



St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School
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Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have had a very busy week preparing for the next two weeks which are full of beautiful services and Nativity shows! Please keep reading our Christmas Calendar of events to keep you informed of what is coming up!

Welcome Mary and Joseph

Through a lovely tradition originating in Mexico, Fr James introduced our school to 'Posada' (Spanish for inn) which is a Christmas activity where small versions of Mary and Joseph and the nativity characters travel to different households in the community to stay for a night! Well with a slight twist they have arrived at St Matthias C of E Primary and are staying overnight in each classroom. Then they travel to another class to be welcomed by the children. The children have been reflecting on how they might welcome someone to their home/classroom. So far the characters have stayed in the Early Years, Year One and Year Two. The children were very excited to welcome Mary and Joseph into their classrooms. During our Christingle Service they will arrive back at St Matthias Church to start their journey to another host to look after them!



New Member of our St Matthias Team - Mrs Walker

I am delighted to welcome Teaching Assistant Mrs Walker to our St Matthias Family. She has lots of experience of working with children and will be working across the school in a range of classes. She has settled in brilliantly this week and has enjoyed getting to know our school and children.



Hello Mrs Pullen!

It was also lovely to see Mrs Pullen this week. She is recovering from an operation and can't wait to return properly after Christmas. We have missed you and thank you for popping in to see the Nursery children and opening their December 1st 'Book Advent Calendar' and reading the story!

She also met 'Olly the Oracy Elf' in Nursery who brings a different Speaking and Listening activity for the children to take part in every day in December!



**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.'



Sensory Toys

There are a number of children who use sensory toys to support their learning and concentration. However, currently there are a lot of home sensory toys coming into school which causes a bit of upset to children who might want to share them or if they get damaged or lost. We have sensory toy boxes in every classroom and we top them up regularly. Please encourage your child to leave their personal sensory toys at home, for home use, as they can use the school sensory toys in class. Staff know which children have them as part of their adaptations in class and those children can choose a sensory toy from their classroom box. If there is a specific type of sensory toy your child prefers please let us know and we can purchase them for school. This will help us help ensure your child does not get upset if they lose, damage or struggle to share their personal sensory toy. We do understand but it is very difficult to monitor and manage personal items. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please speak to Mrs Joyce or Mrs Beale if you have a worry about this.



Christmas Stalls

Monday 8th December 3pm Christmas gifts and sweets stalls

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.

Year 5/6 Fundraising

Year 5/6 are launching an exciting fundraising project.

At the end of June, the class will be starring in an end of year production. The show will be a well-known musical, complete with costumes, lighting, singing, dancing and acting. The children will help to create the scenery, props and with the technical aspects of the show too.

In order to achieve this, we need to raise money to cover the cost of the performance licence, scripts and music, as well as materials to make the costumes and scenery. Our target is to raise at least £250. We are currently making Christmas Craft and Fair Trade food items to sell to the school community through our Christmas events. Please look out for the Year 5/6 stalls and support our fundraising effort! Thank you from Year 5/6.



Thank You Whizz Kids

A big thank you to all the Whizz Kids children who have helped design and make the classroom Christmas Post boxes again this year! If your child wishes to write Christmas cards they can post them in the classroom post boxes to be handed out to their friends at an appropriate time in class. Please don't put any food items in cards due to allergies



Our School Family Christmas Trees

The children have written their own personal Christmas prayers and they are now appearing on our Christmas Tree in our school hall. Each day one of the Worship Warriors chooses a prayer to close our Collective Worship. We are very proud as the prayers are so thoughtful and spiritual for this time of year.

It is also so lovely to see the decorations appearing on the Christmas trees outside as children bring them in. Don't forget to take a photograph. I had to laugh at the legs which have appeared in the tree! I am wondering who added those – please do let me know!



I would also like to donate the trees at the end of term to someone who can enjoy them through the rest of the Christmas period (excluding lights). If you know of anyone who would like to enjoy one of our Christmas trees please do let me know, they would need to be able to collect too.

Christingle Service – Wednesday 10th December 9.15am

We have our beautiful Christingle Service next week on Wednesday 10th December. This is a celebration of Jesus being the light of the world and our Worship Warriors will lead the service. Each child will make a Christingle out of an orange the day before and be able to take it home after the service. During the service, the Worship Warriors will talk about each important part of the Christingle, then the candle will be lit and there will be a magical moment in the church of stillness and reflection whilst watching the candle light. Through the service there will be singing, reflection and prayer. Parents are welcome to be part of the service.



