



St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

NEWSLETTER 19 – 11th July 2024

“Time flies!” is an oft repeated phrase, I don't know if it is particularly English or if similar sentiments are expressed amongst the many diverse ethnic backgrounds which make up the St Matthew's family? For those for whom this might seem strange, it's just a simple way of expressing how quick time seems to pass and this school year is almost over and yet it seems like only yesterday that it began, way back in September of last year!

In my first newsletter of the year I wrote the following: “We are delighted that you are all part of this wonderful community and we look forward to the year ahead which will, as always, be busy and exciting and will see all our children grow in their learning and development.” That remains true, we are delighted that you are all part of our family and life is always busy here - better than being bored!

Very shortly we will be wishing our Year 6 children well as they leave Primary School to begin their Secondary education. Whether they have been here a term or two or all the way from their Nursery year (2016/17) they will always remain a part of St Matthew's and we wish them every success and hope that they remember all that they have learnt here, not least those lessons about character based on our 6 core values.

If this is your last child leaving St Matthew's, thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with you for the benefit of your child(ren) and please keep in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

End of term

We close Friday 19th July at **2:00pm** for the summer holidays and re-open Tuesday 3rd September for the new academic year.

Rising Costs

Over the last few years the cost of living has risen for us all and we have tried not to pass on cost increases wherever possible but, sadly, our ability to continue subsidising things like school meal & breakfast club costs have either ended or have to be drastically reduced.

Regrettably we are going to have to increase charges for some of these things from September - we wish we didn't have to but we have no choice.

From September a school meal will cost £2.70 per day and Breakfast Club will be £1.50 per session per child, no free places.

Can we encourage parents to seriously consider applying for Free School Meals if you haven't already done, even if your child is in the Infants, as this not only opens that up as an option for you but it also brings in £1300 per child extra into our school budget - much needed funds at the moment!

To find out more about how to do this please follow this link

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/> or speak to Mrs Bajelany or Miss Lambert in the school office.



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

Attendance Matters



Attendance and punctuality

We have seen a big improvement this half-term, thank you! There are still improvements to be made so please make sure your child comes to school and on time every day.

HOWEVER.....

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on **19 August 2024**. This applies to extended holidays and persistent absences.

The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

If you are thinking of taking your child(ren) out of school for a holiday, to go abroad to visit family or any other reason, please be aware that the vast majority of requests are not agreed as the criteria for allowing these is very narrow and does not allow such trips to take place. **If** you are thinking of taking your child(ren) out then you **must** contact the school office at the earliest opportunity to arrange a meeting with Mr Mackley.

Local Governing Committee

A further reminder that we still have vacancies for parents and local community members to serve our school. The commitment isn't excessive and you make a really positive contribution to the life of the school. Please get in touch with Mr Mackley if you think you might be interested or you would like to find out more.

We have had two new members join us, Mrs Sue Roberts and Rev David Owens and we are delighted that they have done so!

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in ensuring the children come into school wearing the correct uniform. We still, though, are seeing large numbers of children wearing trainers on non PE days and wearing incorrect clothing on PE days too.

Can we remind you that that trainers are **only** to be worn on PE days; on all other days the children should be wearing plain black shoes. The same goes for leggings/joggers, these are only to be worn on PE days and on all other

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days the correct uniform **must** be worn. For those in Y6, this is good practice for the Autumn Term when they transfer to High School where uniform policies are very strict.

Please also note that Hijabs should be plain black and not overly long, none should have decorations on them. Also, only stud earrings should be worn and no necklaces or bracelets are to be worn for health and safety reasons.

See <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/parents/uniform> for further information.

School Gates



An increasing number of people are choosing not to respect the one way system in operation and are waiting outside the exit gate from the smaller yard (where Mr Mackley stands) and are blocking the pathway causing problems for others moving around the area. Please can we remind you to enter this yard from New Hall Lane and follow through with everyone else so that we can clear everyone swiftly and without congestion on the cramped pathways.

A further appeal to car drivers - please do not use Cuttle Street/Derby Square to drop off/collect children. It causes significant traffic delays and puts the pedestrians at risk. We also have a number of children with mobility issues who **do** need to drop off there but families are put under pressure to move by others who do not need to do so.

Job Vacancies

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

Star Writer & ½ Term Achievers 24th May 2024

Year	Star Writers	½ Term Achievers
Rec	Anete & Eliana	Yusuf & Saad
Y1	Hallie & Purity	Bhavik & Musa
Y2	Divine & Haniya	Alishba & Zaynab
Y3	Hasnain & Amelia	Lucas & Zainab
Y4	Baqarudin & Aiman	Cosmin & Natan
Y5	Zara & Gabriela	Hasnain & Abhiram
Y6	Pola & Khadijah	Zaydan & M. Azaan

KS1 Maths Challenge	Ivy - Y1
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	4CH were the winners

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Numbots	1Sw had the best improvements
Geography Challenge	Juwairiyah, Y5

Stars of the Week & Values Award - June 2024

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Armeena & Abdul	Laibah & Umairah
Y1	Antony & Hafsah	Anayis & Cataleea
Y2	Gethyn & Zahrah	Ridhwaan, Alexia B & Hoor
Y3	Zuzanna & Maaz	Humaira & Charlie
Y4	Shahzain & Aleen	Sirraaj & Kayden
Y5	Andrea & Izzah	Izzah & Sienna
Y6	Hamzah & Keira	Zahra & Briony

Times Table Rockstars - KS2	Y6 were the victors!
Numbots - KS1	3 most improved mathematicians were Harrison (Y2), Anayis (Y1) & Poppy (Y2)
Geography Challenge	Rayyan (Y1) solved the challenge this week.

Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 28th June 2024

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Abdul & Shayan	Kornel & Eliana
Y1	1M & Gabriella	Dominic & 1SW
Y2	Hasnain, Mathias & Anaya	Dhruva & M. Faiz
Y3	Amelia & Ometere	Maaz & Kris
Y4	Hiba I & Zainab	4C, Michael I & Aminah
Y5	Ometere & reis	Kris & Alveena
Y6	M. Afsar & Tyler	Alveena Abubakr M & Elissa-May

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KS1 Maths Challenge	Poppy (Y2) Correctly calculated the change from buying several books
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	3M beat 3H by only 13 points! Well done all. Hasnain-Ali = most valuable player
Numbots	Anthony, Yusuf & Essa from Y1 were the most improved players.

Stars of the Week & Values Award - week ending 5th July 2024

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Sharon & Munulya	Shiza & Juvana
Y1	Cataleea & Gabriella	nawaz & Viktor
Y2	Zaviyar & Daniel	Yana & Harrison
Y3	Maria & Maaz	Zaid & Lindon
Y4	Aleen & Romeo	Hiba I & Angela
Y5	Aizah & Ryan	5B & 5D
Y6	Senna & Umamah	Riley & Alina

KS1 Maths Challenge	Theo (Y2) solved the challenge!
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	4CH comprehensively beat 5B!
Numbots	Hasnain (Y2), Lily (Y2) & Essa (Y2) were the most improved.

Reflection

This half term in my worships we have been considering the value of Compassion. Whether we are people of faith or not, being compassionate to each other is something we all need to be.

We have considered God's compassion for his people, showing compassion to others by sharing what we have, compassion for the elderly & compassion for the poor.

Our hope is that all of our school family will consider being compassionate in all they do.

Prayer

Father God, show us ways in which we can give practical help to people around us.

Amen

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