



St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

NEWSLETTER 12 – 21st April 2023

Half-term Achiever	Star Writer Award	Attendance data (W/e 31/3/2023)		
Reception Umme-Hani & Maher Year 1 Fatima & Mira Year 2 Luca & Hira Year 3 Safa & Aleen Year 4 Rebeca & Aalyan Year 5 Riley & Maiidah Year 6 Fizzah A & Heena	Reception Safa & Anayis Year 1 Lola & Ridhwaan Year 2 Raisa & Leo Year 3 Broagan & Khadija Year 4 Izzah & Izzah! Year 5 Zakiya & Muznah Year 6 Ioana & Eda	Punctuality Year 3 Attendance Year 3 Well done Year 3!		
Weekly attendance by year group: Attendance better than 96% (Government target) - great! Attendance below the target of 96% - a concern Attendance of 90% or below - a great concern. <i>Let's try and get 96% or better and get some green!</i>		Previous attendance figures	Latest figures	
		Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	92.6% 91.4% 89.3% 97.1% 89.6% 94.1% 98.8%	87.6% 89.3% 91.5% 94.4% 93% 89.8% 91.8%

Maths Challenge	Gabriela 4S Easter egg - rounding the amounts of eggs
TTRS	6S won battle of the band Ismail Rashid - Most valuable player
Numbots	N/A

Dear all,

Welcome back to school! Can I wish a belated Happy Easter to all who celebrated and Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating!

It is wonderful to be a part of such a diverse community with so many differences; it is also good to remember that there is more that unites us than divides us. Here at St Matthew's we have common aims and values that we share and we celebrate that.

Just before the Easter break we were delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster to St Matthew's to officially dedicate the building extension. She and all the guests were delighted with the readings and songs from the children and were all very complimentary about our school family. We are hoping to receive the photos which were taken very soon and we will share them once we have them.

This is a very busy term ahead and we look forward to your continued support as we work through it.

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

Statutory Assessments

This term there are several assessments which have to take place for our Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 & Year 6 pupils. We continue to work as we always do on helping the children to learn and make progress and we ask that you continue to support them by going through their times tables with them, reading with them and so on.

We will let you know when the dates of their assessments are but can we also ask that you do not plan any absences between now and then in order to reduce the impact on their learning.

Extended Leave

I am receiving an increasing number of requests from families wishing to take their children out of school for extended leave. Missing whole weeks/months can have a significant impact on a child's learning and progress; leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and there are very clear sets of guidance which we have to follow when making a decision.

National Text Alert

Many of you will have seen on Dojo that this is taking place this Sunday and will go to all 4G / 5G enabled phones. Please do not be alarmed by it, simply tap the screen to acknowledge that you have received it. It is widely used in other countries for a range of reasons, from warnings of very severe weather events to being on the lookout for a missing child. See below for more information about it.

What is the Emergency Alerts service?

Emergency Alerts is a new government service that will warn you if there is a danger to life nearby (e.g. flooding, fire). In an emergency, mobile phone masts will broadcast an alert in the affected area. The alert will automatically be received by compatible mobile phones and tablets in the area and will give advice about how to stay safe.

What's happening on Sunday 23 at 3pm?

On Sunday 23rd April at 3pm the government will be sending a UK-wide Emergency Alerts test message to all compatible devices. The message will make clear that no action is required, that the message is simply a test and will provide a link where you can find further information on the Emergency Alerts service.

When you receive the message, your phone or tablet may vibrate and make a loud siren-like sound for about ten seconds, even if it is set on 'silent'. The message will appear on your screen.

Can I opt out of receiving Emergency Alerts?

You can opt out of receiving Emergency Alerts by adjusting your device settings, though the government advice is to keep them switched on for your own safety.

If you are a survivor of domestic abuse with a secret or secondary phone or tablet, please be aware the Emergency Alert will play a sound even if your device is on silent.

To turn Emergency Alerts off, charity Refuge have created this short video to show you how. [Click here to watch the video.](#)



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Who can send and receive Emergency Alerts?

Emergency Alerts work on all 4G and 5G mobile networks in the UK. Emergency Alerts can only be sent by the emergency services and by government departments that deal with emergencies.

They do not need your phone number to send you an alert - if your device is compatible, it will automatically receive the message. Data about you, your device or location will not be collected or shared.

You will not receive Emergency Alerts if your device is switched off, on aeroplane mode or connected to a 2G or 3G network.

School Uniform / PE Kits

Just a reminder that children are able to come to school in their PE kits **only** on the days they have PE. On all other days they should be in uniform. Please note that joggers / trainers are not part of school uniform and should not be worn on none PE days.

If you are having difficulty with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us for help and advice. See also <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/parents/uniform> for further information.

Strike Action

You will be aware from the national news that members of the NEU are holding further days of strike action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. As before, I will endeavour to let you know in advance if your child is able to come to school on these days or not but I would advise to have alternative arrangements in place just in case we are closed for your child(ren). I can tell you at this stage that **all** of Year 6 will be in school on both days and they should come to school as normal.

Reflection & Prayer

As we look to the lengthening days and (hopefully!) warmer and more pleasant weather we are also aware that our planet is a fragile place that needs much care from us all. Not just the planet, as humans we need the love, care and support of family and friends. This brings to mind the words of our special school prayer which I share with you below.

Dear God,

O Lord, bless our school
So that working together and
Playing together
We may learn to serve You
As we server one another.

Amen.

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