

# St Matthias Newsletter



## 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)



Friday 19th November 2021

*Dear Parents, Carers and Children,*

Many parents have been asking about raising money for "Children in Need" this year. However, the children have decided that there is a more important cause to raise money for at the moment. In school recently we have been sharing a book called 'Joe has Leukaemia' with all of the children. This is because one of our pupils, Freya, has recently been diagnosed with Leukaemia. Leukaemia is a type of blood cancer and it is treated with chemotherapy. Freya's parents have given us permission to share this information and allow the children at St Matthias to support their friend.



As you can imagine this came as a huge shock to her family who have had to adapt to a new way of juggling hospital treatment and understanding what this means for Freya. She is being very brave and is spending a lot of time in hospital having intense Chemotherapy and of course being looked after by her family and the nurses. It has also had a huge impact not only on Freya's siblings but also on the pupils in her class. Freya is a huge part of St Matthias, we miss her dearly and wish her all the very best for her intensive treatment. We are hoping that once she feels a little better that we might be able to set up some video calls for us to say hello and give her the encouragement that she needs in a more personal way.

The pupils at St Matthias have understood a little about Leukaemia through reading the story about Joe, if you would like to read it yourself or share it with your child/children you can download a copy by clicking on this link <https://publications.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/products/joe-has-leukaemia>

When the children heard about Freya, they wanted to do something to help her and her family through this challenging time and wanted to raise some money for them and give them some lovely gifts to show how much we care and want to help.

The School Council have designed a '**Break the Rules Day**' as they thought that Freya would find this very funny! Please read on to read a message from the School Council.

I am very proud of all the children and staff at St Matthias for being so sensitive and thoughtful after hearing about Freya; it really shows what a strong school family we have and how keen we are to make a positive contribution to those who are facing challenges which are beyond our imagination.

We continue to keep Freya and her family in our prayers at school and at home, giving her the strength to fight the Leukaemia.

The charity 'Clic Sargent' also known as 'Young Lives vs Cancer— we'll face it all, together' <https://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/> have a website with lots of information so if you or your child have any questions about Leukaemia and treatment or support you can access it here by clicking on the link provided. They have a section called 'My friend has cancer' which gives lots of ideas and answers lots of questions. Your child also may need reassurance and to be able to talk about their feelings following our discussions.



*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.'



## School Council News

On **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December**, we are raising money for Freya and her family, who are going through trying times at this moment. As a school family, we would like to offer help and support. Therefore, we are hosting a '**Break the School Rules Day**', which we think Freya would find hilarious!

**If you would like to take part in this fundraising day, we are asking for a donation of 50p for every school rule you break.** You are allowed to break the following rules on this day...

### School Rules:

Wear school uniform (School jumper/ school trousers or skirt.

No make-up.

No nail polish.

No hoods or hats to be worn in class.

No toys to be brought into school.



Therefore if you wear ***nail polish, non-school uniform and bring a toy*** to school you have broken 3 rules and you donate £1.50 (50p for every rule broken!)

The School Council hope that you are looking forward to this fundraising day as much as they are!

### Something extra

As an extra treat for Freya's family during the festive season, we would like to make a 'Christmas Lucky Dip' for them to enjoy by opening mystery presents. If you would like to contribute, please donate a gift for one of the family members by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, for example, a bottle of bubble bath, a chocolate bar, a small teddy or a book. There are two adults and 3 children in their family aged 3-9 years.



Each Class Representative will collect the gifts for each class and the School Council will wrap each item individually. The idea is that Freya's family will then have fun unwrapping each gift in turn and deciding who the present should be for!

**Reminder : What do you and your children think about St Matthias?**

The staff and governors appreciate all feedback from parents in order to continue to make further improvements for the children of St Matthias. Therefore we would like you to complete this parental questionnaire where all views are taken seriously and confidentiality will be maintained.



As a staff team, we will analyse your views where strengths and areas of developments will all be considered to further develop the school for the benefit of your unique children.

We have received **25** completed parent questionnaires so far, if you have not yet completed the parent questionnaire, please click on this link <https://tinyurl.com/8mjiyupam> and share your feedback by Friday 26th November 2021.

**'Whose feet are these?' Anti-Bullying Week 'One Kind Word'**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks on Monday 15th November. There were certainly an array of socks, short, long, stripy, inside out and very colourful!

Anti-Bullying Week compliments our School Vision, values and school rules. It recognises that everyone in our school family are unique individuals and children of God. It also demonstrates how little acts of consideration and kindness can break down barriers and brighten the lives of people around us.

**Century Winter Cup Challenge**

You may be aware of the programme we have in school called 'Century' where children log on to their own account and complete homework and assignments (also known as Nuggets) set by their teachers. During November, Century have launched a Winter Cup challenge to complete as many 'Nuggets' as possible. We are competing within classes, across KS2 and internationally with schools who use Century. During week 1, the winners who completed the most 'Nuggets' in each class were;

**Year 3:** Jamie

**Year 4:** Max

**Year 5:** Lily-M

**Year 6:** Ibrahim You have all received a certificate today in Worship. Well done! Keep working hard and we will see who completes the most Nuggets next week!

**Outside Achievements**

We have more outside achievements to celebrate this week. They were shared in our Worship this morning and we hope to inspire lots of you to share your outside achievements with us in school! Well done, we are very proud of you all!

