



St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CIDARI**

NEWSLETTER 3 – 26th September 2023

Hello everyone and welcome to this latest newsletter. The term and school year are well and truly underway with everyone settling into their routines and learning taking place!

We recently had a visit from another Headteacher within the Cidari Multi Academy Trust and she was very complimentary about the wonderful atmosphere around St Matthew's and the good standard of behaviour of all the children both moving around the building and in lessons. It is always good to receive praise from others but we never 'rest on our laurels' and we are always looking to improve where we can.

There are some important reminders and important pieces of new information so please, read on!

SCHOOL DINNERS

A very important announcement for all those who pay for their child's school dinner. We are having to put the price per meal up to £2:50 from the 30th October.

We have worked hard to keep the prices down to £2:00 for many years but rising costs and shrinking budgets mean we are no longer able to subsidise the meals as we have been able to in the past.

This will probably cause some concern to many of you and we understand that. If you are concerned about the impact of this, please contact the school office staff who will provide information regarding applying for Free School Meals; not only can this provide your child with a hot meal each day if you are eligible but we also receive additional funding to support learning across the school.

School Admissions

School admissions now open for Reception Class September 2024

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery* you can now apply for their primary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 15 January 2024.

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you must now apply for their secondary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 31 October 2023.

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

For guidance on school transport see:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/>.

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	Jamal & Serah	Bareerah & Saad
Y1	Mia & Ivy-Rae	Catalea & Rayyan
Y2	Ocean, Ruhan Aayat & Ruben	Zaviyar & Zahrah
Y3	Charlie & Saad	Amardeep & all 3M
Y4	Michael & Eileen	Lily & Adam
Y5	Alexandra & Bobby	Aalyan & Leila
Y6	Briony & Esha	Pola & Muznah

We have a series of weekly challenges across school for the children to take part in, see below for the latest results

KS2 Maths Challenge	No-one managed to solve this week's challenge!
KS1 Maths Challenge	Challenges not yet started
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	4C got the best result last week. Make sure you log on and practise!
Numbots - KS1	Challenges not yet started
Geography Challenge	Cosmin correctly solved the Geography challenge last week!

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

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Attendance

We monitor attendance very closely here and we let you know each week what the latest attendance figures are.

Government expectations are at least 96% attendance. Attendance of 96% or better we highlight green; between 90 & 95% is a concern and we highlight that yellow. Below 90% is a serious concern and we highlight that red. Let's see how many year groups we can get green each week! (Please note, the figures are always a week in arrears)

It is very important that children are in their classes by 8:55am when the gates close as that is the start of the school day. Children who arrive after 9:30 am (without good reason) will actually be marked as an unauthorised absence, this is a government requirement.

Week ending 15th Sept:

Year group	% present in school	Number of late marks
Reception	94%	4
Year 1	90%	11
Year 2	94%	9
Year 3	93%	7
Year 4	96%	17
Year 5	94%	7
Year 6	94%	12

Overall attendance is a much better picture than the week before but the numbers of children arriving late is very concerning.

A reminder that we close the gates at 8:55am as **all children** should be in class ready to start at that time. Children should really be in school by 8:50am so that they are ready to start.

Reading Challenge!

We are again running the 'Golden Ticket' reward this year for reading. Any child who reads 10 times at home will earn a 'Golden Ticket'. The tickets are then drawn each term. The prize this year is a £20.00 voucher for children to purchase books of their choosing. Please support us by encouraging your child to read at home and remember to sign their diaries.

'The Big Ambition' Survey - The Childrens' Commissioner

A reminder that this survey is open until the 15th of December. The more people who respond to the survey, the better the understanding that decision makers have.

Every response counts! Click this link to access the survey

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/> or scan the QR code



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Coats!

A reminder to please ensure children bring a coat to school everyday; even if it is raining the children still go outside at break time for much needed fresh air! Last week we had a lot of children come to school without one.

Weather Warning!!

In case you hadn't seen, there is a Yellow Weather Warning in place for Wednesday with heavy rain and strong winds forecast. Please take extra care and consider setting off earlier for school in case there are delays due to the conditions.

Cars on Derby Square

The number of vehicles coming along Derby Square at the start and end of the day remains a cause for concern for us. With the very large number of pedestrians around at that time, there is a constant risk of injury. If possible, please park in a street away from school and walk the last short distance; if you must drive along Derby Square please be aware of the pedestrians, we have had several near misses when people are parking on the pavement whilst people are walking past!

Bishop's Harvest Appeal

This year for our Harvest Appeal we are supporting the new Bishop of Blackburn's Appeal to send support to a community in exile from South Sudan. The children will either have brought or will be bringing a sheet to stick 10p pieces on; they are expected to carry out a task to help out at home in return for 10p. The money will go to help the people buy and plant trees so that they can become self-sufficient.

If you want to know more, head over to our school website and watch the worship here:

<https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/blog/2023-09-25-07-00-00-harvest-2023> Please also read some of the comments left by the classes after the worship.

A prayer for refugees

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace.

Amen



Google Translate

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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!

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