



St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**



NEWSLETTER 1 – 12th September 2023

Dear all,

Welcome to this first newsletter of the new school year! It is wonderful to be back and to not only welcome children and families back, but to also welcome new children and families who have joined the St Matthew's family this September. 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.

We work in partnership with you, the families and we do our best to communicate with you in a timely manner, not easy in a large school such as ours which is why we use Class Dojo as the tool for you to communicate directly with your child's class teacher. If you need help with this, please contact the school office for further information.

As this is the first newsletter, there are several items of information which are important for you to note so please do read on...

Stars of the Week & Values Award

Each week class staff select a child to be star of the week, this could be for a variety of reasons including doing well in a piece of work, excelling at something they have struggled with or demonstrating behaviour which is that of a good role model.

The school values award is given each week to a child from a class whose behaviour demonstrates that they are living by our school values; usually one particular value is highlighted to celebrate in that child. Our school values are:

Hope, Love/Compassion, Trust, Community, Thankfulness and Respect/Reverence. Please visit our website (<https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/christian-distinctiveness/school-values/christian-values>) for further details.

Year	Stars of the Week		School Values Award	
Rec	First week in school, they will begin awarding from the end of this week.			
Y1	Faris	Purity	Charlotte	Umme
Y2	Essa	Nelly	Divine	Theo
Y3	Ilyas & Lucas	Zakariya	Amelia T	Ayesha
Y4	Broagan	Aaminah	Sienna	Romeo
Y5	Samuel	Kian	Aizah A	Michael
Y6	Humairah	Kourtney	Esme	Affan

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

School Attendance

It is very, very important that children come to school whenever possible. Research shows that even a few missed days can have an impact on learning; we want all our children to have the best possible opportunity in life and what they learn here is a big part in that.

So, if your child is not feeling great but isn't really that bad, please still send them to school. If they are not coping, we will contact you. Some illnesses though, like upset stomachs, Covid and the such mean that children should stay away from school in order to prevent others becoming ill.

Leave of absence in term time. Please note that there is not a 'right' for time off in term time to go on holiday. If you are thinking that you need to take your child(ren) out of school for a period of time, you **must** make an appointment at the earliest opportunity, via the school office, to come and speak with Mr Mackley to discuss your request.

Each week we share the attendance figures for the previous week so that you can see how your child's year group is doing. Government targets are that children should be in school **at least** 96% of the year; if you go below 90% you do become a cause for concern and will be monitored. We do monitor attendance levels and school staff will come to visit if we have concerns. As with all things, please just keep in touch with us so that we can work together.

Uniform

A reminder that we do have a uniform policy (<https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/parents/uniform>) and we do expect all children to dress in line with it. We are aware of the cost of uniforms and the only item we require to have the logo on is the school jumper, all other items please do source where you can.

Please note, trainers are only to be worn on days when children have PE, on all other days they should be wearing plain black shoes. If in doubt, please get in touch.

Coats - even if it looks like a nice day or you come to school in a car, it is very important that all children bring a coat to school with them. Even if it is raining, we always try to get the children outside at break times for much needed fresh air; if they do not have a coat they are likely to get wet!



Ear rings & Jewellery

A reminder that children **must** remove earrings for PE, they cannot place plasters over them; this is in line with national advice for the teaching of PE. Also, other than ear rings (stud type only) and wrist watches (not smart watches) no other jewellery should be worn at school. This is for safety reasons.

School Swimming

Year 4 are currently attending swimming lessons at West View Leisure Centre on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. Learning to swim is a part of the National Curriculum and also a very important life skill which could save a life. We are only able to attend the sessions which are provided to us and we are aware that means the bus arrives back after 3:15. Hopefully once the children are more used to drying & dressing themselves, they will speed up and the bus can leave sooner.

Attendance Matters



Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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

Email: psmoffice@cidari.co.uk Website: www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk



School Gates

In response to some concerns, here is a reminder of the reasons for why we arrange collection at the end of the day the way we do and why it is important that you follow the system please.

We have devised the one-way system to ensure children are carefully handed to an appropriate adult and that we do not have issues with people trying to walk in both directions through narrow gateways/pathways.

The system has been designed so that if you have children in each yard, you are able to walk from the Infant Yard first onto the Junior Yard second without having to negotiate a blocked pavement of people walking towards you. (Please see the diagram below - also note that Y4 will be collected from the shelter, not as per the diagram)

Those children in Years 5 & 6 for whom we have written consent to walk home by themselves, will be dismissed from the playgrounds at the same time as others. Please can we ask that if they are to meet a parent outside of the gates, that you agree a location with your child and to inform them to return immediately to school if you are not there.

Please be patient, there may be a queue of people in front of you, your child will be kept with their teacher until you arrive to collect them; last week we did have some people pushing past to get through which will only cause problems. We open the gates as soon after 3:15 pm as we can, but will not open them until the children are safely on the yard, ready to be collected.



Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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

Email: psmoffice@cidari.co.uk Website: www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk

Google Translate

If you need to translate this newsletter into your own language, please feel free to use <https://translate.google.com/> It's not perfect but better than nothing! Class Dojo only translates into a limited number of languages and we are aware of at least 26 languages other than English which are spoken here at St Matt's!



Reflection & Prayer

In the first couple of weeks we have been thinking about being the best we can be and taking responsibility for our own actions. Over this half term, Mr Mackley's worships will focus on the theme of personal responsibility which began this week with thinking about the things we say and the impact that unkind words can have. We learned from the letter of James in the New Testament which described unkind words as being like an out of control fire which can cause significant damage and harm and the need to consider carefully the impact of what we say on others.

For the beauty of the world around us,
We thank you God

For the love of family and friends
We thank you God

For food to eat,
We thank you God

For teachers who help us
We thank you God



Amen

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley
New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 5XB Tel: 01772 794482
Email: psmoffice@cidari.co.uk Website: www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk

