



St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**



NEWSLETTER 11 – 18th December 2023



Hello everyone, welcome to the last newsletter of this term - I cannot believe we are almost at the end of it, it seems only yesterday that we came back after the summer break!

On behalf of everyone here, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we wish you all peace and joy & hope you will all find time together with loved ones to create precious memories.

Thank you once again for the support you give to us in the work we do.

End of term

A reminder that we close at **2:00 pm** this **Thursday, 21st December**. We have had a growing number of children not being collected on time in recent weeks, this can be distressing for children who have to wait, especially on the last day of term so please do try to be on time for them.

We re-open on Monday 8th January 2024. Gates open at 08:45 am and close at 08:55 am **prompt** at the start of the school day.

Nativities

I want to say a big well done and thank you to all the children who performed in the various Nativity performances these last couple of weeks. As always it was an absolute joy to see them enjoy performing and to hear again the message of peace, love and compassion for all.

A big thank you to the staff for their tireless patience in preparing the children for their performances and to you for coming along to watch them, it's not a performance without an audience and we really appreciate the time you put aside to come and support.

Thank you to the Staff

It is very important to take a moment to thank the incredible staff we have here at St Matthew's. I know the hours that are spent behind the scenes preparing the lessons the children undertake, the work in assessing their work and deciding what additional support they need, the time taken to talk to and listen to the children and help them with any difficulties they are facing. All of this is unseen work which is vital to providing what we do for all the children. I am proud to be the Headteacher of St Matthew's and lead this talented team of people.

I would also like to say a special 'thank you' to the following people who leave us at the end of the term on Thursday afternoon. Firstly to Mrs Reddy (Nursery staff) who is leaving us after over 20 years service to become a full time Grandparent and provide care for her grandchild. Secondly to Mrs Munnelly (was Miss Smith) who is leaving to take up a post in another Primary School and also to Mr Bourn who has been doing a great job of covering 1M in her absence. Finally to Miss Swift from the school office who has gained a promotion in another school. We are very grateful for the service you have all given to our school and wish God's blessing on each one of you as you move to your new adventures.

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

Salvation Army Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has sent in a contribution to this vital appeal at this time of year. We are collecting the following items to help them out:

- shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, shaving cream, comb, toothpaste, moisturiser etc.
- mince pies, shortbread, chocolate biscuits, selection boxes, fancy cakes, sweets, cheese biscuits etc.

If you are able to make even a small contribution it would be much appreciated, please bring to the school office.

Admissions Consultation

Can I remind you that this is still live on our website and your views are important.

Every 7 years, schools are required to publicly consult on their admissions criteria which are used to sort applications in the event that there are more applicants than places available - we are glad that we need to use our criteria every year!

We are now consulting on our admissions criteria for entry in 2025 and we are proposing a much simpler set of criteria than we have now. You can see the proposed policy on our website here <https://st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/key-information/admissions/consultation-on-proposed-new-admissions-criteria-for-entry-to-school-september-2025> On the page there is a link to a Google Form to give your feedback. The consultation closes on the 12th January 2024.

Job Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a School Administration Assistant. Details and application forms can be found here: <https://cidarieducation.co.uk/JoinTheTeam>

The Big Ambition



This is a survey being carried out by the Children's Commissioner and both yours and your children's views are important.

Click here to take part: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>

Beginning and end of school day

Following concerns expressed to me by many parents, please can I once again appeal to the car drivers to consider if they really need to come by car and, if they do, to park away from Derby Square and walk the last part. I am increasingly concerned that we will have an accident before much longer; something I know that nobody wants to happen. Please exercise great care when driving along Derby Square at the beginning and end of the day.

We have a number of families who are regularly arriving late to school. Can we remind you that children should be in the classroom, ready to start at 8:55am and so should really be in school by 8:50am. We will be continuing to challenge those who are late and are exploring consequences for those who are the repeat 'offenders'.

What you can do to help

Have a regular routine for the start of the day.

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Help your child make sure they have everything ready for the next day, the night before.

Set a reasonable bed time.

