

St Matthias Newsletter



Friday 30th January 2026

St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We are proud to share a successful SIAMs Inspection

It has not taken long for our SIAMs Inspection Final report to be published. We are very thrilled to share the report with you attached with this newsletter. We are delighted that inspector Pam Howells recognised us as a school living up to its foundations as a Church School enabling pupils and adults to flourish. This is the outcome that we wanted. There are no gradings for SIAMs inspections so this is the outcome which Church Schools hope to be, so we are very proud to have achieved so well. The inspector recognised so many strengths and ones which stood out were...

- The vision, rooted in Psalm 139 and expressed through 'Aspire, Believe, Achieve', is deeply embedded across school life. Fostering community, inclusion and wellbeing, the vision actively shapes relationships, decisions and the school's culture.
- Collective worship is central to school life, providing inclusive, engaging experiences that enhance pupils' spiritual understanding and reflection
- The school fosters a strong, welcoming environment rooted in its Christian vision, where individuals feel valued, supported and empowered
- Religious education (RE) is well planned and engaging, allowing pupils to explore faith with confidence, curiosity and respect.

It was lovely to hear how she recognised that our vision emphasised a strong school family. She also highlighted how we have an inclusive, adaptable curriculum that removes barriers to learning and celebrates diverse strengths. This is something of which we are very proud. She saw that the classrooms were thoughtfully adapted, enabling pupils to engage positively and achieve their best. Another comment which we were proud of was how she recognised how the school nurtures a strong sense of belonging, firmly embedded in our Christian Vision.

Our two development areas were based around our new Religious Education curriculum. Worcestershire Dioceses released a new Syllabus in September 2025 for all Church Schools to follow so we had completed just one term of the new curriculum. Theology, philosophy and the human and social sciences are a new concept to our pupils and staff, so we recognise that they are currently underdeveloped as we have not had a full year of the new RE curriculum. The 'Head, heart and hands' again has been introduced to the children in a gradual way to support their spiritual development. We welcomed the development areas and know they will be embedded as the new RE curriculum and language becomes more familiar.

We hope you join us in celebrating another success for St Matthias C of E Primary School.

I encourage you all to take the time to read our SIAMs report as it really does reflect what we do so well at St Matthias and it is a wonderful read!

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.'



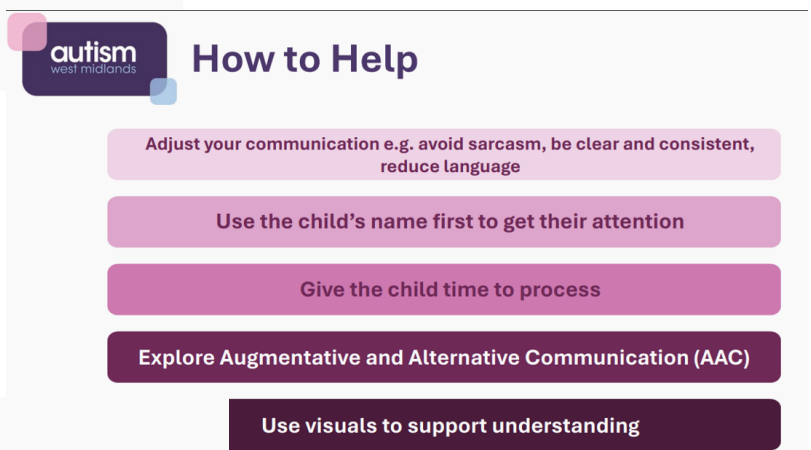
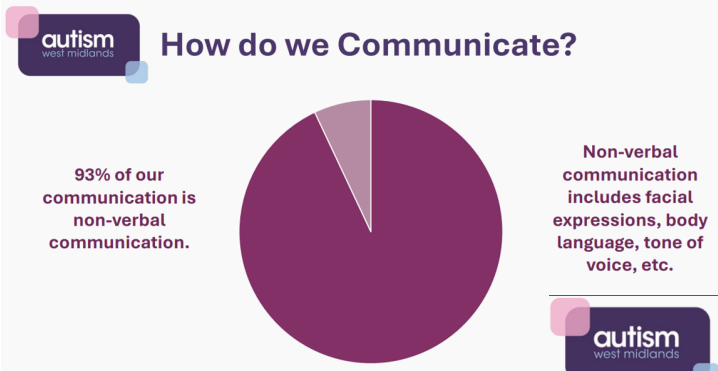
SEND Coffee Morning – Free Autism support webinar

Thank you to everyone who attended the second webinar this week. We were really pleased that you found the session useful and informative. Please do come along to the next one on Wednesday 4th February – 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!


