



# St Matthias Newsletter



A Member of  
**THE SPIRE**  
 CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEARNING TRUST

*collaborate . learn . achieve*

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 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,*

## We are proud of you Year 6!

Firstly, I would like to say how proud we are of our Year 6 pupils for focusing and doing their best in their Year 6 Statutory Assessment Tests this week and thank you to Mrs Maidens for preparing them so well! They have all been supportive of each other, followed all our instructions and absolutely strived to be the very best version of themselves when faced with this challenge! Well done, now you can enjoy the rest of your time at Primary School completing your Year 6 year. I'd also like to thank all the staff and volunteers who were involved with the implementation and monitoring of the SATs tests and our Governor, Allen, who also visited to verify our processes and encourage the children! Mrs James provided an amazing breakfast for the children too, which helped relax, calm and support an important social time prior to the tests; "thank you" Mrs James. The rest of the school were also amazing as they had to be extremely quiet during the tests and make sure they didn't disturb those concentrating – so a big thank you to the rest of the staff and children too! Thank you to Years 3 & 5 for clapping the Y6 children as they celebrated completing their last test! Just one more week of this half term and you will be heading towards your High School transition. Mrs Maidens has lots of lovely events planned for your final half term at St Matthias.



Have a lovely weekend,  
 Mrs Beale.

### **ASPIRE, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE**

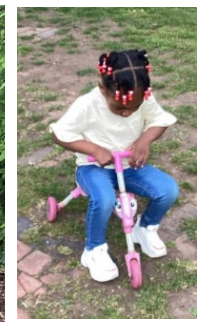
'Our school family values us all as unique individuals and children of God.

We **aspire** to be the best version of ourselves; 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.'



### Nursery Trip

On Tuesday, in beautiful sunshine, Nursery went to Hanley Garden Play in Hanley Swan. It is only 'down the road' but it was a fantastic place for them to explore and continue their curiosity learning! We were also incredibly lucky to watch the farmers in the next door field collect the cut grass with their tractor and trailer which had the arm throwing the grass into the trailer! It was very exciting! The children had the opportunity to play with construction toys, play houses with a slide, digging areas, sand pits, trampolines, mud kitchens, dressing up and so much more! They also had a picnic! I would thoroughly recommend a visit and you can book using this link <https://www.hanleygardenplay.com/>



**Nurture Base week of Camping Adventure!**

Last week the Nurture Base started their new book called 'The Boy Who Sailed the World' and it inspired them to think about their own camping adventure!

They wrote a list of all the things they would need, collected them together then headed to our school field for some days of adventure. They put up tents and found some sticks for a pretend campfire. The local cat even joined them! They learned lots of new skills through being curious, surviving in all weathers, keeping warm, having fun exploring on an adventure, learning about nature and most importantly following instructions to make a sandwich and hot chocolate when you are hungry!



**Finding out about Jewish life.**

Year One are studying Judaism, so on Thursday this week they invited two guest speakers, Sue and Mark into their classroom, via Zoom, to ask them questions about their Jewish Faith. They joined them from their home in Wales, last year when they met the Year One's; they were travelling around Europe in their motorhome! During the Zoom call, Sue and Mark shared many fascinating facts about Judaism with the children:

- **Hebrew Language:** Year 1 discovered that Hebrew is read and written from right to left, which is different from English! The children learned to say several words in Hebrew, including: mum, dad, girl, boy, hello and thank you.
- **Jewish Customs and Choices:** Sue and Mark explained that Jewish families may follow different customs depending on their personal beliefs and practices. For example, some Jewish families have a mezuzah (a small scroll containing prayers) on every doorpost in their home, whilst Sue and Mark choose not to.
- **Showing Respect:** Year 1 learned about the ways Jewish people show respect for God by following certain rules, such as: Covering their heads when entering a synagogue and following dietary laws, such as not eating pork or shellfish.
- **Practising Faith at Home:** Sue and Mark shared that they don't live near a synagogue, so they practise their faith at home. Their nearest synagogues are in Birmingham, Cardiff, Liverpool or Manchester.
- **Hanukkah Traditions:** Mrs O'Connor remembered from their Zoom call last year that during Hanukkah, Jewish people eat fried foods like doughnuts to remember the miracle of the oil that kept the Menorah candles burning for eight days. To celebrate this learning, Year 1 enjoyed some doughnuts during our RE lesson!