Primary school age children need between 10-12 hours sleep a night. A survey by the Children's Sleep Charity of found nearly a quarter (24%) of the teachers questioned admitted they had had to resort to letting children who are very tired sleep in a corner of the classroom. For two thirds of teachers (65%) the problem is so serious they consider that the long-term progress of their pupils can be affected.



Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 1st December 2023

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Haroon & Daniel	Hoorain & Nirvana
Y1	Hafsah & Joshua	Amina & Hafsa
Y2	Kevin & Haniya	Yusuf & Daniel
Y3	Justice & Farzan	Hira & Aaron
Y4	Lucas & Nasir	Khadija & Habiba
Y5	Sienna & Ryan	Rebeca & Alveena
Y6	M. Farok & Erdi	Rumaisa, Azaan & Alina

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KS2 Maths	
KS1 Maths Challenge	
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	5D were the winners!
Numbots - KS1	Most improved: 1st - Harrison, 2nd - Haniya, 3rd - Lola

Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 8th December 2023

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Charlotte & Enver	Abdul & Zaviyar
Y1	Jakub & Zakariya	Hallie & Musa
Y2	Fatima & all 2R	Lola & Alicja
Y3	Zaid & Rania	Erika & Kris
Y4	Adam & Loreta	Kaydon & Abdullah
Y5	Aizah & Shreya	Izzah & Sofia
Y6	Azmat & Azaan	Hashim, Shareef, Kaydon, Saif, M.Azaan, Charlie & Gaganveer!

KS2 Maths Challenge	Mus'ab - correctly calculated the total for Christmas dinner and the correct change from £40
KS1 Maths Challenge	-
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	It was Boys v Girls in each Y6 class. In both classes the boys won. Danyaal & Erdi were the most valuable plaers.

Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 15th December 2023

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Yusuf & Jayram	Sofia & Trinity
Y1	Bhavik & Isa	Faris & Anthony
Y2	Britney & M. Arif	Mehrun & Hasnain
Y3	Maria & Lindon	Abinoor & Uzair

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Y4	Yakub & Haniyah	Mathias & Joshua
Y5	Mus'ab & Andrei	Sulayman & Shreya
Y6	Zoya & Esha	Abubakr & Alina

Times Table Rockstars - KS2	5B boys & 5D boys were the winners this week!
Numbots KS1	Yusuf & Nawaz from Y1 were the most improved players this week.

Attendance

Week ending 24th November:

Year group	% present in school	Number of late marks
Reception	84.11	10
Year 1	88.57	10
Year 2	93.5	13
Year 3	93.33	12
Year 4	97.54	17
Year 5	94.58	8
Year 6	91.72	23

Week ending 8th December

Year group	% present in school	Number of late marks
Reception	93.36	8
Year 1	95.09	18
Year 2	95.5	20
Year 3	97.07	13
Year 4	95.41	15
Year 5	97.12	9
Year 6	92.88	25

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Some improvements in punctuality but overall attendance is much better!

Reflection

As we are well and truly into the season of Advent where Christians all around the world are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the Son of God, we remember that the message is one of peace, love and compassion. In the New Testament we read that 'God so loved the world...' and in the prophecy of Isaiah we read of Jesus being called the 'Prince of Peace'.

Around the world we see so much turmoil and problems; closer to home we will all be aware of people around us who have difficulties or challenges all of which add up to a lack of peace. The hope and prayer of everyone at St Matthew's is that each and everyone one of you will find some peace at this time and that peace will reign on earth.

Prayer

Prayer written by a student from a High School in the West Midlands:

God of hope,
help us to focus on you today,
remembering that the gift of Christ
is the most treasured gift.

We ask you to grant us peace.
Peace in our homes, peace in our churches,
and peace in our hearts,
when the world around us spins out of control.

Help us to stay focused on you, this Christmas and always.
Thank you for loving the whole world enough
to send the greatest gift, your son.
Help us to simplify our activities and traditions
so we can focus our celebration on your birth.

Thank you for being the Prince of Peace,
and we ask you for your peace to reign in our hearts.
Thank you for the simple but life-changing message
of your love for us.
Through Christ our Lord,.

Amen



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OF EDUCATION

