

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



SIAMs – Church School Inspection

This week we have had our Church School Inspection, the experience was very positive and the inspector Pam Howell was very approachable. The SIAMS inspection focused on the impact of our school's theologically rooted Christian Vision on pupils and adults enabling everyone to flourish. The inspector looked at our theologically rooted vision, the provision the school makes because of our vision and how effective this vision is in enabling all pupils and adults to flourish. She explored seven areas which linked to Vision and Leadership, how the curriculum reflects the Christian vision, Collective Worship and spirituality enabling pupils to flourish, the culture within the school of excellent treatment, justice and responsibility, the Religious Education curriculum and the quality of religious education. She thoroughly enjoyed finding out about our school through talking to staff, parents, governors, the Trust and most importantly our children. She visited lessons, completed book looks, observed lunchtime play and looked at lots of documentation.

I was very proud of everyone and thank you to everyone who spoke to the inspector on Wednesday 14th January. We had a positive day and the report will hopefully be with you all by half term.

Fun in the snow!

Following a sudden snow fall on Thursday evening last week, Nursery children explored the awe and wonder of the snow which was left untouched in their area on Friday morning. They were very proud of their snowman creation! The curiosity approach at its best!



The Activity Club letter was emailed to all parents from Yr 1 to Yr 6 yesterday. Please respond by Monday 9am at the latest to obtain the club of your child's choice. If you cannot print the form, there are paper copies in the foyer for you to complete and hand in. We have not yet set a date for Parent Evenings (which will be in March) but during that week there will be no activity clubs.

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.'



'Men Walking and Talking Malvern'

I have been made aware of a fantastic local initiative that may be of interest to some of our dads, grandads, male carers and male staff within our school community.

One of our parents Nathan Pullen, is a walk leader for the 'Men Walking and Talking Malvern' group. The initiative was founded in 2021 and there are now over 57 groups established across the UK, all with the same aim of helping to talk openly and break down the stigma around men's mental health.



It is a safe, non-judgemental, confidential space for men aged 18+ (due to insurance). There's absolutely no pressure to talk — some people chat, others just walk in silence — it's completely down to the individual.

The group is free and people can simply turn up. The group meet every Wednesday at 18:30 at The Chase High School, and the walk lasts around an hour.

They also have a Facebook page: Men Walking and Talking Malvern, and for more general information their main website page is: <https://www.menwalkingandtalking.co.uk>

Reminder: Don't forget to let Mrs Joyce know, by ClassDojo, if you are able to attend our SEND Coffee mornings focusing on Autism support



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 21st 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.



Parent Carer Needs Assessment Survey

If you are caring for a disabled child up to the age of 16 years old, Health Watch Worcestershire would like to understand your experience of requesting a Parent Carer Needs Assessment. Your responses will help highlight what is working well and where improvements may be needed— click here

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSFHKDR>

[☐ Parent Carer Needs Assessment \(PCNA\) Survey](#)

Dealing with Ice, Snow & Prolonged Winter Weather

If the weather is very frosty or snowy, the caretaker and I will assess whether the access to school is safe enough for adults and children to use the usual entrances and whether the playgrounds are safe enough to cross. Worcestershire County Council have circulated their recommendations which were discussed and agreed at a recent Governors' Meeting.

It is recommended, for best effect, to salt our school front entrance only prior to freezing conditions. We will close all other access routes on bottom playgrounds and all children will enter by the main entrance. All adults and children are asked to be extra careful to avoid slipping and be aware that the entrance will be congested and everyone needs to help each other by not rushing and making sure they wait in a sensible way. I'm sure that you will all be patient and kind to each other.

Please note we are not allowed to clear pavements or roads so you need to take extra care.

We will text all staff and parents at about 8.15am if we are going to close the gates by the church path.



School Closures due to severe weather

During periods of severe weather such as heavy snow or flooding, or any other circumstances beyond our control we may need to close the school at short notice.

We will obviously do everything we can to keep the school open and will only make the decision to close the school if we have no other choice and there are serious health and safety issues. Should we need to close the school we will let you know by **text message**.

Free Radio (previously known as Radio Wyvern) and Radio Hereford and Worcester will also list all the schools closed each day. **Please assume the school is open unless we inform you otherwise.**

Learning in Religious Education

Reception Class introduced their new question in RE this week: 'Why is the word God so important to Christians?' The children were amazing at listening and talking throughout the lesson and had lots of fun meeting Tom and Tessa, their new class puppet friends. They are Christians who brought a treasure box in with jelly, jellyfish and a bible. The class talked about the differences between jelly and jellyfish and this led them to think about how some Christians believe that God created the world and all of the creatures on it. They then became creators and created jellyfish and their own small worlds with the animals. Very spiritual moments!



Dignity



As a church school, every half term we concentrate on an important value for life.

Dignity



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.

Our Value this half term is DIGNITY “Dignity — to behave in a composed or serious manner.”

Matthew 19:14 “Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

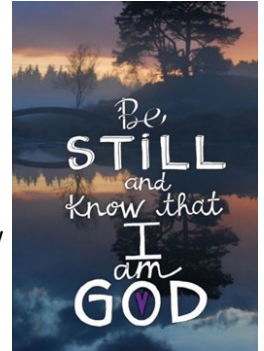
Peter 2:17 “Treat everyone you meet with dignity.”

