

# St Matthias Newsletter



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Beale**

Cromwell Road, Malvern Link, Worcestershire, WR14 1NA.

Telephone or Facsimile 01684 574984

Email: [head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk](http://www.stmatthiasceprimary.co.uk)

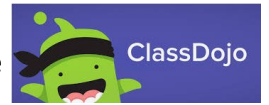


**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

A very Happy New Year to everyone; we hope you had a peaceful Christmas holiday. It was lovely to see you all return and getting back into a school routine! Mr Thompson and I have visited all the classes this week and we were very proud of the children working so hard after the Christmas break. We would also like to welcome new children and families who have joined classes across our school we hope you feel very warmly welcomed by the children, parents and staff.

## ClassDojo

If you have not yet joined our ClassDojo communication system please let Mrs Lewis know in the office. We will have sent an email link for you to join but if you have not seen the link we would be happy to resend it to you. ClassDojo is a form of communication between school and parents and gives the option to private message members of staff but also to see what is going on across the school.



Don't miss out... download the app and become a St Matthias family member! **See more about Class Dojo on Page 3.**

## SIAMs – Church School Inspection

This week we have also been notified of our Church School Inspection, which will happen next Wednesday 14th January. You have been emailed a letter from the SIAMs Inspector, Pam Howell, to explain what she will be looking for during the day.



This is an excellent opportunity for us to share what makes our school a very special place to belong to and how we flourish as a school family. She will look for impact of our School Christian Vision which is always written at the bottom of this page on the newsletter. You could talk about our school vision at home and how it positively impacts on your child and your family too. We are very much looking forward to celebrating our wonderful school, children who are at the heart of our Christian Vision enabling everyone to flourish.

## Value of Dignity

Our value for this half term is dignity, which is the right of a person to be valued and respected for their own sake and to be treated ethically. As a school and as parents we teach our children to act and respond to situations with dignity. It isn't always easy, if we feel that we have been treated unfairly, but listening, understanding and talking through situations with respect helps us be dignified in resolving situations. We can also promote dignity in the way we choose clothing, speak to people, take care of personal hygiene and take part in social activities. We can promote dignity through politeness, respect, openness, warmth and kindness. We can be good listeners, understand someone's point of view, express our need in a calm and respectful manner, acknowledge what others do well and appreciate someone by telling them. Children learn through watching others and having a variety of positive role models in their lives. We shared this quote from an American author who was also a poet and fought for social justice and an end to racism and discrimination. She used her voice to teach others and she did this with dignity.

Dignity doesn't just mean always being stiff and composed. It means a belief in oneself, that one is worthy of the best. Dignity means that what I have to say is important, and I will say it when it's important for me to say it. Dignity really means that I deserve the best treatment I can receive. And that I have the responsibility to give the best treatment I can to other people.

**Maya Angelou**



**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.'



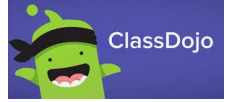
**Young Voices Choir 2026– 7th January 2026**



The Young Voices choir thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and evening at the NEC with over 6000 other children on Wednesday 7th January! For some children it was their second (or 3rd time) and for others it was their first encounter of Young Voices! We even spotted some past St Matthias Pupils from Dysons who were very excited to see us and waved frantically! All the children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion even if it was overwhelming at times for some. This year Young Voices are celebrating 30 years and I know that St Matthias has been part of the occasion for at least 15 years. Their aim is to inspire a love of music that will last a lifetime, giving children the opportunity to perform in the world’s largest school choir concert. Music brings people together, builds confidence and creates lasting spiritual memories for everyone. Our Young Voices choir really excelled they were definitely the best version of themselves and shared their unique qualities for singing, dancing and excelling in a new environment. They showed dignity and compassion towards each other and certainly flourished during the final concert at the end of the evening! I think we might have some children who could potentially be 'Urban Dancers' in the future with their moves! 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!



**ClassDojo** is a super way of contacting class teachers or senior leaders; it is also a great way to find out what your child is learning and gaining information. You can message your child's class teacher privately, see whole class photographs and learning and through the whole school page access general information when it is posted.



**Please remember that teachers and senior leaders may not be able respond immediately to your messages.**

Teachers especially, will be busy teaching and looking after the children and may not see messages until a break or even until the end of the day.

