



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School
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Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had another very Christmassy week full of festivities. As we reach the end of this term I want to wish all everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. This time of year is not always easy for everyone, so we especially think about families who have lost loved ones and hope that they may find comfort in remembering special memories and times together.

Christmas Market Stalls

A massive thank you to Mrs James and the PTA for organising and running the Christmas market stalls over the past two weeks. It takes a lot of preparation, organisation and hard work to put on the events and we have really appreciated the fundraising achievements. We have raised an amazing £1000 for the children and school. Thank you so much everyone!

Christmas Carol Service

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Carol Service. Our Year 3 and Year 4 children led us through the service retelling the Christmas story and read beautifully. The service started with some reflections which were written by the children. Our Year 1 children, with the help from some Reception children created the Nativity scene as the Christmas story progressed. The children were delighted to see Mr Salmon dressed as an angel! There have been lots of children absent so we were particularly grateful and impressed with the children who stepped in to read in their absence. A huge thank you to Mrs O'Connor who has organised both the Christingle and Carol Services again this year with the help of the children! You are amazing! Thank you also to Rev James who led us in prayer and joy at Christmas time.



**Have a lovely Christmas with family and friends
Mrs Beale.**

School re-opens on Tuesday 6th January at 8.40am.



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; we **believe** 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.'



A Visit from Santa!

The children were very excited to hear the familiar bell being rung by a very special visitor on Wednesday morning – Santa! He visited each class in turn reminding them to go to bed early on Christmas Eve and make sure they are asleep! The children asked him lots of questions and some classes sang to him making the occasion even more Christmassy! Each child was given a gift to take home and keep.



SEND coffee mornings Free webinars- Autism support



I am very pleased to invite all **parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)** to a series of **free webinars** exploring different aspects of **autism** in children and young people delivered by **Autism West Midlands**. There are 7 webinars in total and each webinar will provide information, strategies and insights to support understanding and confidence when working with or caring for autistic individuals.



**The first of these webinars will be held in school on:
Wednesday 21st January 2026 10am-12pm.**

Tea and coffee or a cold drink and sweet treats will be provided.

Additional webinars will be held in school each Wednesday morning covering the following areas:

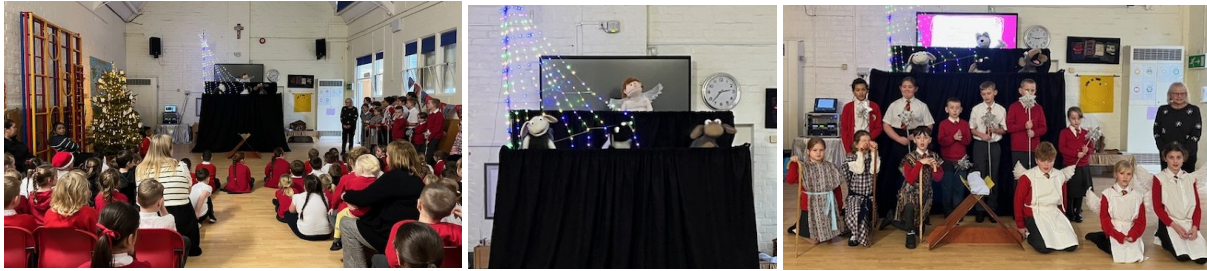
- Autism and Communication Webinar – Wednesday 28th January 10am-12pm
- Autism and Sensory Differences Webinar – Wednesday 4th February 10am-12pm
- Autism and Behaviour Webinar – Wednesday 11th February 10am-12pm
- Navigating the System Webinar – Wednesday 18th February 10am-12pm
- Autism and the Teenage Brain Webinar – Wednesday 25th February 10am-12pm
- Supporting your Autistic Teen – Wednesday 4th March 10am-12pm

Please speak to Mrs Joyce (SENCO) for further information or to register your interest.



Open the Book Puppet Show

The children were treated to the “Open The Book” Christmas Puppet Show on Monday. This is always one of our favourite festive events. Something new for this year was to involve some of our Worship Warriors who helped create the Nativity Scene at the end of the Show called ‘Oh Holy Night.’ We also sang ‘It was on a Starry Night’ to complete the show. Thank you “Open the Book” team!



Spreading Christmas Joy to our Community!

Year 3 have once again visited a care home at the end of last week to sing their hearts out to bring joy to the elderly. We are so proud of them they really did make a difference to so many residents singing with their very best voices!



Christmas Jumper Day 2025 RAISED £84

We enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers to school last Thursday in aid of ‘Save the Children’ thank you for your £1 donations.

Reminder Charity Food — Christmas Eve.

Like last year, Mrs Howden and I are collecting the Christmas Eve charity food from M&S on Wednesday 24th December. We will open school at approx. 7.30-8pm and you are all welcome to come and see what there is.

We won’t know until we collect how much there is or what there will be but I **will also send a Dojo message to confirm the time and remind you**, so please look out for it.

We will close the school half an hour later so please do come along and bring bags to help yourself.

Christmas Jingle Jangle Worship fun!

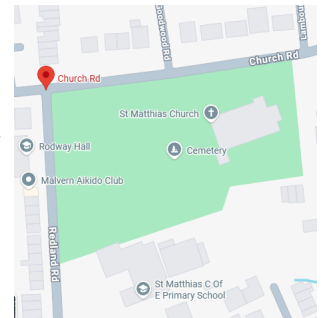


Church Road Crossing Safety Concerns for Our Children.

Recently our School Governors have been discussing road safety for our children particularly crossing Church Road by St Matthias Church. The issue of children being able to cross safely when walking to and from our school was brought to discussion by our parent governor who has noticed some near misses with children crossing this busy road. Church Road is a main road, has a lot of traffic and parked cars which block the view of pedestrians crossing. Since our Lollipop man retired we have been asking the council to replace this much needed safety provision; however, they are unable to provide a person to support road crossing. Therefore, our School Governors are suggesting alternative safety provisions to support children crossing safely - such as a Zebra Crossing. The Governors have emailed and written to Malvern Town Councillors and also contacted the local authority.

