

St Matthias Newsletter



St Matthias Church of England Primary School
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Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This week, I am very proud to share that some St Matthias children took part in a very important event last Saturday. We were invited to a special service at Worcester Cathedral to welcome and install the new Bishop of Worcester, Hugh Edmund Nelson. St Matthias pupils were asked to welcome him into Worcester Cathedral through the West door at the back of the Cathedral with set questions and then lead him down the aisle to the front of the Cathedral where the rest of the service took place. The children read absolutely brilliantly with clarity and dignity for the congregation to hear. They led him down the aisle to where he was presented to the congregation. I was very proud of them all. The service was very long but one of the other highlights was us being able to take part in an iSing Pop song with Kirsty and some other children. It was a very special event and one we will remember!



SEND Coffee Morning – Free Autism support webinar

Thank you to everyone who attended the first webinar this week. We were really pleased that you found the session useful and informative. Through the morning everyone gained lots of valuable tips on how to support their child, free websites, apps and resources were accessible to all. Please do come along to the next one on Wednesday 28th January – everyone is welcome. Mrs Joyce will share as much information with people as she can if you are unable to attend the webinars in person. Free drink and sweet treats too! More information on Page 2.

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.

‘Autism and Communication’



The second of these webinars will be held in school on:

Wednesday 28th January 2026 10am-12pm.

(Please arrive just before 10am so we can be ready for when the webinar starts.)

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 Sensory Differences Webinar – Wednesday 4th February 10am-12pm
 - Autism and Behaviour Webinar – Wednesday 11th February 10am-12pm
 - Autism and the Teenage Brain Webinar – Wednesday 25th February 10am-12pm
 - Supporting your Autistic Teen – Wednesday 4th March 10am-12pm
- **Please note the webinar ‘Navigating the System’ – Wednesday 18th February 10am-12pm is half term week so please let me know if you would like to access this Webinar at home and I can send you the [link](#)**



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

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.’



Autism Support

This is an example of the information shared at this weeks Autism Webinar...

- This video is called 'Fight Flight Freeze– Anxiety Explained for Teens'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpolpKTWrp4>
- This video is called 'Interoception: The New Topic in Autism'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0zbCiakjaA>

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Useful Apps

- Positive Penguins
- Mindshift
- Molehill Mountain
- SAM Self-help for anxiety management
- Brain in Hand

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Useful Reading

Avoiding Anxiety in Autistic Children
Dr LUKE BEARDON

THE AWESOME AUTISTIC GUIDE TO FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS
FINDING YOUR COMFORT ZONE
TARA PUGH AND TARA PUGH-MAN

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Useful Websites

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/development-additional-needs/neurodiversity/autism-anxiety/>

<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/autism-information/>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/professional-practice/anxiety-parental>

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendiaas/sendiaas-support/search-our-sendiaas-support-z/mental-health>

Other information

online talk by Jane Keyworth



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

3rd February 10-11:30am
3rd March 7-8:30pm



Book online
facefamilyadvice.co.uk
£24 or Free with a school membership code



Water Play the Curiosity Way!

What to do when it is raining! Let's get into our waterproofs and get even more wet! Tunnels, tubes, funnels, cups, buckets! Catch the water, pour the water, watch it run, drip add bubbles and jump! Great fun!



Dignity



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

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.

Dignity



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

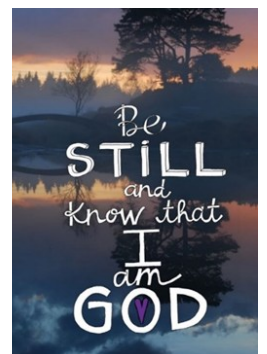
Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

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. Thea, 1. Lola, 2. Ayra, 3. Mia, 4. Isaac, 5/6. Logan.

Value Leaf for showing "DIGNITY": R. Dylan, 1. Silus, 2. Neveah, 3. Elliana, 4. Daisy, 5/6. Senuk.

Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing): R. Florence, 1. Archer, 2. Enrico, 3. Louie, 4. Sienna, 5/6. Ortensia.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Jaxon Yr R

Lunchtime Award (for children who have demonstrated our school values outside): Ella Yr R

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.

Silus Y1 for completing his 10 metre swim, this is fantastic Silus you are really flourishing in your swimming lessons. Well done



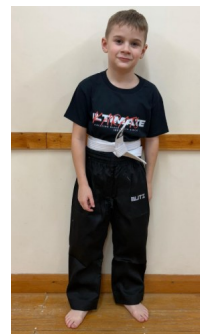
Archer Y1 for completing his 10 metre swim, this is fantastic Archer you are really flourishing in your swimming lessons. Well done



Florence Y1 for following a recipe from her new cookbook and making a family meal – Chicken curry. This is an amazing achievement and one I know your family really appreciated! I know that because there was non-left!

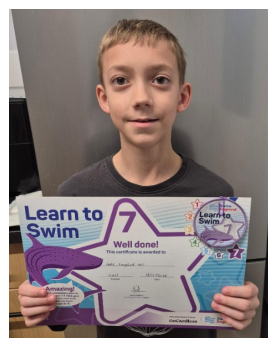
Bella Y2 for sharing your knowledge with an adult who learned something new from you about how to plug in an electric car. You demonstrated and verbalised the instructions clearly and accurately! What a knowledgeable young lady you are! We are very proud of you – you also showed such dignity!

Albie Y4 for receiving his first Karate uniform as he has shown commitment and determination. Congratulations Albie, keep up the great work!



Jake Y5 for completing Level 7 swimming, what an amazing achievement we are very proud of you! You are an accomplished swimmer Jake!

Marlee-Mae Y5 for joining a Guiding group, being brave and making new friends. Well done we are proud of you.





NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Activity Clubs start from
Monday 26th January
and they end at Easter.

There will be NO clubs during
the week we have
Parents' Evening Meetings.

Parent Evenings

16, 17th & 18th March

Information out soon

World Book Day

Friday 6th March

Information out soon.

CLASS EVENTS

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip
Thursday 5th February

Reception Dental Check
Wednesday 4th March

Year 3 Trip Lower Smite Farm
Thursday 5th March
Letter out soon.

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 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>

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 of 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

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 4th May 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.

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.**

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 & is the one who needs to know.

Thank you.

At St Matthias we continue to aim for our school New target of 100% attendance. Our school gates open at **8.40am** and **lessons start immediately**.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

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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 This Week	N	R	1	2	3	4	5/6	School
Number of Pupils who have been absent	5	4	3	7	3	5	5	32
Total Number of Sessions Missed	16	10	12	16	12	14	16	96
Class Percentage	90.4	93.6	92.9	94.5	93.7	94.1	95.1	93.8%

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 best attendance this week. Well Done!



FEBRUARY 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Autism - Improving Communication	2 Feb 10am
Improving Family Communication	2 Feb 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	3 Feb 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Feb 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Feb 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Feb 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Feb 7pm
What is ACT?	17 Feb 10am
Introduction to OCD	17 Feb 7pm
FREE - Reducing the Harm from Screens	19 Feb 7-8pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	23 Feb 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Feb 7pm
Decreasing Depression	24 Feb 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Feb 7pm
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm