

# St Matthias Newsletter



**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**

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**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

Welcome back after the half term break. It is lovely to see a little touch of sunshine this week!

## **Season of Lent - Wednesday 18th February to Thursday 2nd April 2026**

As we are in the season of Lent, I wondered whether your family had taken part in the first part of the Lenten Challenge shared with us by Fr James from St Matthias Church?

The challenge was attached on Class Dojo and also emailed with the newsletter before half term. Lent lasts for 40 days, representing the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, similar to waiting for Christmas during Advent. To remember Jesus' sacrifice some Christians 'give something up' for example eating chocolate or a favourite snack. Alternatively some Christians 'Do More,' instead of giving something up, they are encouraged to have positive habits, complete acts of kindness or donate to charity. The 'Act — Family Wallchart' suggests some lovely acts of kindness or activities to complete each day. It does not have to cost anything and it can be completed as a family. Our local church, St Matthias, will also be taking part. Do let us know how you and your family got on if you choose to take part!

## **Church Lent Experience**

Each class have been invited to attend the St Matthias Church Lent Experience this week. It was a meaningful opportunity for them to learn about the season of Lent through interactive workshops and story telling. The experience began with a story reminding us of Jesus' time in the desert after his baptism. The children heard how Jesus went to the desert as a peaceful place to think, away from people and food and how he resisted temptations during this time. Following the story, the children participated in five different workshops, each exploring an important message about Lent. They finished the experience together by sharing hot cross buns.



## **Workshop 1**

### **Life Choice Station**

The children learned that many Christians have an ash cross drawn on their forehead at the beginning of Lent as a reminder to say sorry for things they've done wrong. They experienced drawing with ash, feeling its texture and discovering that it was made from old palm tree crosses from the previous Easter, which had been burnt.



**Have a peaceful 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.'



## Workshop 2

### Listening Station

The children were reminded that they are all unique children of God and that everyone in the world has a different thumb print. They created an identity card with a painting of their thumb print to show that they are loved by God.



## Workshop 3

### Letting Go Station

The children learned about Shrove Tuesday and how, long ago, all the foods that weren't going to be eaten during Lent were used up. They were encouraged to think of something that made them feel grumpy or sad and to draw it on a piece of fabric. Mary then sprayed water on the pictures, which magically disappeared, showing the children that God's love can take away worries.



## Workshop 4

### Following Station

At this station, the children played a game to see if they could be tempted to push a shark's teeth down without getting bitten! They learned that it's okay to be tempted, but it's not okay if the temptation isn't good for you. They then watched a visual demonstration using pepper on water, representing 'badness' and when washing-up liquid was added, the pepper disappeared, leaving the middle clean. This was a reminder that God can help you make good choices.



## Workshop 5

### Lengthening Station

Here, the children heard how we can all grow and stretch into the people God would like us to be – kind, forgiving and loving. Every child received a stretchy figure to remind them of these important values and qualities. The children had a wonderful time and we hope they've enjoyed sharing their experiences and reminders with you at home.



### **Children's Mental Health Week 2026 - House Group Activities**

During the afternoon of Friday 13th February, your child spent an hour with their House Group celebrating Children's Mental Health Week 2026. This year's theme is 'This is My Place', which focuses on the important feeling of belonging.

We discussed how belonging is about feeling like a valued part of the groups and places that matter to us. It's that warm feeling of being cared for and comfortable enough to be ourselves – whether that's at home, at school, with friends, or doing activities we love.

Through art, children explored where and when they feel they belong by creating their own personal maps. These maps could include: special places, (eg. home, school, the park, or a favourite spot), groups they're part of (such as, their family, sports teams, or friendship groups), activities they enjoy, (eg. reading, playing football, or drawing) and things that aren't physical places but still make them feel they belong (like, feeling safe, being listened to, or having fun with others).

This creative activity gave children the opportunity to think about what makes them feel happy, safe and connected to others – all important building blocks for positive mental health and wellbeing.

Thank you to staff for organising this important activity to end our half term.

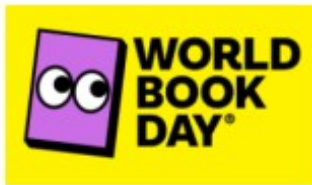


### **Year 4 Football Tournament**

The Year 4 Boys had great fun at The Downs Under 9 Football Festival on Tuesday afternoon, it was a bonus to have beautiful sunshine!

They started in a group against other schools from Worcestershire and Herefordshire and came 4<sup>th</sup> in their group. A highlight of the tournament was a great goal scored by Isaac after a strike from Oakley came back off the post. After coming 4<sup>th</sup> in their group, they played Suckley Primary School and managed to get a point to gain a respectful 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 12 teams. All of the children enjoyed their afternoon and should be very proud of their attitude and performances, a big thank you and well done from Mr Salmon!





## World Book Day 2026

World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year!  
To celebrate, we have organised a range of exciting,  
book-related events on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**.



Read on to find out more!

### Dress as an adjective!

Are you sleepy? Sporty, wise or colourful? Graceful, scientific or maybe even adventurous? Well, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, come dressed as a word and join the vocabulary parade! Make sure your word is displayed clearly and celebrate our love of descriptive words!



### Breakfast and a book

Children will be welcomed into class, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 8.40am with toast, fruit and a box of books to enjoy. To celebrate World Book Day and to mark the start of the National Year of Reading, we will enjoy some quality time with a good book in our classrooms!

### 'Reading for Pleasure' in our House teams

This year, we have enjoyed spending time in our houses (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) with special Let's Connect time. On World Book Day, the house teams will meet and our teachers and house captains will read their favourite bedtime stories to the children.

