

# St Matthias Newsletter



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Friday 17th September 2021

# 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.’

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children,*

We are very proud to share with you above our reaffirmed Vision for St Matthias. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, staff and governors joined together, during our first Teacher Education Day of the year, to review the Vision for St Matthias, its pupils and community. It has been over 5 years since the vision has been revisited and due to developments over the past few years, we felt that it was the right time to ensure that it reflected us as a school today with the fantastic pupils and parents, committed staff and supportive governors.

The group discussion started with gathering ideas linked to ‘Who we are,’ ‘Why we are here,’ and ‘How we should live our lives.’ Our new vision was created encompassing everything that we believe and want for our St Matthias community, ensuring that each and everyone of us is able to flourish.

We wanted to keep ‘**Aspire, Believe, Achieve**’ as our main focus, however the meaning behind those words needed to reflect our school community as it is today. As a church school we not only have an Ofsted inspection but we have a SIAMs inspection too (The Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools). Both inspections look for a clear, ambitious vision providing high quality, inclusive education which reflects its local context. They look for a vision which reflects strong values, policy and practice, where EVERYONE (including children and parents) can articulate the distinctive vision. They look for a vision which drives every decision and action made within the school and for a church school it should be distinctively Christian.

We will share the vision regularly and will start all decision making with the vision at the heart.

I know that you will agree that our vision reflects what St Matthias ‘stands for’ and that you share with us our passion to ‘**Aspire, Believe and Achieve.**’



Have a wonderful weekend, Mrs Beale.



### **After School Activity Clubs**

A text and ClassDojo message was sent this week regarding our after school clubs which are resuming this term. Please follow the links if you would like your child to attend an after school activity club and have not already completed the online form.

You will be informed of your child's allocated club today, Friday 16th September.

If your child is allocated a SPORTS club then please send their school PE kit in a bag for them to change into on their club day. (Unless it is their PE day.)

**Years 1 and 2 Club Form:** <https://forms.office.com/r/TfvGiZxYEW>

Cooking Club (Tuesday), Homework Club (Tuesday), Sports Club (Thursday)

*There will be a small charge for cooking club and should this be oversubscribed smaller groups will be formed over a set period of weeks. You will be informed by text.*



**Years 3 and 4 Club Form:** <https://forms.office.com/r/Tb4DuHaQ46>

Art Club (Monday), Sports Club (Tuesday), Homework Club (Thursday)



**Years 5 and 6 Club Form:** <https://forms.office.com/r/YK7yHiDLJS>

Young Voices\* (Monday), Homework Club (Thursday), Sports Club (Friday)

*\*Young Voices is a wonderful singing concert which is held in January, full event details will follow. However, children in Year 5 & 6 may join the club even if they do not want to go to the concert in January.*

### **Online Virtual Parent Consultations—13th and 14th October 2021**

Parent consultations have been organised for Wednesday 13th October and Thursday 14th October. This is an opportunity for parents to have a conversation with your child's class teacher about how your child has settled into their class this term and about the successes and the next steps your child will make to keep you informed.

This term we continuing our parents evening in a 'Virtual' way using Teams or Zoom. This has been very successful during the pandemic and we feel that in order to keep us all as safe as possible that we will continue in this way for this term.

We will be organising the appointments and systems over the next few weeks and will send out a link for you to sign up for your appointment by the end of September. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will use 'Zoom' as their platform for Parents' evening, and Years 2-6 will use Teams. Alternatively we can arrange a telephone consultation if you prefer.

If you would like an appointment with our SENDCo, Mrs Lodge, please contact her directly via Class Dojo to arrange a separate meeting.

### **Early Years**

This week I have been getting to know our new Nursery and Reception children by visiting them regularly. I feel that it is important for me to get to know all of our children individually and for them to know who I am and who the adults are in school. I love visiting Nursery and Reception as their learning is so spontaneous and inquisitive and this is where they start their life long love of learning and passion to know more!



But how excited was I when I visited these

Nursery children who were playing 'teachers' during their role play! Don't they fit the bill well? Watch out Mrs Taylor!

