

St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER 16 – 10th January 2022

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We finally managed to have our Pantomime production last Thursday afternoon and it was a really enjoyable experience – thank you for the donations sent in towards the cost of this, it is a big help and reduces the amount of money that the PTFA needed to contribute. We have already booked for next Christmas on the 1st December and is expected to be Beauty and the Beast.

Industrial Action

At the time of writing this newsletter I am still expecting strike action to take place on the following dates:

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

As we published on Dojo, school will remain open for Year 6, certainly for this week's dates. Year 6 should still use the normal gate in the morning and will also use the same date at the end of the day on the strike days. We have contacted local NEU representatives to ask that the picket line remains at the front of the school so that the children can enter and leave school undisturbed via the gate on Derby Square.

Those families that have applied for and are eligible for Free School Meals, we are anticipating that we can now provide vouchers from school to cover the strike days. If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals and wish to apply, please follow this link: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=1>

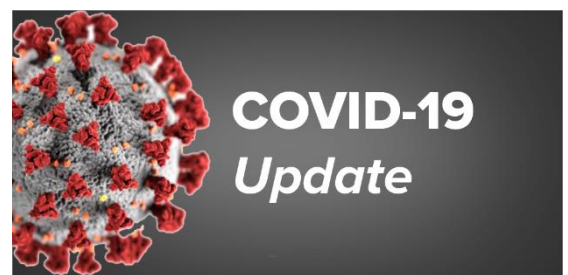
Contacting Mr Mackley:

Recently a few people have been using Class Dojo to directly message me; please note that due to the way Dojo works this is not the best way to get in touch and messages can be missed. If you need to contact me then please do so via the school office on 01772 794482 or via the contact form on the school website. Thank you.

Covid:

A reminder that all visitors to school are asked to wear a mask. Also, from 10th January a positive LFT result no longer needs to be confirmed by a PCR. Isolation rules remain with the only change that negative test results on days 6 & 7 that have been reported via the reporting website mean isolation can then cease.

Please remain vigilant and test twice weekly in order to keep the spread of the virus at bay.





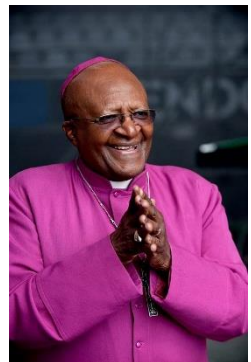
Mobile Phones in school:

Please can we remind that children are not allowed phones in school. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and is allowed to walk home and you wish them to have a phone for when they are walking home, please send a letter to your child's teacher making this clear. Children to whom this applies must then hand their phones in at the start of the day and then collect them at the end on their way home. Children in possession of phones during the school day that have not been handed in are liable to be dealt with under our behaviour systems as misuse of a mobile phone during the school day is a serious act of misconduct.

Prayer / thought for the week / reflection

Reflection:

In my worship this week I am looking at Hope & Forgiveness looking at the life of the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. A man who did so much to work for peace and reconciliation in South Africa and who inspired many around the world. My worship has been based on the book "Desmond and the Very Mean Word" written by the man himself about a childhood experience where he learnt of the need to forgive, even though it wasn't easy. His ability to overcome the challenges and injustices that he faced gave hope to many within South Africa and beyond that a better way than revenge is always possible.



Prayer:

A Prayer of Desmond Tutu:

*Goodness is stronger than evil.
Love is stronger than hate.
Light is stronger than darkness.
Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.*

Amen

Events this term

Monday 10th Jan - Attendance party for those children who achieved 99% or better attendance last term.
Monday 17th Jan – Governors' Vision & Ethos Committee
Monday 24th Jan – Governors' Resources Committee
Friday 28th Jan – Multi-Cultural Book Day
Tuesday 1st Feb – St Matthew's converts to Academy Status with Cidari MAT.
Tuesday 1st to Tuesday 8th Feb – Reception Class 'Go Velo' bike ability.
Wednesday 2nd Feb – Miss Smith with pupils attending Diocesan RE conference
Monday 7th Feb – Y2 & Y3 Fire Safety talk
14th to 18th Feb – Half Term week.

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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Monday 21st Feb – school reopens. Governors’ Curriculum and Standards Committee
Tuesday 1st March – Shrove Tuesday!
Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.
Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4th March – Y6 trip to Hothersall Lodge.
Monday 14th March – Governors’ Full Committee meeting
Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day.
Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st March – Easter Pause Events.
Friday 1st April – school closes for Easter.

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