Therefore, any **urgent messages** should be communicated by telephone 01684 574984.

If you are not connected to ClassDojo please let the office know and we will send you an email link to connect!

Thank you for your support with this. We don't want to miss anything which is important or urgent!

### Dealing with Ice, Snow & Prolonged Winter Weather

**If the weather is very frosty or snowy, the caretaker and I will assess whether the access to school is safe enough for adults and children to use the usual entrances and whether the playgrounds are safe enough to cross. Worcestershire County Council have circulated their recommendations which were discussed and agreed at a recent Governors' Meeting.**

It is recommended, for best effect, to salt our school front entrance only prior to freezing conditions. We will close all other access routes on bottom playgrounds and all children will enter by the main entrance. All adults and children are asked to be extra careful to avoid slipping and be aware that the entrance will be congested and everyone needs to help each other by not rushing and making sure they wait in a sensible way. I'm sure that you will all be patient and kind to each other.

Please note we are not allowed to clear pavements or roads so you need to take extra care.

**We will text all staff and parents at about 8.15am if we are going to close the gates by the church path.**



### School Closures due to severe weather

**During periods of severe weather such as heavy snow or flooding, or any other circumstances beyond our control we may need to close the school at short notice.**

We will obviously do everything we can to keep the school open and will only make the decision to close the school if we have no other choice and there are serious health and safety issues. Should we need to close the school we will let you know by **text message**.

Free Radio (previously known as Radio Wyvern) and Radio Hereford and Worcester will also list all the schools closed each day. **Please assume the school is open unless we inform you otherwise.**

### Primary School Applications for children starting in Reception in September 2026 – closing date 15th January

Time is running out for parents and carers to submit their applications for children starting school in September 2026. Applications close at **midnight on the 15th January 2026** and parents hoping to be offered a place for Primary school in September, should apply before the deadline.

Applying online is the way to apply by visiting the Council's dedicated School Admissions website at: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

Parents and carers are able to log on to the website at any time during the day

or night, meaning last minute changes are possible up to 12 midnight on the closing day. If additional assistance is required, parents and carers can contact the School Admissions team on 01905 822700.



### **Parent Questionnaire Feedback**

Thank you to all the parents who completed our parent questionnaire this term. We had 46 online questionnaires completed which represented 35% of our families. Here are the results...

98% agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at St Matthias, 2% neutral = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias makes sure its pupils are well behaved, 4% neutral = 100%

63% had not experienced bullying, 24% agreed/strongly agreed bullying was dealt with effectively, 11% neutral=98%

95% agreed/strongly agreed that they were aware of what their child was learning =95%

94% agreed/strongly agreed that communication was effective, 2% neutral = 95%

37% had no concerns and 59% agreed/strongly agreed that their concerns dealt with properly, 2% neutral = 98%

91% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias had high expectations, 9% neutral = 100%

91% agreed/strongly agreed that their child did well at St Matthias, 9% neutral = 100%

94% agreed/strongly agreed that the school lets me know how my child is doing, 2% neutral =96%

98% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias helped parents to support their child's learning, 2% neutral = 100%

89% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias supported their child's wider personal development, 9% neutral = 98%

91% agreed/strongly agreed that there was a good range of subjects available, 7% neutral = 98%

94% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias prepared their child for the future, 4% neutral = 98%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that St Matthias is well led and managed, 4% neutral = 100%

96% agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend St Matthias to another parent, 2% neutral = 98%

46% of the questionnaires represented families with pupils with SEND and 95% of those agreed/strongly neutrally (9%) agreed that the school gives their child the support they need to succeed

39% of the families completing the questionnaire shared that it was important to them that their child attended a church school.

We were overwhelmingly grateful for the positive comments and suggestions we received and will take on board many of the suggestions to ensure that we continue to improve St Matthias for the good of your children. Thank you.

Friendly, happy school.  
Every issue sorted straight away. Never felt like a burden and my child genuinely wants to come to school

I think the school has an amazing core body of excellent staff including teachers, teaching assistants, administrators. The leadership team are extraordinary. I am in awe of what is achieved at St Matthias.