This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn directly from people who practise the Jewish faith and to ask their own questions about different beliefs and traditions. Thank you Sue and Mark and Mrs O'Connor for organising the experience.

**Years 5 & 6 Wartime Cookery**



As part of their World War 2 learning (and a break from SATs tests) Years 5 and 6 followed some wartime recipes this week, to make carrot cookies and savoury potato biscuits. The cookies/biscuits were designed to be quick, filling and also utilize leftover mashed potato acting as a staple 'make do and mend' food item! I wonder if they were that tasty?



## **Important information regarding the termination of the EDENRED holiday food vouchers.**

*Over the past few years, since COVID, families eligible for free school meals have been able to access holiday food vouchers through school as a Government initiative. Unfortunately this money has now come to an end and therefore Local Authorities are unable to continue with this Government scheme where they gave schools the money to support their FSM families. Therefore, we will NOT be sending any food vouchers for the foreseeable future. Here is the letter explaining the situation, we have also sent it by email.*

13th May 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to let you know about a change to holiday free school meal vouchers.

In the past, some families received food vouchers during the school holidays. These vouchers were paid for by money from the Government, through the Household Support Fund.

### **What is changing?**

The Government has stopped this funding from 31 March 2026. Because of this, holiday food vouchers will no longer be given out during school holidays. There is a new scheme called the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) which is available to help people facing financial crisis – however there is less funding available and it has to be used for different purposes.

### **What help is still available?**

You can get free and confidential advice about money, benefits, and support from Worcestershire Advice Network: [www.worcestershireadvicenetwork.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireadvicenetwork.org.uk)

You can also find information about cost-of-living help on the council website:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cost-living-support](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cost-living-support). Your [district council](#) will also have information on local support for residents who are facing severe financial hardship or crisis.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is still running throughout Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays, providing free activities and food for families who are eligible for Free School Meals:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HAF)

You can also get various support through your local Family Hub: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs)

We understand this change will have an impact on some families. Please know that support is still available for those experiencing financial difficulties, and we'll share more information as plans for Worcestershire are confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

**Hannah Perrott**

Assistant Director for Communities Worcestershire County Council

### 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. Jaxon , 1. Alex, 2. Ayla, 3. Evie, 4. Mason, 5/6. William.

Value Leaf for showing "WISDOM": R. Ada, 1. John, 2. Enrico, 3. Bertie, 4. Esmae, 5/6. Charlotte.

Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing): R. Florence, 1. Freddie, 2. Elsie-Ann, 3. Maddie, 4. Enzo, 5/6. Logan.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Nathan Yr 1

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Ella D Yr 3

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.

**George YN**, for achieving his first swimming badge which only took him 4 weeks! Good luck for stage 2! We are proud of you!

**Astria Y2**, for learning to ride her bike without stabilisers showing great persistence! There will be no stopping you now!

**Ayra Y2**, for supporting her sister to learn to ride her bike and demonstrating without stabilisers. We are proud of you!

**Kai Y5 and Mia Y4**, for passing their first grading in jujitsu this week and they will gain their new belts at their next lesson! We are very proud of you both!

**Isabella Y5**, for continuing to enjoy jujitsu and being presented with her uniform. All the best for your first grading!





**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.



**Our Value this half term is “Wisdom”**

Matthew 7:24–27 Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house upon the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like the foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Proverbs 4:6-7, "Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

Dalai Lama "A spoon cannot taste of the food it carries. Likewise, a foolish person cannot understand the wise man’s wisdom even if he associates with a sage."

Gandhi "Even as wisdom often comes from the mouths of babes, so does it often come from the mouths of old people. The golden rule is to test everything in the light of reason and experience, no matter from where it comes."