Autism Support

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

- This video is called ‘Make it stop’– Too much information
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMn2o9EYa08>
- This video is called ‘What is Autistic Masking’ (Are YOU Masking Your Autism) - World Autism Awareness Week <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNq3bc6sf9g>




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 Sensory Differences’
The next webinar will be held in school on:
Wednesday 4th February 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 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.

Midlands Air Ambulance fundraising

For the last few years, the School Council has taken the lead in raising money for The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity – an invaluable service in our local area. In previous years, we have held a 'Wear it Red Day' BUT this year, the School Council thought we would have a change and hold a '**Bake it Red Day**'. This event will take place on **Thursday 12th February**, after school. The School Council will provide every child (or family) with a paper plate, in advance, to fill with either homemade or bought RED cakes or biscuits. The cakes will be sold after school on this day. All money raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance Charity. We had such an amazing turn out when we raised money for the RSPCA last year that we cannot wait to see what creative cakes we come up with for this charity!

Thank you,
THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



Year 1 - Exploring Toys from the Past!

Mrs O'Connor has been rooting in her loft and parents' house again for toys from the past! Year 1 have been exploring the question 'Is an iPad more fun than the toys grandparents had to play with?'

First, they examined a selection of toys from the past, some belonged to Mr O'Connor's parents, some were toys that were Mrs O'Connor and her sister's when they were children, and some were Mrs O'Connor's children's toys. A few of the toys were over 70 years old and hand made. They compared them to toys that we have today. The children were encouraged to ask questions about them. eg Who do they belong to? What are they made from? Where did you get them from? Then they thought about adjectives to describe differences with these older toys: dusty, damaged, rough, ripped, dull colour, worn, dirty, smell like an attic and broken. They also linked this activity with our learning in science and thought about the materials used, After that the children had the opportunity to play with the toys.

At the end of the lesson, Mrs O'Connor asked the class which toys they thought were more fun - an iPad or the old toys. 14 children said the old toys were more fun!



Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be held during the week of **16th March 2026**. Parent Consultations will run over three evenings and you will be allocated one out of the three evenings and a

booking text will come out before the event. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss the progress and targets for your child, plus for SEND pupils to discuss SEND targets, interventions and provisions for your child.

The Parent Consultations will be face to face and will be held in the school hall. This will give you the opportunity to meet the teacher, find out how your child is getting on and ask any questions you might have. If you have any worries or concerns it is important that you do not leave them until Parents' Evening. You can raise any worries you have or questions via ClassDojo or ask for a telephone appointment if you wish.



Lovely News for Our School Family.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Cottrell and her family as they announce that they are expecting another baby. Finlay is very excited to have a sibling to play with. Mrs Cottrell will start her maternity leave in the summer term, after the Easter holidays.

We have asked Miss Earle, to cover the summer term with Mrs Page. Mrs Page is Mrs Cottrell's job share and has been with them since September. Miss Earle has been working across our school and has met and been with our Year 3 children on a number of occasions. She has built strong relationships with lots of children across the school and has enjoyed getting to know the Year 3 class. We will make sure the transition and handover is smooth.

**WISH LIST PLEA from our Early Years linked to their Curiosity Approach.**

We hope you can help us resource our Early Years and enhance our Curiosity Approach. Lots of items which we use are every day items and often disposable, or thrown away when not needed any more.

Our curiosity approach uses real everyday items and we obviously ensure they are safe to use. If you have any of the following and would be happy to donate them we would be very grateful...

Lighting (fairy lights, lamps), rugs, large and small indoor plants, pasta machine, wooden trays, kitchen utensils (spatulas, whisks etc), metal bowls, spoons, perfume bottles, wooden crates, metal spice tray, squirty spray bottles, wicker baskets, wooden bowls, vegetable racks, bamboo tubes, plastic piping, tractor tyres, wheel trims, bird feeders, plastic fish bowls, vintage scales, cable drums, mirrored/ stainless trays or balls, solar fountain, old fashioned sweet jars, pump action bottles, squeeze bottles (sauce), water containers with taps.

