

# St Matthias Newsletter



**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**  
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Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

It has been rather a chilly week but not as chilly as last year when I was writing about snow on our newsletter... maybe that is to come!

**Open Day and visitors to our school.**

We have had a busy week of welcoming visitors into school. Our Years 5 and 6 House Captains and some Worship Warriors represented our school wonderfully this week with two important events in school. The first was on Tuesday when we welcomed prospective parents and current parents to look at our school in action. Instead of myself or Mr Thompson showing the prospective parents around our Years 5 and 6 completed the tour. I was very proud of them all for their enthusiasm to speak to people they don't know, tell them about our school, share how we learn and all the extra curricular activities we offer. I was particularly proud of the children sharing our school Christian Vision and how important and special it is to our school enabling us to flourish in all we do. They left no stone unturned and I had the most incredible feedback from the visitors about our tour guides! Then on Wednesday they sprung back into action again when they showed around 7 senior leaders from across our Trust Schools. The Teaching and Learning Trust group visited St Matthias and many of them had never visited before. They were interested in learning about our lovely school family, the learning provision we offer and initiatives to enable our children to achieve well. Who better to tell them about our school than our group of Year 5 and 6 children. Following the tour of the school they all shared how proud the children were of our school, how inclusive our provision is enabling all children to learn and thrive and how those children were able to talk about their learning so positively. This makes me very proud! Thank you House Captains!



**Christmas Fayre – rearranged to become mini Christmas Markets through December!**

**We will be holding smaller Christmas market stalls and fundraising events including a raffle and tombola through December as we did not have enough help for a large event - so please note these dates and read the [Christmas Event Calendar with this newsletter!](#) Christmas Raffle tickets will be sent home and also sold on each of the dates above. The raffle will be drawn in Church after the Carol Service.**

**NEEDED– DONATIONS of GOOD QUALITY toys for the toy stall.**

**Monday 8th December 3pm** Christmas gifts and sweets stall

**Tuesday 9th December 3pm** Christmas cake stall and toy stalls

**Monday 15th December 3pm** Adult and Children tombola

**Tuesday 16th December 3pm** Class Stalls—each child has made a gift for their family; please purchase your OWN child's creations.

**Pyjama Day– Friday 28th November**

On Friday 28th November we will be holding a 'Pyjama Day' in exchange for donating an adult or child tombola prize or a Tombola prize. If you are able to donate a prize then your child can roll straight out of bed and into school in their warmest pyjamas they have! They are also welcome to wear Oodie's or dressing gowns to keep extra warm. They will need suitable footwear for playing outside.



**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; 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.'



**Black Pepper Christmas Dinner**

Deadline for ordering a special Christmas lunch is 6pm on Tuesday 2nd December.

**Parent Questionnaire**

*What do you and your child/children think about St Matthias?*

The governors and school staff appreciate feedback from parents in order to continue to make further improvements for the children of St Matthias. All views are confidential and taken seriously.

We strongly encourage you to click on this link [Parent Questionnaire November 2025 – Fill in form](#) to complete our questionnaire to share your views. The closing date for the parent questionnaire is **Friday 28th November 2025**; if you would prefer a paper copy to complete please inform the office.

**Christmas Jumpers needed!**

**Christmas Jumper Donations.**

We are collecting Christmas Jumpers again this year in preparation for our Christmas Jumper Day on **Thursday 11th December**. This is a great way of recycling your

Christmas jumpers that no longer fit and buying a bargain Christmas jumper for your child! So seek out your old Christmas jumpers this half term and donate them to us so we can raise some vital school funds by selling them before the 11th December. **Thank you!**



**Different Styles of Learning at St Matthias**

Whether it is making muffins for snack time in Nursery , mixing paint and finger painting in Reception, making rain gauges in Year 1 or investigating electrical circuits in Years 5&6, practical, curious learning is always so much fun! You can also learn through research and using books and atlases for information.



### Exciting News!

We have marriage to celebrate this week! We congratulate Miss Cosnett for becoming Mrs Smith. I know you will all join me in congratulating Mrs Smith on her marriage last weekend and wishing her, her husband and their children a long and happy life together. Another special occasion to celebrate in the St Matthias family!



### Expanding Support for Children with Autism and Complex Communication Needs

At St Matthias, we are always striving to provide the very best support for every child and family within our wonderful school community, while continuing to strengthen our partnerships with local schools and share good practice in supporting children with additional needs.

As part of this ongoing commitment, we are delighted to share that **Mrs Joyce**, our school **SENDCo**, will be taking on a new role as a **Specialist Teacher in Autism**, working both within our school and across our wider community of schools to promote inclusion, collaboration and excellence for all.

In addition to continuing her current SENDCo responsibilities, Mrs Joyce will also be supporting children with **autism and complex communication needs** through her new role as a Specialist Teacher in Autism. This work will involve carrying out pupil observations, liaising closely with staff and parent/ carers and gathering evidence to support referrals through the Umbrella Pathway, where appropriate. Following these observations, comprehensive reports will be shared with school staff and parents/carers, outlining support strategies to help children succeed in their classrooms and within the wider school community, giving every child the best opportunity to thrive both academically and socially.

At St Matthias, we are proud to be strengthening our expertise in this area and to continue working in partnership with families and colleagues to ensure that every child is understood, supported and able to reach their full potential.



### Outside Achievements

It was lovely to celebrate outside achievements this week. We always enjoy hearing about all the different activities and achievements your child has completed as it can inspire others.

Please let Mrs Beale know about the outside achievement and send a photograph via Class Dojo if you have one so we can also celebrate this on a Friday morning and in the weekly newsletter.