**Scarlett Yr 5**, achieved a swimming certificate stage 4

**James Y3**, achieved a Swimming certificate stage 3

**Tommy Y2**, awarded 'Man of the Match' medal and for writing to Blue Peter about creating a hedgehog house and carrying out regular litter picking to help the environment, he became a Blue Peter Badge holder.

**Evie Y6**, has been awarded two gymnastics, one stage 6 and one stage 7.



## Christmas

I know some of you might be thinking that it is too early to start talking about Christmas but I have been asked a few questions and we always need something exciting to look forward to. We will be sharing a **Christmas calendar of events** next week with you. In the meantime here is a taster of what is to come...



## Christmas Trees

Last year we had two Christmas Trees outside for everyone to enjoy and we offered for the children to donate a Christmas decoration to one of the trees. This was really special and festive, so we have decided to do this again this year.

There will be one at the front entrance of school for us all to enjoy as we arrive and leave school and one in the Early Years area so they can also enjoy seeing a Christmas tree as they enter and leave school. If you would like to donate one decoration, which is weather proof, we would love to hang the decoration on one of the trees. In this way it will make those Christmas trees much more of a community activity and more valued and owned by the children of St Matthias. Imagine coming into school every day up until Christmas knowing that your decoration was hanging on the tree. The Christmas trees will be arriving on the 1st December.



We will also have a Christmas Tree in the hall; the children will write 'peace prayers' to hang on that tree. When we have Worship in the hall we will select some of those prayers to share with the school.

## Christmas Jumper Day

We always love 'Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of "Save the Children Fund". This year Christmas Jumper Day is on **Friday 10th December**.

On this day you can swap your School jumper only for a Christmas jumper and bring in **£1 for Save the children**. Please ensure the money is in an envelope.

So save your Christmas Jumpers for this special day so we can all feel festive together. The Christmas Jumper should be worn with the rest of your school uniform.

If you have any Christmas Jumpers at home which are now too small for your children and you would like to donate them to school we would gratefully receive them.



## Christmas Present Room

One of the most popular fundraising events at Christmas is our Christmas 'Present Room.' This is 'Child only zone' where they get to pick a present for a family member, wrap it up and keep it until Christmas for that loved one.



To gather gifts for the 'Present Room' we would like to hold a **'Non-School Uniform Day' on Friday 3rd December**.

Your child can wear, warm non-uniform clothes and sensible footwear to school in return for something for the present room. For example, soaps, chocolate, stationery, fragrances, jewellery, but NO Alcohol.

All items will be quarantined until the following week, where an army of volunteers will sort and set up a 'Present Room' for the children to select their gifts.

More information about cost to take part in this will come out next week.

**There will be a list of other items which can be purchased for Christmas using a pre order system.**



## 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.

**The class attendance for this week is as follows:-**

	Percentage	Sessions missed		Percentage	Sessions Missed
Nursery	81.9%	19	Year 3	96.2%	11
Reception	91.8%	18	Year 4	87.6%	26
Year 1	85.7%	18	Year 5	98.4%	4
Year 2	97.5%	5	Year 6	98.2%	5
There are two sessions in every day, am and pm. All children from Yrs R - 6 attend 10 sessions per week.					

Well done to Years 2, 3, 5 and 6 for above 96% attendance.

Well done to Year 5 for the least amount of missing sessions.

## 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. Albie, 1. Logan, 2. Charlie, 3. Susie, 4. Sopia, 5. Chase, 6. Ibrahim.

**Value Leaf (for showing Peace):** R. Molly, 1. Jake, 2. Sienna, 3. Camden, 4. Max, 5. Hashim, 6. Leo.

**Spotted (Improved spelling):** R. Mia-Rose, 1. Amelia, 2. Kaya, 3. Megan, 4. Molly, 5. Hashim, 6. Daniel

**Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times this week):** Harvey Yr 3

**Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside)** Zach Yr 3

**Achievements Outside School** - please see Page 3 for details - Well Done All !



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 Peace*

**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**Hebrews 12:14** "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone"

**Dalai Lama** "Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace"

**Gandhi** "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will have peace".

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.

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to be peaceful and to make peace with the children and adults in their lives.

Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day. Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your **peace**. **Amen**.



# NOTICEBOARD



## Reminders

### Whole School Events

**Nasal Flu Vaccine** (Yrs R - 6)  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November (am)

**Christmas Event Calendar**  
Will be on our newsletter on Friday  
26th November.

**Non Uniform Day**  
Friday 3rd December  
If you bring a gift for the Present  
Room you can wear your home  
clothes today.

**Break School Rules Day**  
Tuesday 7th December.  
You can pay to break some of our  
school rules (See Page 2)

**Christmas Service (SCHOOL ONLY)**  
Wednesday 8th December

**Christmas Jumper Day**  
Friday 10th December. To raise  
money for Save The Children, bring  
£1 & wear your Christmas Jumper.

**Christingle Service (SCHOOL ONLY)**  
Wednesday 15th December

### Class Events

**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](mailto:admin@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) or  
**Telephone 01684 574984**

**MRS JAMES (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](mailto:finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk) or Phone **01684 574984** and ask to speak 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.

**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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 4.15pm

### SPRING TERM 2022

Staff Training Day

SCHOOL OPENS

HALF TERM BREAK

SCHOOL CLOSES

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8.45am

Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th February

Thursday 7th April 2022

Friday 8th April 2022