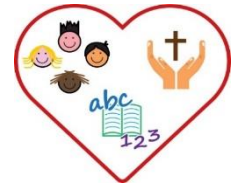




# St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



## NEWSLETTER 4 – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Our focus this half term is **Altogether Now** and our School Value focus is **Community**

<p>★ <b>Star of the week!</b> ★</p> <p><b>Reception</b> Haniya &amp; Maisha  <b>Year 1</b> Zakiyya &amp; Lindon  <b>Year 2</b> TJ &amp; Shazain  <b>Year 3</b> Sara &amp; Gabriela  <b>Year 4</b> Yasmin  <b>Year 5</b> McKenzie &amp; Maryam  <b>Year 6</b> Daria &amp; Abdus-Sami?</p>	<p>★ <b>Values Award</b> ★</p> <p><b>Reception</b> Daniel &amp; Nathan  <b>Year 1</b> Daria &amp; Muhammad  <b>Year 2</b> Mathias &amp; Angela  <b>Year 3</b> Hania &amp; Sofia  <b>Year 4</b> Lily  <b>Year 5</b> Milan &amp; Muhammed  <b>Year 6</b> Kacper &amp; Mazama</p>	<p>★ <b>Best attendance:</b> ★</p> <p>Year 5</p> <p><b>Best punctuality:</b></p> <p>Reception</p> <p><i>(Please note, this data is always a week in arrears!)</i></p>
<p><b>Weekly attendance by year group:</b>  <span style="background-color: green;">Green</span> - attendance better than 96% (Government target) - great!  <span style="background-color: yellow;">Yellow</span> - attendance below the target of 96% - a concern  <span style="background-color: red;">Red</span> - attendance of 90% or below - a great concern.</p>	<p><b>Reception</b> 93.2%  <b>Year 1</b> 91.2%  <b>Year 2</b> 94.4%  <b>Year 3</b> 92.9%  <b>Year 4</b> 95.1%  <b>Year 5</b> 95.6%  <b>Year 6</b> 98.6%  <b>Whole school total</b></p>	<p><b>Previous attendance figures</b>    <b>Latest Attendance figures</b></p> <p><b>Reception</b> 93.2%    <b>86.5%</b>  <b>Year 1</b> 91.2%    <b>94.6%</b>  <b>Year 2</b> 94.4%    <b>92.1%</b>  <b>Year 3</b> 92.9%    <b>94.8%</b>  <b>Year 4</b> 95.1%    <b>90.1%</b>  <b>Year 5</b> 95.6%    <b>97.5%</b>  <b>Year 6</b> 98.6%    <b>95.0%</b>  <b>Whole school total</b>    <b>93.1%</b></p>
<p><b>KS2 Maths Challenge:</b> Maryam P 6W for completing the imposter challenge</p>		
<p><b>Timetables Rock Stars:</b>          Most Improved - Maryam P, 6W          Fastest Rocker – Yusef, 6S</p> <p><b>Numbots:</b>          Highest score – Anjali, 1W</p>		

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the latest newsletter, please read through all sections as we want to make sure you have all the information and dates you need!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school – it is much appreciated.



### Harvest Festival – Bishop Julian's Appeal

*For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in.*  
 (Matthew 25:35)



At this time of year, Christian Churches celebrate and give thanks for the food and provisions we have and remember that there are others less fortunate than ourselves. We will be gathering as a school, hopefully in St Matthew's Church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October to celebrate our own Harvest Festival.

We are asking children to bring **'A POUND AND A PACKET'** on Friday.

The money will go towards the Bishop's appeal, supporting the work of the Mosamaria Trust working in South Africa with Vulnerable Children and Orphans. The packets will go to a local Foodbank. Please bring packets of dried food, pasta, rice, packets of sanitary products, toothpaste, baby wipes etc. As usual, we ask that you bring what you can – one donation per family is great and will make a big difference!

## Mayors' Award

We are looking forward to the Mayor's visit on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> to recognise the work of our school staff during the Pandemic. We have been awarded a 'Pandemic Heroes' Award from the Mayor. This work is all part of us putting our School Vision into action, making sure we care for all our pupils when in school or when learning at home, and it's a real honour to have this recognised. We are really looking to his visit!



