

# St Matthias Newsletter



**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**  
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**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Dear Parents, Carers and Children,**

We have had a very Christmassy week full of festivities. As we reach the end of this term and have one last week in school we reflect on all the wonderful things we have achieved this term and thank God for the gifts He has given us to believe in and be the very best versions of ourselves.

**Christingle Service**

It was lovely to see so many parents at St Matthias Church on Wednesday for our very special Christingle Service. Thank you to our Worship Warriors for leading the service and explaining the significance of the Christingle. We loved the way you created a 'human' Christingle to explain each part demonstrating that Jesus is the light of the World. The children sang beautifully as usual and the highlight of the service was when every Christingle was lit and we watched the candles flicker in the darkness. Thank you to Father James who also lead us through the service with prayer and reflection including offering each other the sign of peace with hand shakes, fist bumps and high fives. We look forward to our Carol Service next Wednesday 17th December at 9.15am



**Have a lovely 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.'



**“Bethlehem Is Barmey Tonight!”**

This was the first year that Early Years and Key Stage One got together to create a Nativity performance. The children sang the songs beautifully and acted out the Nativity story with lots of fun and some cheeky sheep and funny wise men. I was very impressed with the narrators who led us through the story and spoke clearly. Even though we have had lots of poorly children through the week they still sang the songs and danced wonderfully, Nursery enjoyed their ‘Sparkle and Shine’ dance routine even though some were a bit shy! Thank you to everyone who came to watch the Nativity. I know Key Stage Two enjoyed the dress rehearsal on Monday!



**Christmas Lunch**

Thank you to Black Pepper for providing our children with a delicious Christmas dinner this week. The children were very excited and couldn't wait to pull a cracker with a friend, tuck into the pigs in blankets and finish with some chocolate cake with sprinkles!



### Free School Meal Christmas Vouchers

Families eligible for Free School Meals (not universal FSM) were 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.

### Christmas Stalls

Thank you to Mrs James and the members of the PTA for helping organise the Christmas stalls this week. We had lots of children and parents visiting and purchasing toys, cakes and Christmassy items all helping to raise funds for our school. There are more stalls this week. A slight change to the schedule - Our Class gifts will be sold on Monday from 3pm and the tombola will be on Tuesday from 3pm. On Wednesday we will draw the raffle, but we cannot use the church for this due to another school having their service following ours, so we will draw it in school.



### Christmas Jumper Day 2026

We enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers to school on Thursday in aid of 'Save the Children' thank you for your £1 donations. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers again on the last day of term with no charge. We look forward to being very festive again on Friday 19th December!



### SEND coffee mornings Free webinars- Autism support



I am very pleased to invite all **parents and carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)** to a series of **free webinars** exploring different aspects of **autism** in children and young people delivered by **Autism West Midlands**. There are 7 webinars in total and each webinar will provide information, strategies and insights to support understanding and confidence when working with or caring for autistic individuals.



**The first of these webinars will be held in school on:**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 10am-12pm.**

Tea and coffee or a cold drink and sweet treats will be provided.

Additional webinars will be held in school each Wednesday morning covering the following areas:

- Autism and Communication Webinar – Wednesday 28th January 10am-12pm
- Autism and Sensory Differences Webinar – Wednesday 4th February 10am-12pm
- Autism and Behaviour Webinar – Wednesday 11th February 10am-12pm
- Navigating the System Webinar – Wednesday 18th February 10am-12pm
- Autism and the Teenage Brain Webinar – Wednesday 25th February 10am-12pm
- Supporting your Autistic Teen – Wednesday 4th March 10am-12pm

Please speak to Mrs Joyce (SENCO) for further information or to register your interest.



**Carol Singing**

Our Year 3 children have been carol singing to a number of Nursing homes to give festive cheer to the residents. Thank you Year 3 for bringing joy and festivities to so many people.

**Class Gifts**

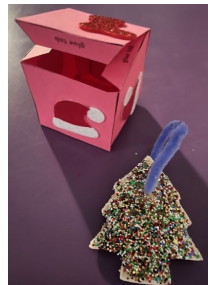
We will be selling the class gifts on Monday after school. Each child has made something special for Christmas. You can buy your child's own gift on Monday, if you are unable to buy them on Monday, we will keep them and you can buy them later in the week. Please just let your class teacher know.

**Nursery**

Tree decoration  
£1

**Reception**

Tree decoration  
£1

**Year 1**

Candle holder  
£1.50

**Year 2**

Christmas cookie  
£1.50

**Year 3**

3 Christmas decorations  
£1.50

**Year 4**

Decorative tealight  
£1.50

**Year 5/6**

Felt Christmas wreath  
£2.50

**Charity Food—Christmas Eve.**

Like last year, Mrs Howden and I are collecting the Christmas Eve charity food from M&S on Wednesday 24th December. We will open school at approx. 8pm and you are all welcome to come and see what there is.

We won't know until we collect how much there is or what there will be but I **will also send a Dojo message to confirm the time and remind you**, so please look out for it.

We will close the school half an hour later so please do come along and bring bags to help yourself.

### 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. Jaxon, 1. Sonny, 2. Cooper, 3. Kendall, 4. Zara, 5/6. Sienna.**

**Value Leaf for showing "Peace": R. Imogen, 1. Stacey, 2. Caelyn, 3. Lyla, 4. Rihanna, 5/6. Pippa.**

**Spotted for correcting Spellings & Grammar: R. Chloe, 1. Silus, 2. Sienna, 3. Millicent, 4. Charlie, 5/6. William.**

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

**Lunchtime Award for children who have demonstrated our school values outside: Amelia Yr 2**

**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 children have completed as it can inspire others.

**Sienna Y2**, for being brave after fainting at school and taking a trip in an ambulance to get checked! We are proud of you and hope you are feeling better.

**Eva S, Y2** for gaining her level 5 swimming Certificate. Well done, we are proud of you!

**Alice Y3** for achieving her Level 2 swimming award and also swimming 20 metres on her back! Wow! We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work!

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	9	8	8	10	4	8	7	54
Total Number of Sessions Missed	18	35	37	31	13	32	24	190
Class Percentage	87.0	73.7	76.8	89.3	92.8	86.7	92.7	87.0%
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 92.8%. 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

Young Voices Last practice is  
on Tuesday 6th January  
3.15—4.15pm

Young Voices Concert on  
Wednesday 7th January.



### CLASS EVENTS

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip  
Thursday 5th February



## 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

### SPRING TERM

Staff Training  
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN  
HALF TERM BREAK  
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN  
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – School Closed  
at 8.40am Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
at 8.40am Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026  
at 3.15pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 for Easter

### SUMMER TERM

SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN  
HALF TERM BREAK  
Staff Training  
SCHOOL & NURSERY OPEN  
SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 8.40am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Monday 1st June  
Monday 1st June 2026 - School Closed  
at 8.40am Tuesday 2nd June 2026  
at 3.15pm Friday 17th July 2026.