

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 14th October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been another very exciting week at St Matthias, with curriculum enrichment! Not only have the children been learning in their classrooms but some classes have taken their learning on a journey this week! Year One went on a walk around the local area to enhance their Geography knowledge, Year 6 visited the Strange Futures drama workshop at Malvern Cube and Year 5 travelled to Cheltenham to the Literature Festival where they learned all about Vashti Hardy and her journey to become an established author. Read on in our newsletter to hear how the trips enabled our pupils to flourish and achieve, just look at the enjoyment on the children's faces in the photographs!

CHELTEMHAM

**Literature
Festival**

Next week we have even more excitement as the Early Years are going on a trip to Clive's Fruit Farm to pick apples for our Harvest Service on Thursday 21st October, Year 4 are visiting the Strange Futures Drama and animation workshop and Year 5 are extending their Science knowledge through a Talking Trees workshop in Townsend Community Woodland.



We have been really lucky this half term to have so many opportunities to enrich the curriculum outside of school and we have been very proud of each child for being respectful, demonstrating our school values and vision in such a positive way as they aspire, believe and achieve flourishing in everything they do no matter how challenging it is.

Harvest Service– Malvern Food Bank donations

We are celebrating our Harvest Service next week on Thursday 21st October. This will be the first time that the children and staff will have all been together since before the pandemic. It will be a very special occasion and a very new experience for some of our youngest pupils. Rev Phillip will lead our Harvest Service with the pupils and he will record the service for parents to watch following the celebration. The Harvest service is celebrating our new school vision and the gifts God has given each one of us as we value us all as unique individuals.



Donations for our Harvest Service are going to **Malvern Food Bank** who have supported so many local families in our Malvern community especially during the pandemic.

Next week please bring in tinned food, packet food, toiletries, laundry detergent, tea, coffee, squash, baby wipes, nappies, toilet rolls etc throughout next week. No fresh food thank you.

Outside Achievements

A little reminder that if your child achieves something special outside of school we would love to celebrate this with them during our Friday Celebration Worship. We know lots of children are in sports clubs and other clubs where they gain and achieve certificates, badges or medals. Remember to bring them in on a Friday and we can share them with the school and inspire someone else to have a go!

*Please remember that next week the children break up on **Thursday 21st October** for half term as the staff have a Teacher Education Day on Friday 22nd October and are focusing their own professional development leading the curriculum.*

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.'



Year 1 Geography Walk

On Thursday afternoon, Year 1 went for a lovely local walk in the autumn sunshine as part of their learning in geography. Children looked carefully for significant features of our local area - the children were extremely observant and identified many along our route. Children spotted: the Malvern Hills, a fire hydrant, a post office, two churches, a bakery, Domino's Pizza, a post box, a special rock in the churchyard, our school field, our playground and we were also lucky enough to see a train travel across the bridge! To let traffic and pedestrians know which direction we were travelling, children used hand signals as indicators, correctly identifying left or right! When we returned to school, children marked the route on their own map and drew features that they remembered. Class 1 represented our school brilliantly, behaving beautifully.



Year 5 trip to the Literature Festival in Cheltenham

Year 5 had a wonderful day at the Literature festival. They met Vashti Hardy, an author, who talked about how she didn't think that she could ever write a story but once she believed in herself and was encouraged she found she could write and has now written a wealth of novels for children to read! Mr Thompson has ordered one of her books to share in Year 5. Following this the Year 5 children completed a workshop focusing on retelling their journey to the festival using illustrations.



Year 4 PE demonstration

I felt very privileged to have been invited to watch some PE gymnastics demonstrations from Year 4 based on stories being told through gymnastic movements. After the demonstrations each group shared their story and described what each movement represented. It was lovely to see so much choreography designed by the children themselves and the teamwork and collaboration from each child! Very impressive!



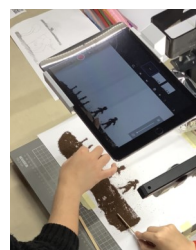
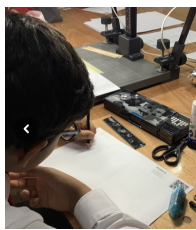
Author Visit

This week Years 4-6 joined author Joseph Coelho, an award winning poet, on Wednesday 13th October for an online event. He shared his life story with them and how he became a poet. He shared his poetry and how his poems evolved and the inspiration for them. The children made links with their own learning from the classroom, recognising similes and onomatopoeia. He shared his vast range of poetry which included one word poems and alphabet poems and described how he decided on the themes and content for each one. Following this he inspired the children to write their own poetry following the event! We were also extremely lucky as we received 50 free copies of Happy Here which is a wonderful book representing diversity, equity and inclusion. It is important for all children, regardless of colour or background, to be able to see themselves represented in texts and be able to make sense of the world around them and this book is a fantastic example of this.



