



# St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CIDARI**

## NEWSLETTER 14 – 11th March 2024

Hello everybody and welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. For those who are around halfway through Lent, keep going, it's only three more weeks until Easter and the end of the Lenten fasts/disciplines. I would like to say "Ramadan Mubarak" to all our Muslim families as you begin the Holy Month of Ramadan.

My worship this week looks at the discipline of prayer and fasting and how for those of faith, it can be a time of struggle and blessing which brings us closer to God. It is also a time to look to the needs of others, always a good reminder to try and think less of our own needs and more to those of the people around us.

### **Hothersall Lodge**

This is already two weeks ago and what a few days it was! A full three days of activities and excitement which wasn't just for the children, all the adults who attended had a great time too. The children will have challenged themselves, learnt more about themselves and created memories to last a lifetime; I was talking with some of the children whilst we were away about the residential I remember from my own days at Primary School, over 40 years ago.

We do still have some lost property which we are sorting through and will make available to collect once the sorting has completed.

### **World Book Day**

This was last week and what a great day it was! It was wonderful to stand at the front of the hall and to look out at the sea of colour from the various costumes and pyjamas and smiling faces! The plate competition was amazing with some incredible designs from the children; I am glad I was not a judge for it as it would have been incredibly difficult to decide on a winner from each class. The plates are all going into our library to form a display on one of the walls in there - it will look wonderful I am sure!

### **Curriculum Review**

Mrs Higgins, who leads PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) for St Matthew's is currently undertaking a review of the curriculum including the specific Relationships Education which we are required to deliver. This is the curriculum which was consulted on a few years ago and is from the Blackburn Diocese' approach which was discussed at the time with the Lancashire Council of Mosques.

We would like to invite you to visit our website to have a look at the materials <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/key-information/curriculum/pshe> Once you have read them, we would really like to hear from you via this Google Form <https://forms.gle/GJpkjLvQruXW2vSV6> so that we can collate all the responses together and provide further information should it be required.

### **Parents' Evening**

This will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th March, full details were sent home today. If you do not receive an appointment, please contact the School Office.

### **MEASLES**

Please see the message below from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health, Lancashire County Council

*"I can confirm that we have had a measles outbreak in the Preston area.*

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

*"While the numbers are currently low in Lancashire, measles is highly infectious and can spread quickly among communities, such as schools and nurseries, particularly if people are not up to date with their MMR vaccine.*

*"One in five children will need a hospital visit if they become unwell with measles and around one in 15 measles cases can have complications such as meningitis, sepsis and blindness.*

*"The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and is the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.*

*"There are two types of MMR vaccine, and one does not contain pork gelatine. You can request a vaccine without pork gelatine from your GP practice when you book your appointment.*

*"If any of your children have missed any of their MMR vaccines, contact your GP surgery to book an appointment.*

*"You should also call your GP or 111 for advice if you think you or your child might have measles.*

*"Symptoms include a runny nose, cough, high fever, sore red watery eyes and a blotchy red-brown rash.*

*"Please do not just turn up to your GP, walk-in centre, or any other healthcare setting without calling ahead.*

*"The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.*

*"Visit the [NHS website](#) for more information about measles and the MMR vaccine."*

### **Ofsted 'Big Listen'**

You will all have heard the name 'Ofsted' which is short for the Office for Standards in Education and they are the body who come to inspect schools and make judgements about them based on their visits and analysis of other information. You may not be aware that a new Chief Inspector took up post in January and he is embarking on reviewing the inspectorate to make improvements to the way it works and carries out its statutory duties.

He has launched a 'Big Listen' and is encouraging parents as well as schools to contribute to it. If you would like to do so, please follow the link to the Ofsted website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen>

### **Local Governing Committee**

We have vacancies for Parent Governors on our committee. If you are interested in this important, voluntary role, please visit <https://cidarieducation.co.uk/governance/AcademyLGCs> or contact Mr Mackley at school for a conversation about the role and what it entails.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

A reminder that when the school bell rings at 8:55am we close the gates as children should be in their classes at this time. Arriving late at school, especially on a regular basis puts your child at a disadvantage as they have a disrupted start to the day and can miss out on important information as well as making them feel uncomfortable at having to enter class when lessons have already begun.

If your child is ill / unable to attend school it is **very important** that you contact the office by phone/text as soon as you can so that we are aware. We have a statutory duty to check all absences.

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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

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



## School Gates

Thank you to everyone who works with us to follow the one way system which does enable us to ensure that children are collected by the correct person and that the overwhelming majority are collected within 5 minutes of the gates being opened.

Can we please encourage those who gather at the gates which have been designated as exits to make their way to the entrance ones so that the paths are not blocked. If you have specific needs which require you to be exempt from this system, please contact Mr Mackley via the School Office.