Dalai Lama “Love for others and respect for their rights and **dignity**, no matter who or what they are: ultimately these are all we need. ”

Gandhi “The truest test of civilization, culture and **dignity** is character and not clothing.”

Teachers will be on the look out this half term for children who are really trying hard to show dignity in lessons and around school.

Let’s all be dignified in our lives especially through challenging times.



Celebration Worship Awards

Every Friday we hold a ‘Celebration Worship’ to give out awards to our children to celebrate their achievements.

Certificates (Effort in their work): R. Dante, 1. Sonny, 2. Scarlett, 3. Millicent, 4. Mila, 5/6. Ella.

Value Leaf for showing “DIGNITY”: R. Eden-Rose, 1. Stacey, 2. Astria, 3. Ella D, 4. Ryan, 5/6. Ralphee.

Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing): R. Cayson, 1. Sarada, 2. Rayan, 3. Albie & Alice, 4. Libby, 5/6. Logan.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Eva Yr 2

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Charlie S Yr 5

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



Outside Achievements

It was lovely to celebrate our outside achievements this week. We always enjoy hearing about all the different activities and achievements your children have completed as it will inspire others.

Mason Y4 for completing stage 3 swimming and receiving a certificate and badge. Keep up the great work Mason, you are flourishing in swimming.

Logan Y5, for completing stage X swimming in a very short space of time. Logan you are flourishing at swimming, keep up the super work!

Jacob Y6 for gaining a medal in karate where he had to take part in a three hour tournament and was recognised as flourishing.





NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

The letter and booking form detailing the new clubs for this whole term was emailed to you all yesterday.
Please complete a form before 9am on Monday.
The new clubs will run until Easter ie. the end of March.

CLASS EVENTS

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip
Thursday 5th February

Reception Dental Check
Wednesday 4th March
Information out soon.

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, change 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 phone 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 phone 01684 574984 and ask to be put through to her, or email finance@stmatthias.worcs.sch.uk

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 LUNCHESES for:- booking your child's meals every half term (so 6 times per year), visit their website
<https://www.blackpepperlunches.com/BP-default.php>

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](#))

Report Scam Emails - forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk

TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

SPRING TERM

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

SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSE

at 3.15pm Friday 17th July 2026.

Attendance Profiles — Up to 19th December 2025

As a school, we have a legal duty to keep you regularly informed of your child’s attendance. We have just passed the end of the 1st term of this school year; during January every child in school will bring home an Attendance Profile.

The Attendance Profile will show you your child’s attendance percentage, the number of school learning days they have missed, how many late arrivals they had and how many minutes of lessons they missed and it will show whether your child’s attendance is improving or slipping downwards.

It will also give you key information about attendance in general. We send these out after each half term. These profiles are not intended to cause offence; they are merely our way to keep you up to date with your child’s progress throughout the year. We do understand that in most cases we have had valid reasons for absences.

In addition to the Attendance Profiles we will continue to monitor every child’s Monthly attendance and issue certificates to those who have 96% or above.

Don’t forget...

- 1,at the end of every month all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a gift voucher.
- 2,at the end of every full term (ie. 3 times a year) all children with 100% have their names put into a hat and one lucky child wins a gift voucher.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

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Absences

Please remember to let Mrs Lewis know by email or phone before 9am if your child is going to be absent. Mrs Lewis is the person responsible for keeping our registers up to date and she is the one who needs to know. Thank you.

At St Matthias we continue to aim for our school target of 96% attendance. 96% and above means having a maximum of only 7 days off in a year.

Our school gates open at **8.40am** and **lessons start immediately.**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance - The table below shows class attendance statistics for this week the winning class certificate will be given out next Friday in the award assembly.



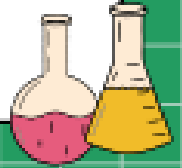
Attendance Statistics <u>This Week</u>	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	8	2	2	6	5	6	3	32
Total Number of Sessions Missed	12	11	8	13	14	18	16	94
Class Percentage	92.7	93.0	95.3	95.5	92.6	92.5	95.1	94.0%

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 2 for the best attendance this week. Well Done! All classes have improved - well done! We hope that next week we can report that some classes have achieved above our 96% target.

STEAMFEST '26

Science|Technology|Engineering|Art|Mathematics



01

What is STEAMFEST?

A celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics at

The **Hive**

04

What's On

- VR Human Body Scans
- Three Little Pigs Building Challenge
- Lego Club
- Puppet Theatre Workshop
- Ratatat Story Time
- Make and Take Rockets
- Fizz Pop Science Show

02

How to attend

Free entry, with paid ticketed activities available:



05

Featuring

The event features a variety of partners and activities, including DICE, bcs The Chartered Institute for IT, IOP Institute of Physics, DISCOVER MATERIALS, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, code club, and FIZZPOP science.

03

When is STEAMFEST?

**Saturday 24th
January 2026**
From 10am



The **Hive**

a partnership between