One way that parents can help is by completing this form we have found on the Worcestershire council website. It is a form to request improvements to pedestrian areas.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/walking-wheeling-and-cycling/request-new-infrastructure-cycling-and-walking/request-improve-pedestrian-and-or>



Outside Achievements

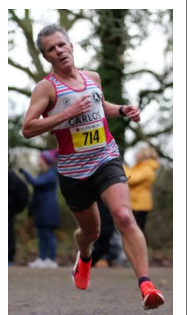
It was lovely to celebrate outside achievements this week. We always enjoy hearing about all the different activities and achievements your child has completed as it can inspire others.

Please let Mrs Beale know about any outside achievements 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.

Mia Y3, for achieving her first Brownie badge and really enjoying being part of the Brownie community. We are proud of you keep up the great work!



Adam Y6 for supporting his team to win against a team they have not beaten before. He was captain for the team and kept their spirits up and their resilience going during a tough match! Well done we are proud of you!



Mr Salmon for completing the Telford 10K in a Personal Best time and achieving a club record! Wow you are amazing Mr Salmon! Average 5 mins 27 seconds per mile! Congratulations! We are proud of you!



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 "Peace"

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Hebrews 12:14 "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone"

Dalai Lama "Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace"

Gandhi "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will have peace".

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.

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be peaceful and to make peace with the children and adults in their lives.

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace. **Amen.**

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Attendance
The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week.



Attendance Statistics <u>This Week</u>	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	6	3	5	9	5	3	10	41
Total Number of Sessions Missed	14	16	28	32	28	6	45	169
Class Percentage	90.1	88.3	82.5	88.9	84.4	97.5	86.3	88.57%
There are two sessions per day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week and Nursery children are expected to attend all of their booked sessions.								

Congratulations to Year 4 for best attendance this week with 97.5%. Well Done!

More Congratulations go to Year 4 for the best class attendance for the Autumn Term with 94.7%

St Matthias ATTENDANCE for pupils - Nursery to Year 6

The DFE have given us fresh guidelines this term. Their expectation is now for every child to attend 100% of the school year. They stipulate that, we have a legal duty to keep you informed of your child’s attendance. At the end of every month you will receive a text for each of your children telling you how many days of school lessons they have missed so far this academic year. These texts are not intended to cause offence, they are merely to keep you up to date with your child’s progress so far. We understand that in most cases we have valid reasons for these absences.

ATTENDANCE WINNERS

68 amazing pupils had 100% in November. An extra 40 children had above 95%. So out of 153 pupils 108 attained our target. Well done!
The gift voucher prize winner for November is Bella in Yr 2!

70 amazing pupils had 100% in December. An extra 2 children had above 95%. So out of 153 pupils 72 attained our target. Well done!
The gift voucher prize winner for December is Charlie in Yr 4!

26 amazing pupils had 100% for the Whole Autumn Term. An extra 44 children had above 95%. So out of 153 pupils 70 attained our target. Well done!
The gift voucher prize winner for the Autumn Term is Olivia in Nursery!

The Gift Vouchers and Certificates were presented in our Jingle Jangle Concert this morning.

NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Young Voices Last practice is
on Tuesday 6th January
3.15—4.15pm

Young Voices Concert on
Wednesday 7th January.
12 noon to 10pm.



CLASS EVENTS

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip
Thursday 5th February



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, Tue, 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 ME

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

SPRING TERM

Staff Training

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

HALF TERM BREAK

Staff Training

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

Monday 5th January 2026 – School Closed

at 8.40am Tuesday 6th January 2026

Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February

at 8.40am Monday 23rd February 2026

at 3.15pm Friday 27th March 2026 for Easter

at 8.40am Monday 13th April 2026

Saturday 23rd May to Monday 1st June

Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed

at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026

at 3.15pm Friday 17th July 2026.

NHS HANDi Paediatric App

The winter months often bring with them an increase in childhood illnesses such as coughs, colds and chestiness.

The NHS have an excellent resource called the "HANDi" App which contains specialist paediatric advice regarding common childhood illnesses as an extra resource to help you when you are worried about your child.



The advertisement features a purple background. At the top left is the HANDi logo, which consists of a hand with fingers in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) and the word 'HANDi' in a white circle. At the top right is the NHS logo. The main title 'HANDi Paediatric' is written in large white letters. Below the title is a paragraph of text and a list of conditions covered by the app. To the right is a white smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes the NHS logo, a photo of a child's hands with colorful paint, and navigation options. At the bottom are the App Store and Google Play logos.

HANDi Paediatric

Download the new Worcestershire 'HANDi Paediatric' app to get up to date advice about common childhood illnesses and how to treat them.

The conditions covered are:

- **Coronavirus**
Information on the coronavirus for both parents and families
- **Diarrhoea and vomiting**
Including gastroenteritis
- **Chestiness**
Bronchiolitis, asthma, wheezing and croup
- **High temperature**
Meningitis, septicaemia, the common cold, urine infections, chicken pox, ear infection and sore throat
- **Tummy pain**
Bowel, genitourinary and other causes of abdominal pain including diabetes and pneumonia
- **Common newborn problems**
Under 1 month - including crying, feeding, weight gain, pooing, weeing, vomiting, skin conditions

NHS

NHS

Specialist paediatric advice when and where you need it

Select who you are from the following

- Parents/carers at Home >
- Medical professionals in the community >

App Information and contact details

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Produced on behalf of:
NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust



January 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What Is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm