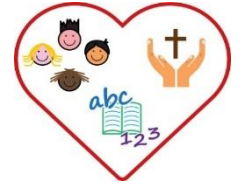


St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER – 6th September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was so good to be able to welcome everyone back to school last week and to see all the happy and smiling faces of the children as they came together again as our school family. I am sure there were plenty of smiles from yourselves too, glad that the holidays are over and peace returns to your homes during the day times.

The children made an excellent start to the new school year and settled very quickly back into the familiar routines and I am delighted to say that they all showed us how fantastically well-behaved they are.

Our sincere hope and prayer for this year is that we are able to remain in school and to operate as normally as possible and I am sure that you also share that hope. It is important that we remain vigilant and remember to keep up with hand washing, using tissues when we sneeze and put them straight in the bin. If anyone in your household develops symptoms then **that person** needs to isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible; everyone else can carry on as normal unless they develop symptoms too. It is a good idea in that situation for everyone in the household to undertake regular Lateral Flow Tests; if you are in any doubt, please get in touch as we are well used to understanding the latest guidance and rules!


M Mackley

Staff News!



Congratulations to three staff members who all celebrated their weddings over the summer period! Mr Ward, Miss Hope (now Mrs Higgins) and Miss Standing (now Mrs Hoole). Our very best wishes to them and their spouses for long happy marriages.

Temporary Main Entrance

Due to the building project, the temporary main entrance is now from Delaware Street. Please press the  icon and someone in the office will speak with you before letting you in. PLEASE can we ask you to make sure the gate closes behind you, thank you.

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



Attendance

Mrs Naik regularly monitors attendance levels over the school year and has noted individuals who have higher than acceptable levels of absence from school. Government expectation is a minimum of 96% attendance over a school year from every child, unless there are exceptional reasons for absence (holidays in term time are **not** classed as exceptional reasons).

If your child is one of the ones with this excessively high level of absence, you will be receiving a letter from me making this clear to you and that we will be monitoring their attendance levels even more closely this year and will be in contact through phone calls and home visits should any absence occur.

School Reading Books

I am delighted to let you know that we have been able to invest £10,000 in improving our reading books at school. You will notice that your child is bringing home a nice new book to read and we hope that you will enjoy being able to read along with them every night as this is the best way to help them improve rapidly. Please do note that if a book is lost or damaged we will be in touch to seek a contribution of at least £5 towards replacement as books are very expensive to replace.

School Gates

Thank you for your patience over the first couple of days, we have been looking carefully at it and are going to trial the following changes at the end of the day from Tuesday onwards.

Gates from the small yard – Year 3 to continue leaving from here and Year 6 to join them
Gate in the corner for the big yard – Year 4 to leave from this gate.
Gate by Nursery entrance – Year 5 to leave from this gate.
Infants continue as they are.



Thank you for your patience, please can I **urge** you not to crowd the gates and to take care when moving around Derby Square. Also, car users PLEASE do not bring your cars onto Derby Square at the beginning and end of the school day, it is a very crowded area and we all want to avoid an accident happening.

School Meals

As you will be aware from the news, there are big problems with the supply chain for getting food and other items around our country. This is now beginning to impact on the school meals service who are experiencing difficulties in getting hold of some food items.

Due to these problems, this is the menu for this week:

- Monday – Quorn sausage in gravy with mashed potato and carrots OR cheese/tuna Sandwich
- Tuesday – Cheese pasty with hash brown OR Pasta OR cheese/tuna/egg sandwich
- Wednesday – Jackets with cheese or tuna or baked beans OR cheese/tuna/egg sandwich
- Thursday – Quorn burger with hash brown OR cheese/tuna/egg sandwich
- Friday – Pizza and chips OR cheese/tuna/egg sandwich

We are aware that this is not the range that we would normally provide but hope you understand and bear with us as the catering service deal with the challenges.

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Class Dojo

You should still be able to access your child's class through the app, if you are having any problems please get in touch at school and we will do what we can to help you. We have found that Class Dojo is a great way to keep in touch with your child's teach; however, if you want to get in touch with the Office or with Mr Mackley then it is much quicker to get in touch via the office on 794482.



Maths Class Targets

Please visit Class Dojo to see the information Mrs Bryden has shared about the Year Group Targets for Maths so that you can practise with your child.

Key dates for the term:

- 13th-17th September – Meet the teacher (details to follow)
- 5th October – individual photos
- 19th October – Nasal Flu administered
- 25th-29th October- Half term
- 1st November – INSET day
- 2nd November – school reopens
- 10th November – Parents'/Carers' Evening
- 8th/9th December – Nativity Play (details to follow)
- 17th December 2:00pm – School closes for Christmas Holiday

Prayer / thought for the week / reflection

In Mr Mackley's worship times over the next three weeks, we are re-visiting our school Vision Statement: "Inspired by Jesus' words (Matthew 5: 1-12), we strive to promote academic, emotional and spiritual growth in a Christian environment for all members of our school family. We can all 'Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be...'"

We are especially thinking about "Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be..." taking one part each week. This week we are thinking about what it might mean to "Be blessed By God" and your children might want to talk with you about what it means too. If they do, please get in touch and let us know what you discuss.

Our school prayer:

O Lord, bless our school,
So that working together and playing together,
We may learn to serve you as we serve one another.

Amen

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