart our new lunchtime supervisors. They all have a wealth of experience of working with children and families and have already started to build lots of positive relationships with staff and children. So welcome to St Matthias we hope you feel part of our wonderful school family and have settled in this week.

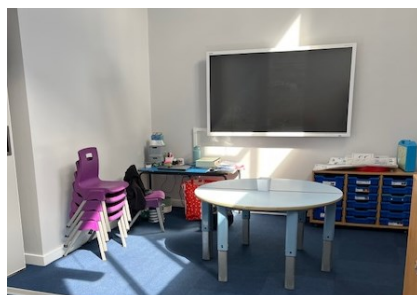


During our TED days we reflected on our School Vision and how it is the starting point of everything that we do, our curriculum design, policies, lessons and our actions in school. It reflects what we do on a daily basis enabling everyone to flourish and achieve to the best of their ability. Therefore our TED days were planned with our vision at the heart enabling us to flourish as a whole staff for the benefit of your children. Therefore, our focus was on refreshing our knowledge of our positive handling and our Trauma Informed approach. This means we are attuned to the feelings and emotions of our pupils enabling us to be emotionally available adults when they need us the most. This was followed by updating our yearly, whole school safeguarding training to update our knowledge in line with the statutory DfE Document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.' It enables all staff to keep your children safe, recognise when a child or family may need some extra support and how to put that into action. Safeguarding is 'everyone's' responsibility and we are here to support children and families as part of our school offer.

Throughout the year our staff continue to learn and complete courses enabling us to flourish, please look out for parent workshops throughout the year enabling our families to also continue to learn and flourish too!

New Year 1 Classroom and Learning Spaces.

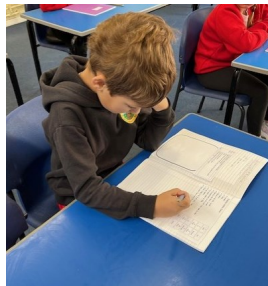
During the summer holidays our building work continued. We have created new internal learning spaces where the Year 1 classroom was, and then extended the Year 1 classroom further into the outdoor space. The build was completed right at the end of August so Mrs O'Connor has worked hard to get her new classroom space ready, feeling cosy and inviting for the children. We still have some small areas to complete, mainly outside and putting boards up but were very excited and pleased with the results.



Week 1 and we are already being the best versions of ourselves and flourishing!

The children have been absolutely amazing this week at settling in to their new classes with their new class teachers and re-establishing good routines. It has been lovely walking around the classes, seeing the children so settled and working hard already!

We have learned about our new routines, found our new lockers, met our new teachers and teaching assistants. We have re-established our friendships and played games. We have started writing in our new books, read stories, learned some new Maths skills and shared our summer holiday news! There has been so much to do over the last three days; we have now forgotten all about our nervous tummies and feelings!



Our Nursery class have introduced the **'Curiosity Approach'** which is a philosophy that nurtures children's own curiosity, wonder and imagination through exploration and play-based learning. Through this approach children lead their own learning journeys and become confident, critical thinkers and 'doers.' We are already proud of our newest and youngest learners this week as they begin to form strong relationships in the setting and explore their environment, developing their curiosity and flourishing together! Click here if you want to know more about this approach <https://www.thecuriosityapproach.com/>



St Matthias Church — Prayers for our local Church Schools at the start of the academic year.

It was lovely to receive an email this week from Revd James who not only wished his church schools a settled first week and successful year but he also shared a number of beautiful prayers with which to reflect. I thought I would share a few with you so you can also join in our community thoughts and prayers as they support our new starts. I will share more next week.



Praying for our Schools at the start of the new academic year...

As the new school year begins we pray for pupils teachers and families giving thanks for them and asking God's blessing of wisdom joy and peace in the months ahead.

Join us as we pray...



Starting New Schools

Loving Father, we pray for children and young people beginning at new schools, and for their families. Give them courage in unfamiliar places, kindness in new friendships, and trust in your constant love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



For Students

Almighty God, the source of all wisdom and knowledge: bless all who begin this new school year. Grant them curiosity in learning, patience in difficulty, and friendships that nurture and sustain; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements that week. Parents of children receiving an award will be contacted on a Thursday to join us in school on a Friday morning at 9am to watch the presentation.

Our first Celebration Worship will be on Friday 12th September at 9am.

Outside Achievements

We also celebrate any outside achievements your child has received or taken part in outside of school. For example, music lessons, sporting activities, learning to ride a bike, Baptisms etc.



Please let Mrs Beale know about the outside achievement and send a photograph via Class Dojo if you have one so we can also celebrate this on a Friday morning and in the weekly newsletter.

I have already received 3 Outside Achievements from the summer holidays which will be celebrated in next week's Worship!



As a church school, 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 focus on what they mean in our lives and in our relationships with each other.



Our Value this half term is Thankfulness

Colossians 2:7 Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Psalms 118:2 "This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Dalai Lama "When you practise gratefulness, there is a sense of respect towards others"

Charles Shwab "The way to develop the best that is in a person is by appreciation and thanks. Be **thankful** for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has."

Adults in school will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be thankful and grateful for the good things in their lives.