## School Office

Please remember that we are now a 'cashless' office. Contact the school office for information on how to pay from now on.

## Job Vacancies

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

## Staffing

Unfortunately, Miss Baines was unable to take up the offer of the post in the office and so we have readvertised and hope to appoint soon.

We do get people asking us about vacancies, all vacancies within Cidari (including any for us) are advertised here <https://cidarieducation.co.uk/JoinTheTeam>

## Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 9th Feb 2024

| Year | Stars of the week | Values Award Winners |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Rec  | Umairah & Juvana  | Charlotte & Serah    |
| Y1   | Jacub & Dua       | Faris & Sana         |
| Y2   | Aayat & Maira     | Geanina & Khadija    |
| Y3   | Erika & Zayd      | Maaz & Taye          |
| Y4   | Kayden & Abdullah | Sara & Kainaat       |
| Y5   | Izzah & Aalyan    | Bobby & Harshid      |
| Y6   | Maaidah & Shareef | Rumaisa & Muznah     |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| KS2 Maths Challenge | - |
|---------------------|---|

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|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Times Table Rockstars - KS2        | The teachers won the challenge!                    |
| Numbots<br>(most improved players) | Hajra, Isa & Menaal were the most improved players |
| Geography Challenge                | Yakub - 4C   |

#### Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 23rd February 2024

| Year | Stars of the week  | Values Award Winners    |
|------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Rec  | Cobe & Hannah      | Hajra & Rohan           |
| Y1   | Binul & Purity     | Alessia & Maya          |
| Y2   | Poppy & Yusuf      | Ruben & Aayat           |
| Y3   | Leo & Humairah     | Ayesha & Aden           |
| Y4   | Habiba & Ranveer   | Anas & Sara             |
| Y5   | Zain & Izzah       | All 5B, Harshid & Bobby |
| Y6   | (Hothersall Lodge) | (Hothersall Lodge)      |

#### Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 1st March 2024

| Year | Stars of the week  | Values Award Winners                     |
|------|--------------------|--|
| Rec  | Weronika & Eliana  | Eva & Shayan                             |
| Y1   | Hallie & David     | Layla & Sana                             |
| Y2   | Alexia N & Alicia  | Hasnain & Maria                          |
| Y3   | Ibtisam & Lola     | Charlie, M Ali Master, Amelia T & Muskan |
| Y4   | Lily & Farhan      | Amaarah & Aiman                          |
| Y5   | Lsia, Rares & Kian | Hasnain, Ryan & Shreya                   |
| Y6   | Zara & Abolade     | Lily & Alina                             |

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| KS2 Maths Challenge | Hania, Y5 (Solved the hair challenge) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|

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|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Times Table Rockstars - KS2        | 4CH beat 5B   |
| Numbots<br>(most improved players) |   |
| Geography Challenge                | Hafsa, Y1 Correctly identified that the Great Fire of London began in Pudding Lane. |

### Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 8th March 2024

| Year | Stars of the week | Values Award Winners   |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Rec  | Kornel & Horain   | Nicholas & Cobe        |
| Y1   | Yousha & Anayis   | Brianne & M Bin Kashif |
| Y2   | Denton & Zainab   | Mason & Aamina         |
| Y3   | Daria & Eeshmal   | Ilyas & Saad           |
| Y4   | Oscar & Siraaj    | Esme & Nicholas        |
| Y5   | Umama & Hamzah    | Zarrar & Zahra         |
| Y6   | Esme & M Affan    | Danyaal & Aysha        |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| KS2 Maths Challenge                |  |
| Times Table Rockstars - KS2        | 5D beat 4C. Next battle is 3M v the teachers!                    |
| Numbots<br>(most improved players) |  |
| Geography Challenge                | Ivy-Rae (Y1) who correctly identified that we live in Lancashire |

### Attendance

Week ending 1st March 2024-

| Year group | % present in school | Number of late marks |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Reception  | 87.5%               | 4                    |
| Year 1     | 95.69%              | 11                   |

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|        |        |    |
|--------|--------|----|
| Year 2 | 93.33% | 10 |
| Year 3 | 95.59% | 13 |
| Year 4 | 92.95% | 13 |
| Year 5 | 91.36% | 10 |
| Year 6 | 92.71% | 13 |

## Reflection

Last week we were looking ahead to World Book Day and the importance of reading. We also considered reading for pleasure, that to lose yourself in a book, be that a story book, a graphic novel, an audiobook, a non-fiction book or poetry - books take us to places in our imagination and also teach us things that are useful to know.

At this time of Lent and Ramadan, we are also conscious of the importance of Holy Books which guide us and strengthen us in our respective faiths.

## Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for blessing us with wonderful books.

Thank you for our teachers, who help us to read.

Thank you for creating us so that we can enjoy what the world has to offer.

**Amen.**

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