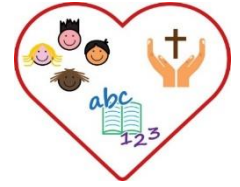


# St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



## NEWSLETTER – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very pleased that Mr Mackley has been able to be back with us in school over the last couple of weeks. He is feeling rather tired at times, but is happy to be back in school and is feeling much better.

### COVID update

It's **now 5 weeks** since our last positive cases in school. We have been very careful in school and are asking parents not to send children in if they are unwell, but to arrange a COVID test if they have any symptoms and then let us know the results of the test as soon as possible. We are working on the premise of 'Better safe than sorry'. We thank you if you have arranged a test for your child or children, as this is helping us to keep COVID at bay at the moment.

### Office restrictions

Please remember that we are not allowing 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 any callers at the school office.

### Remote / home learning



Thank you for your responses to the home learning survey which I sent out on Class Dojo last week. It was lovely to have such positive feedback from our parents and some good constructive messages and ideas for making it even better. We thank you for your appreciation of the hard work of our staff and teachers even when the classes are in isolation at home. It is great to know that the hard work is helping you and your children at home! The survey will be **closing on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>**, so please scroll back to the DOJO message from December 3<sup>rd</sup> and click the link to the survey if you've not already completed it.

### Reading books & online reading

Reading regularly is one of the best things you and we can do with your child to help them make good progress. Please can you remember to send your child's reading book and reading diary into school with them every day. Our staff will be reading regularly with children and we need their reading books available in school each day, not just on their 'changing' day. Reception to Y3 children have also been allocated a username and password for Rising Stars online reading resources and the teachers have allocated books for your child to read at home. Please regularly use this amazing resource which Mrs Shaikh has organised. There is an easy link for the log on page at the bottom of each page on our school website.

**RISING STARS**

### Maths and number skills

We also encourage our children to work on and remember many basic number facts and learn all the times tables so they can answer these quickly without needing to work them out! Mrs Bryden has signed the whole school up to some websites which can help with learning these in a fun and engaging way. We currently have Numbots for Reception, Y1 and Y2. Times Tables Rockstars is for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. Each child's username and password is in their school reading diary. If you are unsure about these, please contact the class teacher at the gate or by using class dojo messages and they will help you access the website. There is an easy link for the log on pages at the bottom of each page on our school website.



Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 5XB Tel: 01772 794482 Fax: 01772 655481

Email: [bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk) Website: [www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk)

### **OFSTED monitoring visit**

A few weeks ago we had a 'virtual visit' from two HMI inspectors. They spent a full day with our Senior Leaders and were monitoring the effects COVID has had on our school and our children's learning. They were impressed with the work our school has done to support families since the March lockdown and the ongoing work of the staff to help children continue with their learning, especially as so many of our classes have had isolation periods over this Autumn term. They noted that we are working hard to enable children to catch up on the learning they missed in the Spring and Summer terms. The letter reporting the visit has been published on the OFSTED website and on our own website too. I hope you had chance to read this earlier this week when I sent it out on class DOJO.

### **Christmas lunches**

Our Nursery and Infant children had their Christmas lunch this week – they really enjoyed the crackers, the food and the fun together in the dining hall along with their teachers and teaching assistants! Our school cook and her team had done a super job of making it a happy occasion for them all. The Junior children will have theirs next Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please remember this must be booked in advance.

### **Christmas Jumper day**

Thank you all for the very generous donations you sent in for the local Foodbank. Our school councillors are delighted with how you have responded, and the many boxes of food and toiletries will be very gratefully received.

### **Christmas fun!**

Our PTFA have raised money over the year and some of this has been used to pay for all the children to watch a 'Virtual Pantomime' of Jack and the Beanstalk in their classes. They have also had the full cinema experience with snacks and drinks too! We must thank Mrs Rossall who has co-ordinated much of this work of the PTFA. Our Christmas parties have also started. The younger children have loved playing games, dancing and eating more goodies at their parties. We even had a video ZOOM message from Father Christmas for our Reception children's party. He is very good with the new technology – although I do think he had a little help from Mrs Claus!

Please keep looking on Class Dojo as we hope to have a lovely Christmas surprise for you all on Monday evening!



### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Y1 & Y2 party - children to wear own clothes all day.  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Y5 & Y6 party - children to wear own clothes all day.  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> pm 1.45 - 2.45 - ZOOM - Rapunzel Lockdown pantomime.  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Christmas lunch. **Places must be booked in advance.**  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Y3 & 4 Christmas party – children to wear their own clothes all day.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> school closes for holidays. Please note the earlier times.**

**Y2, Y4, Y6 finish at 2pm. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y3 & 5 finish at 2.15pm.**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - INSET day for teachers and staff.  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – school re-opens for the Spring Term.

Have a lovely weekend and keep safe,

Mrs Walton  
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 5XB Tel: 01772 794482 Fax: 01772 655481

Email: [bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk) Website: [www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk)

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