**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."

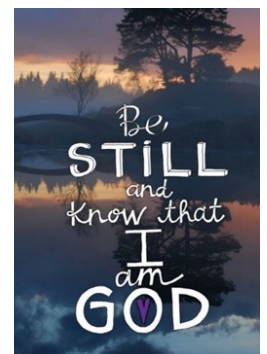
Peter 2:17 "Treat everyone you meet with dignity."

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): N. Vinnie & Theo, R. Imogen, 1. luna, 2. Scarlett, 3. Kyra, 4. Leo, 5/6. Loki.

Value Leaf for showing "DIGNITY": R. Chloe, 1. Aurora, 2. Ayla, 3. Ella, 4. Nicolas, 5/6. Isabella.

Spotted (Improve Handwriting & Editing): R. Jaxon, 1. Lila, 2. Gracie, 3. Evie-Grace, 4. Esmae, 5/6. Isabelle.

Book Prize Draw Winner (for children who have read five times): Bertie Yr 3

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

Florence Y1 for completing her 25 metre swim certificate and badge. You are flourishing at swimming, keep up the super work!

Reggie W Y2 for completing his Level 2 swimming and gaining more and more confidence in his lessons. We are proud of you!

Bradley Y3 for being presented with a trophy for 'Wolverine of the Month' at tae kwon do. He has also made super progress and will take his grading on 8th March for his next belt! We can't wait to celebrate with you again!

Bertie Y3 for completing his 100 metre swim certificate and badge! This is an amazing achievement! We are proud of you!

Mia-Rose Y4 for joining a new jujitsu class with your brother and being brave for trying something new. It was very impressive that on your first session Sensai commended you on your excellent listening and behaviour. Well done, we are very proud!

Dexter Y4 for achieving his first swimming badge after starting swimming lessons. We are very proud of you! Keep up the great work!

Kai Y5 for joining a new jujitsu class with your sister and being brave for trying something new. It was very impressive that on your first session Sensai commended you on your excellent listening and behaviour. Well done, we are very proud!

Mr Salmon for completing an amazing 50 miles challenge point-to-point race from The Minack Theatre, at Porthcurno all the way to Porthtowan, taking in stunning and dramatic South West Coast Path. By-passing Land's End which completed an 'arc' around the extreme south west tip of Cornwall.





NOTICEBOARD



REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Bake it Red Day
Thursday 12th February

World Book Day
Friday 6th March
Information out soon.

Parent Evenings
16, 17th & 18th March
No activity clubs this week.

Activity Clubs end at Easter.

CLASS EVENTS

Reception Height + Weights
Tuesday 3rd February

Year 1 Toy Museum Trip
Thursday 5th February

Yr 4 Footy Team (10 pupils)
Tuesday 24th February

Reception Eye Tests
Thursday 26th February

Year 6 Athletics Festival
Friday 27th February

Reception Dental Check
Wednesday 4th March

Year 3 Trip Lower Smite Farm
Thursday 5th March

Year 5/6 Hartlebury Castle Trip
Wednesday 11th 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 9.00am**), 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 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.



Mentor Link-advert



Children's charity Mentor Link are looking to recruit new Volunteer Mentors, who can spare 1-2 hours a week to help children with social and emotional issues, who may be struggling with engaging in education and attending school, suffering with anxiety, low self-esteem, friendship or relationship issues, and need a listening ear to help make a difference!

If you feel you can help at a different school to the one your child attends, please contact Mentor Link on 01299 822336 or email enquiries@mentorlink.org.uk

ATTENDANCE - Please make sure your child arrives at 8.40am every day!

Punctuality is a life skill which is vital throughout our lives in school, college and at work.

If your child misses the start of the day, they will have missed the explanation about their first lesson of the day. The first lesson is always Maths or English. This leaves the child at a disadvantage and confused as to what the rest of the class are doing.

REMEMBER - Every second, every minute, every hour, every half day and every day of learning counts towards your child's education and their future.



Please encourage them not to miss out!



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	10	6	1	6	5	2	3	33
Total Number of Sessions Missed	23	22	1	17	14	4	6	87
Class Percentage	86.6	86.0	99.4	94.1	92.6	98.3	98.1	94.4%

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 1 for the best attendance this week. Excellent!



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