Reception were learning about their feelings during a PSHE lesson. It is so important to be able to recognise our feelings and emotions and be able to name them.



## Attendance Reminder

As your child settles back into life at St Matthias after the summer holiday, we thought it would be helpful to remind you of some of the key features of our Attendance Policy.

**Reporting Absence from School:** If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, you must contact the school on the first day of the absence to inform us. We ask that parents to contact the office before 9.15am so the teacher can be informed. If your child remains unwell, please contact us with an update regularly.

Where a child is absent from school and we do not receive a reason or an exact description of symptoms we will ring you or send a text to ask the parent to ring us, as the absence will be recorded as *unauthorised* until the precise reason is given. ( "Ill" or "poorly" is NOT enough). We may complete a home visit for a 'safe and well check' if we are unable to make contact with you.

**Punctuality:** All children should be at school by the specified time of 9am. If your child is late and the school gates are shut it will be classed as a late arrival, they must enter via the school office. Please try to avoid being late as this is very disruptive to the learning for not only your child but for the others in the class too.

**Medical Appointments:** Wherever possible, we ask that medical appointments are arranged outside of school hours. However, where this not possible, please advise in advance of the appointment. Absence due to medical appointments will affect your child's attendance figures so we ask that you keep these to a minimum. We must see evidence of the appointment which can be either a letter from the NHS or an appointment card from a doctor or dentist.

**Planned Absence for Holiday and other similar reasons:** Government regulations make it clear that parents do not have any right or entitlement to take a child out of school for purposes such as a term time holiday. In exceptional circumstances children may be granted leave of absence during term-time for not more than one week (5 days) in any calendar year. Parents contemplating absence during school time should complete a 'holiday form' and first discuss the implications with the school before making any commitments. Should parents decide to still take their child on holiday without authorisation a referral may be made to the Education Welfare Service which may result in a Penalty Notice (a fine of up to £120 per parent per child) being issued. Any absence from school can have a serious effect on a child's educational progress and can create continued difficulties on their return to school.

### COVID 19 and attendance

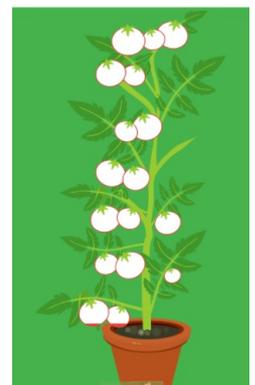
We are aware that guidance relating to COVID –19 symptoms can be difficult to follow. To assist you in your response to possible COVID symptoms we have helpful information contacts at the end of this newsletter on the 'Noticeboard'. Any child who develops a cough, even if you think it is related to a cold, must seek medical advice and take a PCR test. Call 119 for advice. Any child who is taking a PCR test has an authorised absence which does not affect their attendance mark. As soon as the results are back, if they are negative they can return to school with immediate effect, if they are positive you MUST inform Mrs Beale immediately and follow Public Health England advice.

### PLEASE SUPPORT US! It's Good To Grow– Morrisons Scheme

We have signed up for the 'It's Good To Grow' Morrisons **FREE gardening equipment** for schools scheme. For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help St Matthias School get everything we need to get growing.

You will need to download the MyMorrisons app to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose

St Matthias Primary School to donate to, if you enter our postcode WR14 1NA our school name will appear. Ask your friends and family to do this too! If you already have the Morrisons app you may need to update it to the latest version in the app store. <https://>



## Reading Assessments

We are currently re-assessing all children in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 to check which reading book band they should be taking home. You may notice that your child's book band changes– they may move up or down, and this is due to the assessments we are doing. Please do not worry if your child moves down– this is to ensure that they have exactly the right books that both support and challenge them in their reading. We are using a system called PM Benchmark in KS1 and STAR in KS2 to ensure a consistent approach to the assessment of reading in school. This will give us evidence that we can share with you and will allow us to check progress accurately. Both systems assess your child's ability to **retell** the text, check for fluency and recognition of common words, look at their **strategies** when they get stuck on a word and also include **comprehension** questions – questions that show whether they have understood and can explain what they have read, not just reading the words.