### Family Reading Café - Friday 6th March

Come and join us for our St Matthias Reading Café on World Book Day from 3.30pm – 4.00pm. We will provide the books, refreshments and space for you to share a story with your child/ren and enjoy exploring books together!

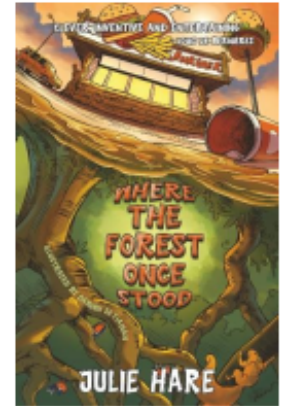


### Book Swap (Every Day!)

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!

### Whole-School Poetry Unit

During the week, every class will study poetry taken from the book 'Where the Forest Once Stood'. On the theme of the natural world and caring for our planet, each class will enjoy writing and reciting poetry. We have a focus on improving our oracy skills, so learning to perform a poem and present it to an audience will be a key task this week. We will celebrate the children's learning in a special poetry recital assembly on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
5 March 2026

**£1 Book Token**

Valid from 12 February - 15 March 2026

Choose your £1 book for free!

Win Yoto's ultimate reading bundle!

Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a Yoto Player and up to £200 worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card zone.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to [worldbookday.com/yoto-competition](http://worldbookday.com/yoto-competition).

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Price promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.

Sponsored by NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Children, families & educators. This token is for single-use only and expires 31st March 2026. FREE World Book Day 2026 books or £1 off a book or audiobook (total £2.99 or more in participating bookshops only, subject to stock availability). Find your nearest participating bookshop at [worldbookday.com/tokens-and-tokens-participating-bookshops](http://worldbookday.com/tokens-and-tokens-participating-bookshops).

Full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/terms-conditions](http://worldbookday.com/terms-conditions)

Bookshop: full terms and conditions: [worldbookday.com/bookshoppers/](http://worldbookday.com/bookshoppers/)

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Mrs Maidens has worked her magic again this year and has managed to get every child a World Book Day book which is age appropriate for each child using our donated £1 book tokens.

On Friday every child will receive a book to bring home.

We look forward to our World Book Day event next **Friday 6th March**

Whole school attendance has been amazing this week! Well done everybody!

### 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. Cayson, 1. Ross-Joseph, 2. Olivia, 3. Mia, 4. Ryan, 5/6. Addison.

**Value Leaf for showing "HOPE":** R. Ella-Jade, 1. Freddie, 2. Bella, 3. Leo, 4. Kyle, 5/6. Charlie.

**Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing):** R. Ruby, 1. Nathan, 2. Grace, 3. Bradley, 4. Charlie, 5/6. Jake.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Grace Yr 2

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

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



### 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"

**Gandhi "What is true of the individual will be tomorrow true of the whole nation if individuals refuse to lose heart and hope."**

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."

**Mother Teresa "Never lose hope. Never lose faith. The living has a great hope, we have life to bounce back from any difficulty"."**

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.

### 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.

**Jaxon YR** for achieving his Level 2 swimming badge, well done and we are very proud of you! We know you will do really well in Level 3– keep up the great work!

**Archer Y1** for achieving his Level 3 swimming badge, we are very proud of you, keep up the excellent work and keep flourishing in Level 4!

**Reggie Y2** for achieving his Level 3 swimming badge in a very short space of time. We are very proud of you, keep flourishing in Level 4!

**Dexter Y4** for achieving his Level 2 swimming badge, well done we are very proud of you, keep up the great effort and progress you are making in Level 3



**Mentor Link - Advert**



Children's charity Mentor Link are looking to recruit new Volunteer Mentors, who can spare 1-2 hours a week to help children with social and emotional issues, who may be struggling with engaging in education and attending school, suffering with anxiety, low self-esteem, friendship or relationship issues, and need a listening ear to help make a difference!

**If you feel you can help at a different school from the one your child attends, please contact Mentor Link on :-**

**01299 822336**

**[enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk)**

*Whole school attendance has been amazing this week! Well done everybody!*

**Absences**

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

At St Matthias we continue to aim for our school New target of 100% attendance.

**Our school gates open at 8.40am and learning starts immediately at 8.45am.**

*Whole school attendance has been amazing this week! Well done everybody!*

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

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	4	2	3	4	3	2	4	22
Total Number of Sessions Missed	7	3	5	7	5	4	9	40
Class Percentage	96.0	97.9	97.0	97.5	97.3	<b>98.4</b>	97.2%	97.4%

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 the best attendance this week. Well done!**

**Every Class had over 96% this week! Well Done everyone; keep it up!**



# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

World Book Day  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
Information out soon.

Parent Evenings  
16, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March  
**No** activity clubs this week.

Activity Clubs end at Easter.

### CLASS EVENTS

5 Year old Dental Checks  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
Please return Forms

Year 3 Trip Lower Smite Farm  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Year 5/6 Hartlebury Castle Trip  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
Letter out soon.

### Who to contact in school

MRS LEWIS Works Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us **before 9.00am**), medical issues, to request forms, change 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 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 phone 01684 574984 and ask to be put through to her, or email [finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk)

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>

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 of 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

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

**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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

**Staff Training** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 - School Closed

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN **at 8.40am** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE at 3.15pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

#### AUTUMN TERM (New Academic Year)

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN **at 8.40am** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026



## March 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](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
<b>FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance</b>	26 Mar 7-8pm