Carol Service – Wednesday 17th December

We are also holding a Carol service in St Matthias Church, for children from Nursery to Year 6 on the last Wednesday of term. Parents are welcome to join us in singing Christmas Carols and listening to the children share the story of the Nativity. The Year 1 children will create the tableau during the retelling of the Nativity from the other classes.



Free School Meal Christmas Vouchers

Families eligible for Free School Meals (not universal FSM) will be emailed Christmas Food vouchers from Edenred on Wednesday 17th December. The vouchers must be redeemed within a month. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to Mr Thompson or Mrs Beale before Friday 19th December.

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. Ella-Jade, 1. Lila, 2. Paula, 3. Hunter, 4. Libby, 5/6. Heidi.

Value Leaf for showing "Peace": R. Daniel, 1. Archer, 2. Danny, 3. Millicent, 4. Kyle, 5/6. Evie.

Spotted for correcting Spellings & Grammar: R. Cayson, 1. Bella, 2. Logan, 3. Leo, 4. Ava, 5/6. Adam.

Book Prize Draw Winner for children who have read five times this week: Libby Yr 4

Lunchtime Award for children who have demonstrated our school values outside: Imogen 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.**

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 any outside achievements 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.

Dylan YR, for being extremely brave during his recent surgery for his Gastrostomy. Dylan took it all in his stride and has just kept smiling. What a superstar you are Dylan! We are proud of you!



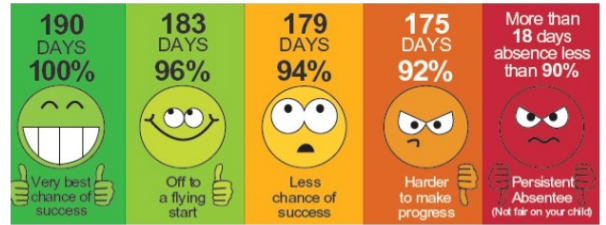
Adam Y6 for being awarded player of the match for the first time. He showed some fantastic foot skills and the coaches commend him for being a calm and composed player! Well done we are proud of you!



Congratulations We are proud of you!

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 <u>This Week</u>	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	11	5	4	8	2	2	5	37
Total Number of Sessions Missed	33	32	12	24	4	9	18	132
Class Percentage	75.5	75.9	92.5	91.7	97.8	96.2	94.5	91.0%
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 3 for best attendance this week with 97.8%. 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.

ATTENDANCE WINNERS

An amazing 68 pupils had 100% in November. An extra 40 children had above 95%. So out of 153 pupils 108 attained our target. Well done! The gift voucher prize winner for November will be announced next week.!

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

Please read the
"Christmas Events Calendar"
which is attached on your email.



CLASS EVENTS

Please read the
"Christmas Events Calendar"
which is attached on your
email.



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 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 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 to ask for an appointment.

MRS BEALE Headteacher for:- urgent personal/private matters 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 19th December 2025

SPRING TERM

Staff Training

Monday 5th January 2026 – School Closed

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 6th January 2026

HALF TERM BREAK

Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 23rd February 2026

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 27th March 2026 for Easter

SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Monday 13th April 2026

HALF TERM BREAK

Saturday 23rd May to Monday 1st June

Staff Training

Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN

at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026



Warning to Motorists ahead of Christmas Festivities

Over the past three years across our three counties there have been 13 fatalities and 132 serious injuries on the roads where alcohol has been a contributory factor. An additional 24 fatalities and 100 serious injuries have occurred involving drugs.

Each one of these is a loved one lost. Each one is a life cut short.

There really is no excuse if you are caught driving over the influence of drink or drugs.

Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impair your ability to drive.

Throughout December we are supporting Op Limit, the national drink and drug drive operation. Part of this will be raising awareness of the consequences of driving under the influence but also high profile enforcement, continuing the work that takes place 24/7 throughout the year. Highlighting the issues around driving under the influence of alcohol is forming part of an overall month long campaign, **Op Christmas Presence**, aimed at helping keep everyone safe this festive season.

Don't risk it for the sake of one drink this Christmas.

[Warning to motorists ahead of Christmas festivities | West Mercia Police](#)

[24 Days of Christmas | West Mercia Police](#)