**ATTENDANCE WINNERS**

**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!

105 amazing pupils had 100% in April. An extra 9 children had above 95%.

So out of 166 pupils 114 attained our target. Well done to those children!

The £10 gift voucher prize winner for April 2026 will be announced soon — Watch this space!

**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	5	2	2	11	7	5	4	36
Total Number of Sessions Missed	12	4	4	28	28	18	7	101
Class Percentage	93.6	94.7	97.6	90.3	86.1	92.8	97.9	93.4%
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 6 for the best attendance this week.**

**Years 1 and 5/6 had over 96% this week! Fantastic well done!**



# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

#### Activity Clubs

If your child is in Gym, Athletics or Cricket Clubs they should bring trainers, tee-shirt and shorts/leggings from home on that day.

School Photographer in to do Class Groups and Leavers Packs  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

### CLASS EVENTS

Year 4 Think Tank Science Trip  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.  
Letter emailed today.

Meeting for future Reception Parents  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 4.00pm

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Year 5/6 Lifepath Trip

Meeting for future Nursery Parents  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 3.30<sup>pm</sup>

Year 6 **Dysons** Induction Day  
Future pupils there 25<sup>th</sup> June

Year 1 Worcester Cathedral  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Year 3 Seeds for Life Trip  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers Service in Church  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 9<sup>am</sup>

### 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](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 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](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 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

#### SUMMER TERM

**HALF TERM BREAK**

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

Staff Training Day

**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.

#### AUTUMN TERM (New Academic Year)

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

**at 8.40am** Thursday 3rd September 2026

The full dates for the next academic year are on Newsletter 27 page 4.



**Understanding additional needs workshops available**

**Online Sensory Processing workshop**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026

9:30-11:30am

Link to secure place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988823118485?aff=oddtcreator>

**Online All kind of minds**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

1-3pm

Link to secure place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-kinds-of-minds-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988824057293?aff=oddtcreator>

**Online Emotion Regulation workshop**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

9:30-11:30am

Link to secure place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-regulation-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825134515?aff=oddtcreator>

**Dealing with challenging behaviour**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

9:30-11:30am

Link to secure place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dealing-with-challenging-behaviour-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825543739?aff=oddtcreator>

For further information please contact Rebecca Walton  
Email: [Rebecca.Walton@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Walton@actionforchildren.org.uk)

**[Sensory processing workshop](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-workshop-tickets-1986894618289?aff=oddtcreator)**- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1-3pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-workshop-tickets-1986894618289?aff=oddtcreator>

**[Sensory processing workshop](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988823118485?aff=oddtcreator)**- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 9:30-11:30am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sensory-processing-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988823118485?aff=oddtcreator>

**[Neurodiversity/All kind of minds Workshop](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodiversity-workshop-tickets-1986896488884?aff=oddtcreator)**- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 1-3pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodiversity-workshop-tickets-1986896488884?aff=oddtcreator>

**[Neurodiversity/All kind of minds Workshop](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-kinds-of-minds-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988824057293?aff=oddtcreator)**- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 1-3pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-kinds-of-minds-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988824057293?aff=oddtcreator>

**[Emotional regulation Workshop](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-regulation-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825134515?aff=oddtcreator)**- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 9:30-11:30 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-regulation-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825134515?aff=oddtcreator>

**[Dealing with challenging behaviour](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dealing-with-challenging-behaviour-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825543739?aff=oddtcreator)**- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 9:30-11:30am <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dealing-with-challenging-behaviour-south-worcestershire-parents-tickets-1988825543739?aff=oddtcreator>

# Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.

Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month

Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



## Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



## Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



## You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

[www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

**Online Courses for Parents** page

[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



## **Eat Well, Meet Friends, Feel Welcome!**



**Freshly cooked family supper  
for local families with children**

**Mondays 4:30-5:30pm,  
at the Octagon Centre, Poolbrook  
& Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm  
at St Mary's, Pickersleigh**

**ALL WELCOME  
Adults £1, Children Free**