For us, it's his development of faith, with it being embedded at school as well as home it has flourished over the last year

The school allow children to be individuals whilst maintaining the core values which is lovely to see.

The school encourages celebration of achievements of both children and staff; there are so many amazing role models at the school for the children to aspire to.

Staff are very encouraging and go above and beyond to help the children and parents when needed.

## Dignity



**As a church school, every half term we concentrate on an important value for life.**

## Dignity



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.

**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."

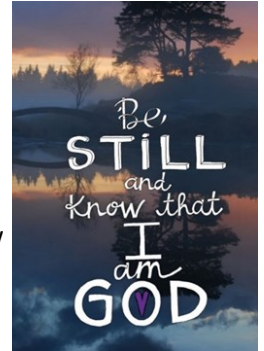
**Peter 2:17** "Treat everyone you meet with dignity."

**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 through challenging times.**



### 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. Ruby-Ann, 1. Nathan, 2. Amelia, 3. Heidi, 4. Dexter, 5/6. Charlie.

**Value Leaf for showing "DIGNITY":** R. Ada, 1. Alexander, 2. Poppy-Rogue, 3. Bertie, 4. Kyle, 5/6. Jacob B.

**Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing):** R. Keira, 1. Bella, 2. Noah, 3. Alice, 4. Rihanna, 5/6. Edward-Noah.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times):** Ryan Yr 4

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

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us this morning !



### Outside Achievements

It was lovely to celebrate our outside achievements this week. We always enjoy hearing about all the different activities and achievements your children have completed as it will inspire others.

**Poppy Y2** For joining Brownies for the first time. Poppy well done for being brave and taking part in a new group. We hope you enjoy making new friends and collecting badges!

**Bertie Y3** for achieving an amazing 50 metre swimming certificate! Wow Bertie this is fantastic! Keep up the excellent work you are flourishing!

**Florence Y1** for achieving an amazing 15 metre swimming certificate! Well done Florence! Keep up the excellent work you are flourishing!





# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

The letter detailing the new clubs for this whole term will come out early next week.

The new clubs will run until the end of March.

### CLASS EVENTS

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) or phone 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](mailto:finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) or Phone 01684 574984 and ask to be put through to her.

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](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters  
[head@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto: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>

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](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

#### SPRING TERM

**HALF TERM BREAK**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 for Easter

#### SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**HALF TERM BREAK**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Monday 1st June**

**Staff Training**

**Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed**

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 17th July 2026.

## Attendance Profiles — Up to 19th December 2025

As a school, we have a legal duty to keep you regularly informed of your child’s attendance. We have just passed the end of the 1st term of this school year; during January every child in school will bring home an Attendance Profile.

The Attendance Profile will show you your child’s attendance percentage, the number of school learning days they have missed, how many late arrivals they had and how many minutes of lessons they missed and it will show whether your child’s attendance is improving or slipping downwards.

It will also give you key information about attendance in general. We send these out after each half term. These profiles are not intended to cause offence; they are merely our 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...**

- 1,at the end of every month all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a gift voucher.
- 2,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 gift voucher.
- 3,at the end of every full year ALL children with 100% are rewarded with a gift voucher!

## Attendance Statistics

Government Data shows that pupils with the highest KS2 SAT results in Year 6 in 2019 had low levels of absence over their four KS2 years ( ie Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) at Primary School, compared to those with lower attainment. This shows that attendance had a significant impact on learning achievement and meeting the expected standards at KS2.

### Absences

Please remember to let Mrs Lewis know by email or phone before 9am if your child is going to be absent. Mrs Lewis is the person responsible for our registers and she is the one who needs to know. Thank you.

At St Matthias we continue to aim for our school target of 96% attendance. 96% and above means having a maximum of only 7 days off in a year. Our school gates open at **8.40am** and **lessons start immediately**.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Attendance - The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week the winning class certificate will be given out next Friday in the award assembly.



Attendance Statistics <u>This Week</u>	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	12	3	4	11	6	8	12	56
Total Number of Sessions Missed	25	9	7	27	13	18	34	133
Class Percentage	84.1	91.7	94.8	88.4	91.4	90.6	87.1	89.3%

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 1** for the best attendance this week. Well Done!

We hope that next week we can report that some classes have achieved above our 96% target.