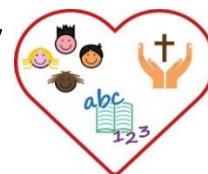


St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School & Nursery

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

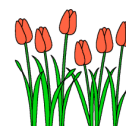


NEWSLETTER – 1st March 2021

★ Stars of the Week ★	★ Home Learner Stars ★
Reception - Blue-Maye & Leo Year 1 - Aleen & TJ Year 2 - Nabiya & Marvellous Year 3 - Azaan & Shareef Year 4 - Divine Year 5 – Jakub & Ciprian Year 6 – Brooke & Zunaira	Reception - Zusanna & Hira J Year 1 - Meerab & Ayaan Year 2 - Jan & Imaan Year 3 – Affan & Rumaisa Year 4 - Faiqa Year 5 – Satveer & Afiyah Year 6 – Areesha & Abdurrahman

Dear Parents/Carers,

Its officially Spring! The evenings are getting lighter and we are seeing a little more sunshine – it makes the world feel a brighter place. Things are also starting to look brighter because we have things to look forward to in relation to COVID.



COVID update – Schools fully open from Monday 8th March

The Prime Minister announced last week that all schools will be fully open to all pupils from Monday 8th March. We are looking forward to having our whole St Matthew's community back together in school from that date. However, we know that some parents will have reservations or concerns about the reopening of all schools whilst infection rates remain high. Please be reassured that we will continue to do everything within our power to keep the children, staff and our community as safe as possible. We have reviewed all our risk assessments and arrangements, and will be operating as we were just before the Christmas holidays. We have our enhanced cleaning regime in place, we will be keeping classrooms well ventilated and keeping classes and year group 'bubbles' apart from other as much as is possible. Whilst there is no requirement for primary children to wear face masks in school, you will notice our staff are wearing them at the gates and around school too.

We will continue to ask parents to respect social distancing and wear masks at the gates and we will need to keep the **office closed to visitors**. Please send any letters or money into school with your child – do not call at the office with it. We also ask our families to follow all the Government's COVID guidelines, which means no households mixing etc so that we can try to keep all our children and our staff as safe as possible. Follow this link for further details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#summary-what-you-can-and-cannot-do-during-the-national-lockdown> If you need to speak with someone in the office, please use the telephone and call first, 01772 794482.

Since January, many of our staff have been taking part in the Government's voluntary scheme to test staff for Covid-19 twice a week. This sort of testing means that asymptomatic people, who might otherwise continue to attend schools, are identified and self-isolate. This will continue until we are told by the government that testing is no longer necessary.

We will continue to ask parents not to send children in if they are unwell, and to arrange a COVID test if any member of the household is unwell with any symptoms. We then ask that you let us know the results of the test as soon as possible. We will keep working on the premise of 'Better safe than sorry'.

Does my child have to return to school?

- **Yes**, from 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils and all the usual rules and duties around school attendance in place from this date.

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

- We expect regular attendance for all children at school, unless there is a reason for self-isolation within the household, which must be communicated to the school office staff in the usual way.

School day - Staggered starts and finishes

As before Christmas, the school times are staggered. Please use the same gates as previously so we can relieve pressure around these areas. Please stick to these times, and be on time for school and only use the front door if you are in Year 5 or Year 6. Please ensure that your child attends school on time, even if you have children within different 'Bubbles' so that they do not miss any vital teaching and learning at the start of the day. Children arriving after these times will be marked late on the registers.

- Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6: start at 8.45am and finish at 3.00pm
- Nursery, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5: start at 9.00am and finish at 3.15pm

School Meals

These will be available next week and will be the same arrangements as we had before Christmas, it will be a packed lunch and not a hot meal due to the challenges of delivering the food to the classrooms around school to keep the 'bubble's secure.

School uniform – new logo design

If you need to buy new school uniform before the return to school on Monday 8th, our two school uniform suppliers are now stocking the NEW design school jumpers, cardigans, polo tops and school bags etc. with our new 'heart' logo on. Our two official stockists are:

- Top One, 29 St Johns Centre, PR1 1FB (opposite the bus station). 01772 828616 They are happy to do an order for you to collect.
- SMART, 54 Lancaster Road. PR1 1DD 01772 200842. They are offering 10% off and a click and collect service by phone or through their website. <https://schoolwearpreston.co.uk/>

Road Safety

Please encourage your children to take care near the roads when all the children are back in school. If you are driving a car please take great care and make sure you park legally and responsibly whilst dropping off or picking up your child. Remember not to stop on or near the pedestrian crossing.

Our School Values for this half term are – Justice & Community

In our worship last week, we remembered that our St Matthew's community cares, loves, laughs and learns together. This is so appropriate as we make preparations for us all to be back together in school. We pray for a safe & settled return for all our children and staff and that any worries may be calmed.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 4th March – World Book Day. Details have been sent out in work packs this week.

Friday 19th March – Red Nose Day – details to follow from the School Council

Thursday 25th March – Easter Pause Day

Friday 26th March - school closes for holidays. Please note the earlier times:

Y2, Y4, Y6 finish at 2pm. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y3 & 5 finish at 2.15pm.

Monday 12th April – school re-opens for the Summer term

Have a great week and keep safe – we will see you ALL next Monday (8th March).

Mr Mackley & Mrs Walton



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