



NEWSLETTER 12 – 26th January 2024

Hello everyone and a belated Happy New Year! Like many of you, we have had challenges with staff illness due to the winter bugs which are around and which meant I was absent for the first week of term. Hopefully we can all be well again soon and put these nasty bugs behind us.

Whilst on the subject of illnesses, there is some very important information about the rise in cases of Measles nationally in this letter and I do need you to give the information very serious consideration.

This half term is only a short one but, like them all, it is a very busy one!

Measles

Cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems.

There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the [routine childhood vaccinations](#), so most children are already vaccinated against measles. If your child has received both doses of the vaccine, they are unlikely to have the virus. If they or you have not had both doses you can very easily arrange to get them via your GP or local health centre and we would encourage you to ensure that you get this done as soon as possible.

You can request a version of the MMR vaccine that does not contain pork products from your GP, making it suitable for all faiths. Please note that the practice may need to order this product in specially, so it will be helpful to tell them your views before the appointment.

You can find out more information from the [Department for Education](#) and via the [NHS](#).

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

You don't need a garden to take part, just an hour of your time this weekend to help the RSPB understand how the bird population are doing right now. If you want to take part please visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/submission> to find out more.

Class Dojo

This is the main way to keep in touch with your child's teacher and to find out what is happening in class. If you haven't yet connected, please let the office know.

Reception Classes, please keep an eye on Dojo as there are regular support materials to help your child with their phonics which helps them to learn to read - a vital life skill!

Bikeability

Well done to the children in Year 5 who have been working on their cycling skills. Some have learnt to ride the bike for the very first time and they are all learning about how to be safe when riding their bicycles outside of school.

“Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be...”

Parental Survey

Last Autumn at our Parental Consultation meeting we handed out surveys for people to complete in order to help us understand what we are doing well and what we need to bear in mind when looking at what to improve. We used the same questions which Ofsted use during inspections with parents so that there is comparable information whenever that takes place!

We were delighted that around 125 people responded and even more so that the information given was overwhelmingly positive about St Matthew's. Naturally we are delighted with this but are not complacent, we will look at some of the issues raised and work hard to resolve them in order to keep improving.

The results of the survey can be seen here <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/parents/parent-view>

Attendance & Punctuality

We are very pleased to see recent improvements in daily and termly attendance levels - if children are not in school then they are missing out on key learning experiences so it is good wherever possible to have them in school.

Late arrivals at school are becoming an area of concern for us with increasing numbers arriving after 8:55am when the school day begins. The school bell now rings at 8:55am and at this point children should be sat in class, ready to start.

School Gates

A big thank you to everyone who works with us to follow the one way system at the end of the day which is designed to keep everyone safe and help us to ensure that all children are collected safely. A growing number are trying to come through the exit gates or wait to the end, causing a blockage on the pavements.

Can we remind you to follow the one way system and to also not stand at the gate and shout at staff to send your child over to you. Thank you.

Job Vacancies

To see our latest vacancies and also those at other Academies within Cidari please visit <https://cidarieducation.co.uk/JoinTheTeam>

Cars on Cuttle Street & Derby Square

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.

What you can do to help

Have a regular routine for the start of the day.

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

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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 12th January 2024

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Albie & Ayan	Delia & Jayram
Y1	Faris & Zahra	Charlotte & Menaal
Y2	David & Maisha	Ridhwaan & Shazain
Y3	Abinoor & Ayesha	Ibtesam & Mohammed M
Y4	Hiba & Amiyah	Marliss & Anas
Y5	Bobby & Safa	Rares, Iqra & Arashell
Y6	Jessica & M. Abubakr	Briony & Kourtney

KS2 Maths Challenge	Uzair, 6W
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Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 19th January 2024

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Hamdan & Safiya	Ahmed & Luke
Y1	Satnam & Antonya	Catalea & Viktor
Y2	Geanina & Mohammed F	Britney & Anaya
Y3	Hasnain & Mohammad A	Kehinde & Zuzanna
Y4	Cosmin & Dora	Hiba I & Marius
Y5	Scarlett & Marwa	Ismail & Nabiha
Y6	Lily & Shareef	Keira & Umamah

KS2 Maths Challenge	Muskan
KS1 Maths Challenge	-
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	4CH boys beat the girls; 4C the girls beat the boys! 4CH most valued player was Nasir and for 4C it was Erum
Numbots	1st - Zahra Z, 2nd - Hajra, 3rd - Viktor
Geography Challenge	Areesha, Y3

Attendance

Week ending 19th January 2024

A disappointing week with no greens and lots of red, let's hope it improves this week!

Year group	% present in school	Number of late marks
Reception	92	16
Year 1	90.17	10
Year 2	88.64	17
Year 3	85.33	18
Year 4	93.61	17
Year 5	94.92	20
Year 6	90.17	25

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Reflection

This term I have been sharing stories from the Bible which have been written to place the characters in the correct country of the time. We have learnt the story of Abram, who was from what we now know as Iraq and how he never gave up searching for his nephew when he was taken with others, far away. We have also learnt of the story of Ruth who was from modern day Jordan and gave up everything to care for another. We can often feel like we are just one person who cannot achieve anything by ourselves but these stories remind us that with faith and trust we can achieve much, even in small ways.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for Ruth and her selfless devotion towards Naomi.

We pray we can be like Ruth and think of others before ourselves;

to make sure we look to their needs because we know

that in doing so, our own will be met.

Amen

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