Strange Futures Year 6 Workshop

Year 6 visited Malvern Cube yesterday. They were involved in a different workshop from Year 5 last week as they created animations with tea leaves! They had a wonderful time learning how to create their own animations and drawing illustrations for their stories then bringing them to life with tea leaves!



Year 5 & 6 Cross Country event

Today our Year 5 & Year 6 took to Peachfield Common in Malvern for a cross country event! They set off looking rather worried, however came back with smiling faces and proud of their achievements!



St Richards Hospice Elephant Fundraising Event

The thirty beautiful large elephants were auctioned last night they were sold for between £5200 and £36,000. The charity auction raised a fantastic £368,800 for St Richards Hospice. The baby elephants will all return from the trail to their respective schools. Arlo our baby elephant will be returning St Matthias on Monday. He will then live in the main entrance to greet visitors. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for this amazing cause.

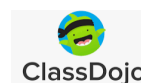


Covid information – book a PCR test – symptoms

Symptoms in children may be any of these listed; high temperature, loss of appetite, extreme tiredness, runny nose, sneezing, cough, sore throat, diarrhoea, vomiting, headache, joint or muscle pains, and generally feeling unwell. Many children have no symptoms. If your child has symptoms, please do not rely on the Lateral Flow Tests which can be done at home in 30 minutes. Please take your child for a PCR test and county hall or order a postal PCR test if you don't drive.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our virtual parent evening event. There were a few technical complications, however the teachers did their best to rectify them or make a telephone call as an alternative. If you were unable to make the appointment don't worry your child's short report will be sent to you and if you wish to discuss it please contact your child's class teacher via ClassDojo to arrange a telephone call.



St Matthias Book Swap Library

It has been lovely to see children using our book swap library this week in the porch at the front of school. Please don't forget to bring a book from home that you have finished reading and then choose another book from our library, to enjoy at home. Once you have finished with that one, you can swap it again! If you have any books that you would like to donate to our book swap library then please feel free to drop them into the main entrance of school.



Whizz Kids

Next half term's booking form for our wrap around care is attached with this newsletter, you can also collect a form from the stand outside school. Please email finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk if you need further information.



Attendance

There are 365 days in a calendar year, 175 of them are not school days – that's plenty of time for shopping, days out, parties, holidays, appointments and visiting family and friends.

Good attendance means being in school **over 96%** of the time. In a school year, that means being in school on 183 out of the 190 school days. The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week.

Well done to Years 3, 4 and 6 for above 96% attendance. Well done to Nursery for the least amount of missing sessions.

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	92.7%	5	Year 3	97.9%	6
Reception	83.8%	30	Year 4	96.4%	7
Year 1	89.6%	12	Year 5	90.4%	23
Year 2	95.9%	8	Year 6	97.6%	7
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

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. Dexter, 1. Jake, 2. Lottie, 3. Poppee, 4. Lily-Ann 5. Lily, 6. Sam.

Value Leaf (for showing Thankfulness): R. Miriam, 1. Marlee-Mae, 2. Damian, 3. Tyler, 4. Camille, 5. Chase, 6. Seren

Spotted (Improved spelling): R. Levi, 1. Ralphee, 2. Logan, 3. Izabela, 4. Lexie, 5. Mayzee, 6. Evelyn R

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week): Summer Yr3

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside) Amelia Yr 1

Achievements Outside School

Mr Salmon for completing a half marathon and coming 6th out of 600 & beating your personal best! A super achievement!



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.



NOTICEBOARD



Reminders

Whole School Events

Harvest Festival (No Parents)
Thursday 21st October

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

Class Events

Year 5 Teaching Tree Trip
Monday 18th October

Early Years Clive's Fruit Farm
Tuesday 19th October

Year 4 Animation Workshop
Thursday 21st October

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

Year 2 Farm Nativity Trip
Thursday 2nd December.

Year 1 Commandery History Trip
Thursday 9th December.

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 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

Child Line - 0800 1111 for free

School Nurse— 01684 612668

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](#))

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 or **Telephone 01684 574984**

MRS JAMES (Only works 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 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 to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters on 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

SPRING TERM 2022

Staff Training Day

SCHOOL OPENS

HALF TERM BREAK

Thursday 21st October 2021

Friday 22nd October

Friday 22nd to Sunday 31st October

Friday 17th December 2021.

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February