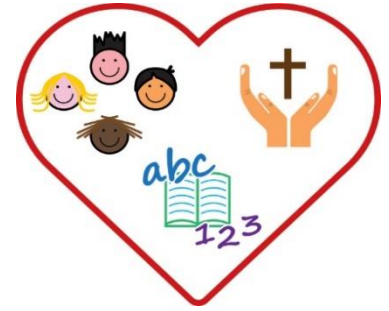


St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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

10/01/22



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year – let's hope it will be better than the last couple of years!

I am getting to know even more of you through these letters and the contact you have made.

Speech and Language Focus

This letter is about the importance of talking to young children. At St Matthew's we are lucky to have a fantastic Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT), Louise Laycock, who is a specialist in this area. She gives us advice on developing language skills and supporting communication difficulties. Louise provides teachers and TAs with regular training so we can support all children as good communication skills are essential throughout our lives. We also have an NHS SaLT, Ellissia Porter who supports some children who have social, language and communication difficulties.

We have many language support groups throughout Early Years and Key Stage 1. Some support continues in KS2 if necessary. We have a Teaching Assistant, Mrs Slater, who works in Nursery, Reception and Y1 supporting groups of children and individual children who need some support in this area. The activities are fun and the children enjoy the sessions. In Nursery and Reception, all children are assessed using Wellcomm Screening Assessment: - WellComm is a complete speech and language screening for practitioners working with children from 6 months to 6 years. 28 pupils from the current reception class attended St. Matthew's nursery during the academic year 2020-2021 completed the Wellcomm screening. During their pre-school year these pupils benefitted from targeted intervention delivered by Mrs Lambat and Mrs Slater throughout Spring 2 and Summer Term. These children have been assessed as having better language and communication skills compared to those who attended other nurseries.

Please make sure you ask your child what they have done in school – model good sentences to them by adding some additional detail. Listen to your child read every day and take time to talk about the story – this will help improve comprehension skills and develop language too.

I have attached some information about supporting children who stammer as this is very common, especially with younger children.

If you think your child may have a speech, language or communication difficulty and would like further information or a referral, please contact me and I can arrange this.

My email address is tracy.young@cidari.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Miss Tracy Young



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