**Oliver YN**, we are proud of you for increasing your ability to walk further to and from school with your mum, you have also helped with the shopping and tidying your toys. This is super as you are only 3 years old! We are proud of you and so are your parents!

**Archer Y1** for achieving his Level 5 swimming certificate and badge, we are very proud of you!

**Cooper Y2**, for gaining his first belt in Karate! Well done Cooper we are very proud of you and we love your pictures!

**Mrs Joyce** for graduating as a Specialist Teacher of Autism we are incredibly proud of the way you have studied this course for the last 9 months whilst continuing the incredible work you do to support pupils with SEND at St Matthias. Well done!



Congratulations We are proud of you all!

### Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a 'Celebration Worship' to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements. On the last Friday of each month Nursery also join our Friday celebration worship.

**Certificate for effort:** R. Eden-Rose, 1. Ivy, 2. Rayan, 3. Ella N, 4. Mason, 5/6. Isabelle.

**Value Leaf for showing "Peace":** R. Keira, 1. Sarada, 2. Noah, 3. Leo, 4. Mia-Rose, 5/6. Shanti.

**Spotted for correcting Spellings & Grammar:** R. Imogen, 1. Freddie, 2. Astria, 3. Elliana, 4. Leo, 5/6. Tianna.

**Book Prize Draw Winner for children who have read five times this week:** Eva S & Eva W

**Lunchtime Award for children who have demonstrated our school values outside:** Luna Yr 1

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



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.**

### Cold Weather Advice

*Is it an expectation of the Local authority and the Government that all children will attend school every day that it is open, whatever the weather.*

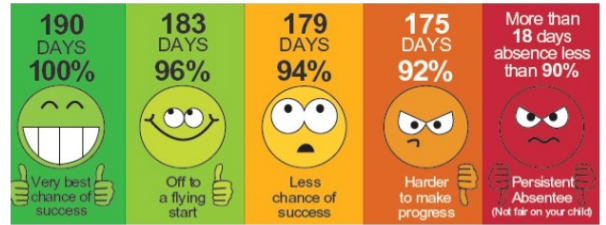
The cold weather is upon us and therefore ensure that your child has a warm coat, scarf, gloves and hat which are all named. You are also welcome to wear wellingtons or boots to school and then change into school shoes.

On days when it might snow, there is a full health and safety risk assessment carried out on the school site to ensure it is safe for the children to attend school. If we need to close the school a message will be posted as soon as possible on the Local Authority Website, we will also contact parents via ClassDojo and our Teachers2Parents texting service.



**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

Attendance - The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week; the certificate will be given out next week.



Attendance Statistics This Week	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	4	3	3	5	4	9	4	32
Total Number of Sessions Missed	10	18	14	13	20	16	8	99
Class Percentage	92.9	86.8	91.2	95.5	88.9	93.3	97.6	93.3
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 least amount of absence this week with 97.6%. Well Done!

**St Matthias ATTENDANCE for pupils - Nursery to Year 6**

**The DFE have given us fresh guidelines this term.** Their expectation is now for every child to attend 100% of the school year. They stipulate that, we have a legal duty to keep you informed of your child's attendance. From today, at the end of every month you will receive a text for each of your children telling you how many days of school lessons they have missed so far this academic year. These texts are not intended to cause offence, they are merely to keep you up to date with your child's progress so far. We understand that in most cases we have valid reasons for these absences. At St Matthias we believe that good attendance and punctuality are vital for a child to progress to the best of their ability. Even in the Nursery and Reception classes, absences cause a rift in the child's education and can also disrupt their friendship groups. Our expectation is for every child to have an attendance of 100%, including in our Nursery class. Good punctuality and regular attendance get a child into good habits for their future school and work life. Please only keep your child at home if they are genuinely ill. If a dose of Calpol or similar will keep them ticking through the day, then please send them to school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Good Punctuality Matters - Every Minute Counts!**  
 If you are late for school every day by ...

**... 5 minutes**  
 You will have lost 3 days of lessons out of the year.

**...10 minutes**  
 You will have lost 6.5 days of lessons out of the year.

**...15 minutes**  
 You will have lost 10 days of lessons out of the year.

**... 20 minutes**  
 You will have lost 13 days of lessons out of the year.

**... 25 minutes**  
 You will have lost 19 days of lessons out of the year.

At the start of every day the children have either Maths or English. Missing the first part of the lesson, means they miss the introduction, therefore they do not know what to do and are straight away at a great disadvantage. This can be very upsetting for them and damaging to their education.

Getting up at a regular time each day, having a repeated routine and being punctual is a life skill which we all need. Being punctual is vital throughout our lives at school, college, interviews, work and for medical or other appointments.

# NOTICEBOARD



## REMINDERS

### WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

#### Parents Questionnaire Deadline

Friday 28th November

#### Black Pepper Christmas Lunch

Deadline to order is

Tuesday 2nd December 11.45am

Christmas Events Attached



### CLASS EVENTS

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### Who to contact in school

**MRS LEWIS** Works Mon, Tue, Thu + Fri for:- Attendance issues, (reasons for absences if possible contact us before 9.15am), medical issues, to request forms, changes 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 Telephone 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 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. 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>

### Worcestershire Virtual Family Hub



Scan this QR code to access support for you and your family. There are a range of resources that are available online, on the phone or face to face, that you can access yourself.

### 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](#))

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 about a child.

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

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

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

## TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

### AUTUMN TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### SPRING TERM

**Staff Training**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – School Closed**

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### HALF TERM BREAK

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

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

### HALF TERM BREAK

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

**Staff Training**

**Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed**

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026



# Merry Christmas!



## December 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)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm