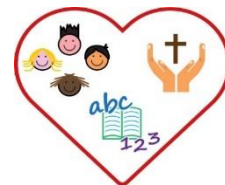


# St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

"Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be..."



## NEWSLETTER – 27 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I, and other members of the leadership team, have had the pleasure of going into all the classes across school to see our children and staff at work. It has been fantastic to see our children who are so well behaved and eager to learn. It has been clear to see the dedication and hard work of our staff who plan so many interesting learning opportunities for all our children. I've loved being able to talk with the children as they proudly showed me the work in their books. They made me feel very proud to be able to work alongside them every day.

Mr Mackley has unfortunately been absent from school since just before the October half term holiday. As many of you know, he has been recovering from COVID and was hit rather badly by the virus. He is feeling much brighter now and is hoping to be back with us in the next couple of weeks. He has really missed being in school and can't wait to get back with us all.

### COVID update

It's **now 3 weeks** since our last positive cases in school, and we have just had our first full week with all classes in school together for a long time. We are delighted and hoping it continues like this. We know that this is only possible because of our extremely careful procedures in and around school, and the efforts of all our families in keeping the school as safe as possible. Thank you for supporting us by wearing masks at the gates and remembering to follow the COVID restrictions at home, to help keep our infection rates low. Do remember that we are not allowing any visitors into school, so please can you make sure that your child takes their packed lunch, water bottle, toast money or dinner money into class with them, so we can restrict the number of callers at the school office.

### Wrap up warm!

Part of the Government advice to schools regarding COVID involves us keeping some of our windows slightly open in the classrooms, so we can make sure that the children are in 'fresh' air. **Please make sure that your child has their jumper with them and perhaps a vest or layers under their top if they tend to feel the cold.**

### Remote / home learning

It is a Government requirement that schools provide learning whilst children are in isolation, and it is also expected that all children take part in this learning whilst at home. We have been really pleased with our very successful home learning work on Class DOJO. St Matthew's staff put lots of effort into the learning your child gets at home if in isolation and we know that we are having a good level of success with this. Almost all our families are linked up to DOJO, and only a few families left to link up. If you aren't linked up, please speak to your child's teacher to get this arranged, as you will miss some important messages and updates on what's happening in class, as well as missing their home learning videos from their teacher. Please could you take time to answer the home learning review questionnaire which will be coming out electronically in the next week.



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### Absence reporting

Please remember that if your child is off school for any reason, you must let us know. You can do this by leaving a message on the answer phone, or by using the text service. Please do this before 9am on the first day of illness, so that we don't have to chase this up with a phone call.



### Christmas is NOT cancelled at St Matts!

In the run up to Christmas, we have lots of fun and exciting things planned for all our children. It is important to us, in this unusual year, that we continue to celebrate Christmas in school as we do every year. Unfortunately, we won't be able to hold our usual Carol Service or Nativity play, or allow children to bring in Christmas cards from home, due to the risks of infection. However, we are still planning our Christmas lunches, Christmas parties, pantomime shows, singing and signing Christmas carols and songs along with our usual art and craft activities. We are hoping that Father Christmas might be able to join us on ZOOM at our infant parties. He's apparently getting quite good with technology this year!

### December Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 9th afternoon - Reception party - children to wear own clothes all day.

Thursday 10th - Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas lunch. **Places must be booked in advance.**

Thursday 10th afternoon - Y3 party children to wear own clothes all day.

Friday 11th - Christmas Jumper day. Please can children bring a donation for the foodbank in return for wearing their Christmas jumper? Our School council are organising this along with Miss Harling, more details to follow.

Monday 14th – Y1 & Y2 party - children to wear own clothes all day.

Tuesday 15th - Y5/6 party - children to wear own clothes all day.

Wednesday 16th pm 1.45 - 2.45 - ZOOM - Rapunzel Lockdown pantomime.

Thursday 17th Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Christmas lunch. **Places must be booked in advance.**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Y4 Christmas party – children to wear their own clothes all day.

**Friday 18th school closes for holidays. Please note the earlier finish times.**

**Reception, Y2, Y4, Y6 finish at 2pm.**

**Y1, Y3, Y5 finish at 2.15**

Monday 4th Jan - INSET day for teachers and staff.

Tuesday 5th Jan – school re-opens for the Spring Term.

Have a lovely weekend and keep safe,

Mrs Walton

Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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