

St. Matthew's C.E. Primary Academy

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



NEWSLETTER 20 – 7th February 2022

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

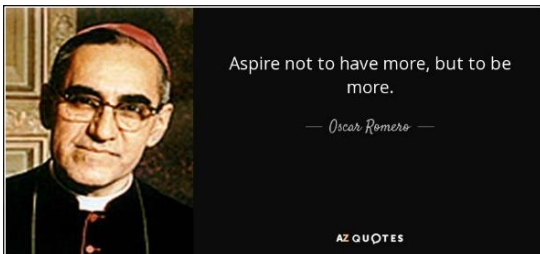
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter before the half-term break. As I have sat writing this looking out of my window, the weather has gone from sun to hail to rain and back to sun again and all of it accompanied by a bitterly cold wind to remind us that we are still well and truly in winter. Can I remind everyone to ensure that children come to school with a warm coat on as we try to get outside at every break time, even if there is light rain. Some children have been coming to school without a coat which means they are at risk of getting cold and wet which we want to avoid.

Our focus this half term has been on Aspire to be... and Hope. Next half term our PSHE focus is Healthy Me and our school value is Compassion.

Can I wish all the children a restful break next week and that we all look forward to you returning the week after as we begin to look towards Easter.

'Aspire to be' day on Friday 4th February:



The children looked amazing on Friday, thank you for all the work that went into the costumes and props – what a wide range of hopes for the future there were and such high hopes for their futures! It was a joy to visit each class and listen to children sharing their hopes for the future – it is our privilege to be part of their learning journey as they gather the knowledge and skills to help them try and achieve their ambitions.

We are hoping to be able to share some photos on Class Dojo so keep your eye out!

Staff News:

Miss Norris will be leaving us this Friday as she has managed to secure a teaching post nearer to where she lives; we are very sorry to be losing her and wish her every success in her career with this change. I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to recruit Mrs S Gretton to come and join us here at St Matthew's and I am sure you will all make her welcome.

Blue for a Loo!

Our Ethos Group, children who work with Miss Oates to consider how we can live out our values have been looking into the charity Water Aid who help people in developing countries to secure clean water and sanitary facilities. As we have new toilets being constructed at school, they want to help raise



toilet twinning

money to assist Water Aid in providing toilet facilities in countries where they need them. So, this Friday everyone is being invited to 'Wear Blue for a Loo!' and bring £1 a child (£2 for a family of 3 or more) which will go to Wat Aid. If we raise £240, we will be able to 'twin' our existing and new toilets (when they are finished!) with a block that is being developed somewhere in the world and get a certificate to show which toilet we are twinned with.

This is a great project to get involved in and I am delighted that the children have come up with this idea.

Getting in touch:

Further to previous messages, one or two people are using Class Dojo to contact Mr Mackley – please note that this is not the best way to get in contact with him. If you need to make contact please call the office on 01772 794482, messages via the office are the quickest way to get in touch.



Building Project:

To help you keep up with the exciting developments, we have created a page on the website where we will try to post photos and videos to show you the progress as things move along. The page can be found here <https://st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/about-us/building-project>

Food Market:

The half termly food market will be held in St Matthew's Church this Friday, 11th February between 2:30 and 3:15 pm.

Attendance & Covid:

The Government have changed the way we are required to record absences as a result of Covid – this is something that is out of our control and that we are required to do. Up until recently we have been able to record Covid related absences with a specific code that demonstrated that the absence was due to having the virus and not just a general 'illness'. We now have to record Covid as an illness, in line with all illness related absences. This may not mean much but it does mean that when we provide you with attendance data for your child at the end of the year or if we are having to monitor due to any attendance concerns, Covid related absences will no longer be separated out and will have to be considered as part of the general absence. This is not something we agree with but I am afraid it is something we have no choice over.

Prayer / thought for the week / reflection



Reflection:

In this week's worship we are thinking about famous people who have achieved because they worked hard and persevered when things got tough. Our challenge to ourselves is to follow our dreams and to work hard to make them happen – to work hard every day at school and to persevere, even when things are tough.

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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*Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal.
St Paul.*

Prayer:

*Lord God, help us as we work each day,
to do our best, to not give up when things are tough
and don't go how we want them to.
Help us to help each other as we build our hope in the future.
Amen.*

Events this term

Monday 7th Feb – Y2 & Y3 Fire Safety talk; Governors' Resources Committee Meeting

Friday 11th February – 'Wear Blue for a Loo!'

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| 14 th to 18 th Feb – Half Term week. |
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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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