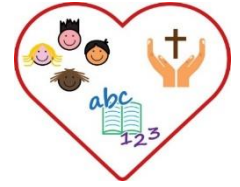


St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER 17 – 17th January 2022

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the latest newsletter, we are now half way through January already and time is flying by! Our apologies for the continued disruption to school life through the enforced partial closure of school; thank you for your patience as we work our way through this.

New Technology!



Through our connection with Cidari, we have managed to secure the installation of 6 new interactive screens which will be installed in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 this week. They will be replacing the old SMART boards and projectors which are at the end of their serviceable life. We are looking forward to these boards arriving as they will make a really positive difference to the resources that can be used to inspire and teach the children.

We are hoping that over the next 12-18 months we will be able to replace the remaining boards in school too!

Industrial Action:

The remaining planned strike days by the NEU are as follows:

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

Year 6 will continue to attend but we have to remain closed to the rest of the school as we do not have sufficient non-striking staff to be able to invite any other children in.

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>



Building Project:

Over the next week or so there will be some hoarding being placed at the front of the school to create a secure compound for the building contractors to begin the work on the project. The old school office will be demolished very soon in readiness for the ground works to begin – very exciting that this work to improve our facilities here at St Matthew's will finally be getting underway!

Please remind all children that building sites are dangerous places and that they need to keep well away.

One set of toilets on the first floor are almost ready to put into use. Our Ethos Group are looking into 'Toilet Twinning' through the charity Water Aid and more information will be coming soon about this.

Covid:

A reminder that all visitors to school are asked to wear a mask. From today (17th January) the rules on isolation have changed. On day 5 of isolation, take a Lateral Flow Test and report the result via the Government website. If it is negative then you need to take a further test **24 hours later** on day 6 and report that result too. If that is also negative then you no longer have to isolate and can return to 'normal life'.

We have had some reports of misunderstanding over the isolation rules so we are sharing the following information from the BBC News website to explain.

What does self-isolation mean?

Self-isolation means staying at home and not going out.

Adults shouldn't go into work and children shouldn't go to school, you should order online groceries, or ask friends or family to deliver supplies.

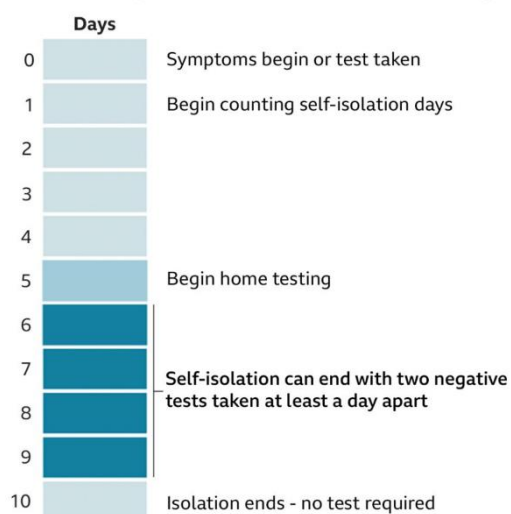
No-one from outside your household should come inside, unless to deliver essential care.

If you have symptoms or test positive, you should:

- Keep your distance from other members of your household
- Leave windows open to improve ventilation
- If possible, sleep and eat in a different room, and use a separate bathroom
- If you share a bathroom, use it after everyone else and clean it thoroughly

If you do not follow the rules on self-isolation, you can be fined. In England, penalties start at £1,000 and rise to £10,000.

How five-day isolation rule works in England



Mobile Phones in school:

A further reminder 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.

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 5XB Tel: 01772 794482 Fax: 01772 655481

Email: bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk Website: www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk

Prayer / thought for the week / reflection

Reflection:

This week we are continuing to think about Hope and Aspiration and that sticking at something can be a difficult challenge. The theme for my worship this week is 'Don't give up'. We are thinking about the word 'perseverance' and what it means for us.



Prayer:

Dear God,

Please help us to be able to persevere when things are tough.

Please help us to realize that we don't need to do things on our own.

Please help us to be willing to ask for help.

Thank you for all the people who support and care for us.

Please help us to look for opportunities to help others.

Amen.

Events this 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

Friday 4th Feb – Aspirations 'dress-up' day (details to follow)

Monday 7th Feb – Y2 & Y3 Fire Safety talk

Friday 11th Feb – 'Blue for a loo' day (details to follow)

14th to 18th Feb – Half Term week.

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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