## PE kits – change after half term holidays



We want to give parents and carers plenty of warning that after the October holidays, children can come to school in their PE kit on their PE lesson days. This will help reduce the number of lost items, and will also mean that precious PE time isn't taken up with getting changed – the children can get active straight away! Please note that this must be the school PE kit as shown on the website:

<https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/parents/uniform> Red T shirt, black

shorts or leggings. The usual school jumper can be worn and, if the weather is chilly, **then PLAIN BLACK JOGGERS** may be worn over the shorts or leggings. No 'branded' clothing please. If you aren't sure when your child's PE days are, please check the Curriculum letters on the Class Page section of the website, on Class DOJO, or ask their teacher. <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/children/class-pages>

## High School Applications – reminder – closing date 31<sup>st</sup> October

Year 6 pupils went on a super visit to a local High School last week. This is all part of their transition - getting ready to move on into the next stage of their education – it seems so early! They had a fabulous time and were busy all morning with a range of interesting activities.

If your child is currently in Year 6, please remember that the closing date for applications for Secondary School is the 31<sup>st</sup> October. All applications need to be made via the following link <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-online-for-a-school-place/> If you are applying to a faith based school, you will also need to complete their Supplementary Information Form.

Applications for Primary School places are also open and can be made via the same link. If you have a child starting Reception in September 2022 or you know someone who has, please make your application – the deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. We will be providing some sessions where we can show prospective parents around our school - details to follow.

## Attendance & punctuality

We are having a big 'push' in school on increasing attendance and punctuality. I'm sure you'll have seen the huge banners, and noticed even more reminders about this since we started back this year. The figures for attendance are on the newsletter each week and I am worried that so many classes are still yellow or red for attendance. This is all below the Government's figure of 96%. To stay within the target of 96% a child must be off only a very small number of days across the whole school year. The impact of not coming to school every day on children's learning and friendships is huge, and we really want these to improve.



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Please don't allow your child to take an odd day off for shopping, birthdays, to visit relative and friends, for a lie in or a little snuffle. **We need all our pupils in school every day - let's get all those classes to green!**

Miss Parkinson, our Family Support Worker, will be monitoring attendance closely along with Mrs Naik, and will supporting our children and families to get into school on time every day and stay 'green'!

Miss Parkinson will also be monitoring the children who arrive late each day to school – please note that arriving late at school may also be recorded as an unauthorised absence which could ultimately lead to a fine.

### **Request for Leave of Absence**

We do not allow or authorise time off school for holidays, and time off which is unauthorised can attract a fine. If you need to request some time off school for your child due to exceptional reasons, you must complete a request form before taking the leave. You will also be asked to attend a meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss the request **before any flights are booked or arrangements made.** Unfortunately, we have already had a number of requests in school since we returned after the holidays, and these families have had meetings with us in school to discuss these. We are pleased however, that a number of these families are now re-considering their arrangements. Please do not book any holidays or family visit during term time - **we need all our pupils in school every day.**

### **Community Police News**



Thank you for your help in keeping good order when our children are leaving school at the end of the day. It's a busy time, and our staff need to make sure that each child leaves safely with the correct adult! Due to some issues with illegal parking and vehicles stopping in the roadway, the police have informed us that they will be doing some random visits to Derby Square at beginning and end of the school day. Please help keep our roadways clear for children to cross safely – we don't want any accidents.

### **Prayer / thought for the week / reflection**

This week in Mr Mackley's worship we are reflecting on WHY we help others, and HOW we can help others and will be hearing about the Parable of the Good Samaritan which Jesus told in answer to the question 'Who is my Neighbour?' We are thinking about helping others – in particular our neighbours in need in Preston and those overseas when we support the Harvest collections for the Foodbank and for Bishop Julian's Harvest appeal later this week. Please remember to bring **'A Pound and a Packet'** on Friday to help these worth causes.

#### **Prayer:**

*A prayer inspired by the Parable of The Good Samaritan:*

God of love, give us a deep love for you,  
so that we can see the world as you see it,  
feel the compassion you feel,  
and be a people whose lives reflect and share your love with others.

So, open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw.  
Grant us the insight to see the need in others,  
the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it.

Amen



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### Key dates for the term:

- 29<sup>th</sup> September – Visit of Mayor
- 1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Festival
- 5<sup>th</sup> October – individual photos
- 19<sup>th</sup> October – Nasal Flu administered
- 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October- Half term – school closes at normal time
- 1<sup>st</sup> November – INSET day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November – school reopens
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Parents’/Carers’ Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity Play (details to follow)
- 17<sup>th</sup> December 2:00pm – School closes for Christmas Holiday

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