Children will be assessed when the teacher believes they are ready to move up a level, typically every half term but sooner if necessary. If a child isn't making progress, the teacher will be able to target the aspect that they're finding difficult within their daily teaching of reading. If you have any concerns about your child's reading, please send a message to their teacher via ClassDojo. Please remember to support your child in their reading by listening to them read daily at home and talking about the book they are reading. The more they read the better progress they make and parents are an important part of that process.

## Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements. Currently these are held virtually from the classroom using either Teams or Zoom.



**Certificates (Effort in their work):** R. Elsie, 1. Isabella, 2. Sienna, 3. Fraiser, 4. Molly 5. Gracie, 6. Tristanry.

**Value Leaf (Showing our value Thankfulness):** R. Mason, 1. Ralphee, 2. Loki, 3. Megan, 4. Poppy L, 5. Fraser, 6. Demi

**Spotted (Improved spelling):** R. Nicolas, 1. Marlee-Mae, 2. Tia, 3. Ellie, 4. Anisia, 5. Chase, 6. Lydia.

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Evelyn Yr 6

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside)** Sofia Yr R



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 Shcwab** "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.**

## Reminders

### Whole School Events

#### School Photographer

**Monday 27th September** to take every individual child plus sibling groups from within school only. 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. Please try to maintain a distance between your family and the other families that come along. All siblings who come to our school will automatically be photographed together during the school day.

**Nasal Flu Vaccine (Yrs R - 6)**  
**Wednesday 24th November (am)**

### Class Events

**Year 6** Swimming lessons start on Wednesday 22nd September.

**Yrs R and 1** Eye tests on Wednesday 6th October.  
Refusal Forms coming home today.

**Yrs 3 - 6** Virtual author event Joseph Coelho CLPE "Happy Here" book on Wednesday 13th October

**Year 6** Closing Date for High School Applications is Sunday 31st October .

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Severn Trent Water - Big Difference

Help that is available from **Severn Trent Water** for reducing water bills for families with low household incomes. If eligible for the scheme, you could receive a discount of up to 90% off your water bill and potentially suspend any arrears. Please click here for more information.

<https://bigdiff.co.uk/login.php>

### Platform Housing customers only

Platform Housing have launched a 'Wellbeing Fund' for all customers to access in order to help cover the cost of food, essential items such as school uniforms, energy and utility costs as well as helping to bridge the gap between a benefit application and first payment. You can apply following this link.

<https://www.platformhg.com/wellbeing-fund>

### Covid 19

COVID-19 symptom check ([click here](#))

Book an NHS COVID 19 test ([click here](#)) or ring **119**

Book a COVID-19 Vaccine ([click here](#))

### 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](#))

### Family Support

**Family Front Door** - 01905 822666 to report a concern about a child or request extra help for a family.

**The Family Hub** for parenting support and advice ([click here](#))

**Parent Online Safety Information** ([click here](#))

**Malvern Hills Housing support** ([click here](#))

**Child Line** - 0800 1111 for free

### Who to contact in school and how

**MRS KAZEROONI for:-** Attendance issues, reasons for absences, request any forms, change of address or phone numbers, general enquires, urgent contact, 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 Telephone **01684 574984**

**MRS JAMES (Only Mon - Thu) for:-** Whizz Kids booking, paying any bills/invoices for nursery, trips, music lessons, 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 Mrs James.

**CLASS TEACHER for:-** classroom issues, learning or behaviour related, use ClassDojo or Tapestry. 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 to be made.

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

**Black Pepper Lunches for:-** booking your child's meals every half term , visit their website <https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

## TERM DATES

### AUTUMN TERM 2021

SCHOOL CLOSES

Staff Training Day

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSES

Thursday 21st October at 3.15pm

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### SPRING TERM 2022

Staff Training Day

SCHOOL OPENS

HALF TERM BREAK

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February