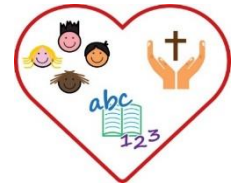


# St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



## NEWSLETTER 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Our PSHE focus this half term is **Aspire to be...** and our School Value focus is **Hope**



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all from everyone here at St Matthew's! We hope that you have managed to stay well and safe and that the children are well rested ready for a new term.

Whether you are the type to make resolutions or not, I would like to encourage you to share with us in our PSHE focus for this half term of **Aspire to be...** (from our school Vision Statement) and also our school value for this half term of **Hope**. The last 2 years have been very challenging for us all on many levels but this should not divert us from aiming for the very best for ourselves and to look forward with hope. As usual, our worship this half term will be focusing on these two areas.

### Industrial Action

Some of you will have been made aware by an article in the LEP over the holidays, the NEU (National Education Union) have announced 8 more days of strike action to take place within January. Sadly I have to inform you that the news report was correct and that we have been informed of the intention to undertake further strike days.

The dates announced are:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

I am currently investigating the possibility of classes unaffected by the action being able to continue attending and will let you know if this is to happen as soon as I am able to do so. However, please be prepared for the likelihood that the action will result in many children unable to attend school on those dates.

## **Building Project:**

At last, some good news on this project! We have finally had the new electricity supply and electrical works within the building completed and are now waiting for Electricity North West to finally remove the original underground cable within the next few weeks so that we can begin construction to the front of the school building.

Over the next few weeks the contractors will be establishing their base in the church grounds and begin demolition of the old school office in readiness for the new build to begin!

Work has been undertaken within the school building and before the end of the month we hope to be able to begin using the new girls' toilets on the first floor! The boys' toilets have yet to be constructed and are within the next part of the build.

## **Attendance:**

Attendance data for last term will be shared in the next newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has been making a concerted effort to get their children into school wherever possible.

## **Covid:**

As you will possibly have seen in the local and national press, there is a determination not to have the virus have any further impact on education unless absolutely necessary. Thankfully the virus is not appearing to have as significant health impact thanks to the high uptake of the vaccine and boosters, although it does remain highly transmissible. Bearing that in mind, all adults in school are being asked to wear a mask in corridors and communal areas (not in classrooms whilst teaching) and we continue to keep windows open to allow the air to circulate. Please ensure that your child(ren) wear a jumper to school and also bring a warm coat to wear during break-times.

If you are unsure if you or your child have symptoms, please do not come to school but take a test and let us know the outcome – hopefully this year we will get to the stage where we are not impacted by the virus!

There are currently no plans to have to reinstate a 'bubble' system or to have staggered start and finish times to the day nor to have remote learning. However, we do need to be prepared that should local or national leaders call for it or should circumstances in school require it then they *may* have to come into effect. As always, we will try to give you as much notice as possible and only take such steps if we really have to.

## **Prayer / thought for the week / reflection**

### **Reflection:**

*Hope can mean different things to different people. We all have hopes that are relevant to our lives and there are times when having hope is easy as well as times when having hope is a real challenge. Hope can be that feeling of expectation and it can also be when you want something to happen – we are just coming to the end of the Christmas season (Epiphany is on the 6<sup>th</sup> January) which is all about the hope that people*

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had and still have in Jesus. 2000 years ago the people were waiting in expectation of the arrival of the Messiah and hoped that He would set them free. People all around the world put their hope in Him still.

**Prayer:**

*Loving Father, in the Epiphany*

*Your love was revealed to us in the form of a child.*

*As we kneel before the holy infant with the wise man and adore.*

*We offer the gold of our hearts, what is best in us;*

*We offer the frankincense of our prayers, a sweet aroma;*

*We offer the oil of myrrh as our commitment to the end.*

*We ask for a blessing on our homes and our school.*

*Bless all those in our school who came from afar*

*To join our community; bless their families.*

*May all be at home in the presence of the Christ child.*

*Amen.*

**Events this term**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – 1:45 rescheduled Pantomime for all children.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan - Attendance party for those children who achieved 99% or better attendance last term.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan – Governors' Vision & Ethos Committee

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Governors' Resources Committee

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Multi-Cultural Book Day

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – St Matthew's converts to Academy Status with Cidari MAT.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Reception Class 'Go Velo' bike ability.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – Miss Smith with pupils attending Diocesan RE conference

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y2 & Y3 Fire Safety talk

14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Half Term week.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb – school reopens. Governors' Curriculum and Standards Committee

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Shrove Tuesday!

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Y6 trip to Hothersall Lodge.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Governors' Full Committee meeting

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Pause Events.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – school closes for Easter.



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