We are thankful for the gifts God has given each and every one of us to enable us to be unique individuals and make a difference in our own ways.

Office Staff Reminder of days they work to assist parents.

Finance Secretary — Mrs James

Mrs James is at St Matthias from Monday to Thursday lunchtime she is not here on Thursday afternoon or Friday. Please talk to her for any financial matters, Whizz Kids information, Early Years funding trip payments or other financial questions. You can also contact her by emailing :-finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

Office Secretary and Attendance Support- Mrs Lewis

Mrs Lewis who is the admin secretary works Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. She is not in the office on a Wednesday. You can send an email to admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk Emails will not be regularly checked on a Wednesday so please make sure you telephone the school for urgent messages. 01684 574984

School Photographer

Our photographer will be in school on **Monday 20th October 2025**. He will take individual photos of every child and siblings who attend our school. This year he will also include older and younger siblings of our pupils, who do not attend this school. If you wish for your older and younger children to be in a photo with our pupils please come along to the main entrance at 8.20am. **All siblings who come to our school will automatically be photographed together during the school day.**

School Uniform– Pop Up Shop!

It is lovely to see everyone return in their smart new uniforms. For anyone needing any extra uniform, we have a very useful Second Hand Uniform Pop Up Shop which is situated on KS1 playground. Mrs James is opening the shop on **Monday 9th September at 3.15pm** so if you would like any extra uniform please see her there.

Lunch Box Suggestions

Please send your child in with a healthy packed lunch and drink. We suggest a sandwich, slice of quiche or sausage roll, a piece of cheese and fruit PLUS, a yoghurt OR a small cake OR a biscuit. Fizzy drinks, drinks which contain colouring or glass bottles are NOT permitted. Thank you.

Physical Education Lessons

Some classes will have two shorter sessions for their entitlement and other classes will have one longer session for their entitlement. This is due to timetabling. If your child has two sessions they can wear their PE kit twice a week. Please don't worry about the washing, I am sure washing it once a week will be sufficient!



For the health and safety of the wearer and others, NO earrings or other jewellery will be worn during PE, swimming, or games. Preferably, remove all earrings and jewellery before school, otherwise your child will need to remove their own earrings before their PE session. We can provide envelopes for safe keeping.



Please make sure your child has the correct school PE kit for lessons, we do not allow home clothes for PE lessons.

Reception– Monday & Friday

Year 1– Monday & Wednesday

Year 2– Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3– Wednesday & Friday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 5/6– Thursday (**Swimming will start at Malvern College on Thursday 11th September 2025 for ALL Years 5 and 6 children.** Please ensure your child's costume fits comfortably. No bikinis and no long swim shorts. After half term you will be notified if your child is carrying on with swimming or staying at school to do PE.

Year 4 may be introduced to swimming lessons later this term after half term, your child will receive a letter when they are invited to go swimming.



NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Nasal Flu Vaccine (Yrs R - 6)
Monday 22nd September am.

School Photographer
Monday 20th October (am) to take every individual child plus sibling groups from within school. Siblings who don't attend the school can have family photographs from 8.20am. New staff will also be photographed.

Harvest Festival Service
Wednesday 15th October 9am
In St Matthias Church

School Open Morning
Tuesday 18th November 9.30-11.30am

CLASS EVENTS

Swimming Lessons Year 5/6
Start next Thursday 11th September.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Who to contact in school

MRS LEWIS (Works Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri) for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us before 9.15am), medical issues, 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 (Works Mon -Wed + Thu am only) for finance matters :- Whizz Kids or Nursery bookings, paying any bills or invoices, trips, music lessons, purchasing PE kit etc . 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 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>

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 yourself.

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](#))

TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

AUTUMN TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN at 8.40am Wednesday 3rd September 2025

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE at 3.15pm Friday 24th October 2025

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN at 8.40am Monday 3rd November 2025

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE at 3.15pm Friday 19th December 2025

SPRING TERM

Staff Training

Monday 5th January 2026 – School Closed

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 6th January 2026

IMPORTANT– APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Are you Eligible?

If you have a child in RECEPTION, you must reapply for FSM if you are already eligible so they receive the benefits in school.

If you are unsure if you are eligible, then please click on the link below and complete the form on the Citizen Portal.

You may be eligible for free school meals if your child attends a state school, and you get one or more of the following you can get free school meals:

- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income is less than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

For more information and how to apply for Free School Meals:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals scroll to the half way down on the page and click on 'apply for FSM'

You must apply online on the 'Citizen Portal' this is the same portal as you selected your child's school place.

Once you are into your portal area by using your log in details then select 'Free School Meals', then click on 'apply.'

If you would like help with this please ask in the office and we would be happy to support you in your application and also provide the technology to use.

Universal Free School Meals (this is different from FSM eligibility)

All children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals, If you are not on benefits, there is no need to apply, you just need to speak us about arranging for these to start.

If you are on benefits and meet the criteria, it is worth applying online for children this age, If eligible, you can receive food vouchers during the school holidays, and your child can attend the Ready Steady Worcestershire School Holiday clubs. This will also allow our school to claim Pupil Premium to support your child's education.