



# St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CIDARI**

## NEWSLETTER 4 –6th October 2023

Welcome to the latest newsletter - as I am writing this we are experiencing some much wanted dry weather. Such a welcome after the large amounts of rain we have had recently.

Quite a few important bits of information this week so please do read on. . .

### School Admissions

A reminder about school admissions to both Secondary school and primary school for September 2024. If your child is currently in Year, you **must** apply for a place for them for secondary school by 31st October, so time is running out. If you are unsure what to do, please contact your child's Year 6 teacher who will be happy to help.

#### 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](http://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](http://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.

For guidance on school transport see:

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

### Cashless Office

Wherever possible, please pay any money owed, especially dinner money (apart from toast money) via the School Money app.



schoolmoney

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

## 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 - w/e 29/9 | School Values Award - w/e 29/9    |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rec  | Nicholas & Fabian            | Michael & Elyf                    |
| Y1   | Tashneem & Viktor            | Faris & Yusuf                     |
| Y2   | Yana & Ellie                 | Essa & Daniel                     |
| Y3   | Justice & Muskan             | Daria & Zayd                      |
| Y4   | Adam & Aarsal                | Erum & Abdul H                    |
| Y5   | Sara & Firdous               | Ibrahim & Hania                   |
| Y6   | Maaidah & Hamzah             | Azmat, Mohammed A, Halima & Julia |

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         | Anabia 5B - correctly spotted the imposter calculation |
| KS1 Maths Challenge         | -  |
| Times Table Rockstars - KS2 | 5D were the winners of the battle of the bands!        |
| Numbots - KS1               | Chethan, 1st Place, Ridhwaan, 2nd place.               |
| Geography Challenge         | Aayat from 2G  |

## 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)

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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 22nd Sept:

| Year group | % present in school | Number of late marks |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Reception  | 95%                 | 7                    |
| Year 1     | 87%                 | 9                    |
| Year 2     | 93%                 | 6                    |
| Year 3     | 91%                 | 4                    |
| Year 4     | 96%                 | 16                   |
| Year 5     | 95%                 | 13                   |
| Year 6     | 93%                 | 18                   |

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; ideally children should be arriving no later than 8:50am so that they are in class and ready to start at 8:55am.

**Jewellery & PE**

A reminder of the post on Class Dojo last week:

All schools in England follow the guidelines produced by the Association for Physical Education to ensure that the PE provided is done as safely as possible.

Within their guidance it is made very clear that the removal of all jewellery is the safest approach for children, we follow that guidance.

Undertaking PE lessons is a key part not only of the National Curriculum but also for the good health of each child. Please can you ensure that on the days your child has PE that all ear rings are removed.

Some people have asked about taping over the ear rings. This is not a practice we endorse or follow as it is not as safe as removal. The guidance around taping makes it very clear that the amount of taping required is significant and would be very uncomfortable for a child.

We have also made it clear in our school policy that we do not allow the taping of ear rings.

Thank you for your support in this.

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## Hand, Foot & Mouth

We have had a number of cases amongst the younger children, mostly in the Reception class. Whilst unpleasant for those suffering from it, there is no need to keep children off school unless they are unwell. We have implemented additional cleaning in the affected areas and hope to see the numbers affected drop soon.

## Year 6 Behaviour out of school

We are glad that the vast majority of our children, including the vast majority of our Year 6 classes, are proud to be members of St Matthew's and work hard to uphold our reputation locally and to care for the local area. Sadly, last week some of our children let everybody down which included leaving large amounts of paper around the Derby Square area. The children involved cleared the mess under the supervision of school staff and we are addressing their behaviour with them.

We are sorry that a small number of children let everyone down and thank you all for your continued support.

## Gates

At the start of the day, the gate where Mr Mackley stands is for children in Years 1 & 2 to enter; the gate where Miss Young stands is for the juniors to enter (Reception children with elder siblings can also use this gate, but preferably the one on New Hall Lane).

To collect children at the end of the day, for Reception, Years, 3,4 & 6 enter by the gate on New Hall Lane **only**. We have had several parents trying to collect from Derby Square or even shouting at staff to send / bring children over. We will not be doing this and ask that everyone works with the system which ensures we hand children over to the right person, keeps a smooth flow of people without bumping into people coming the opposite way and also clears the yard in around 5 minutes at the end of the day.

We do have a small number of parents who **do** have consent to enter via Derby Square as their children have diagnosed mobility issues.

## Reflection

In our worship last week we considered the importance of taking responsibility for our own anger. We looked at when Jesus entered the temple and threw out the money lenders and stallholders who had turned a house of worship & prayer into a den of thieves.

We considered the difference between righteous anger which works for good and the anger which only causes upset.

You can watch the worship here if you wish

<https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/blog/2023-10-02-07-00-00-taking-responsibility-for-managing-our-own-anger>

Dear Lord,

Help us to know when it is right to be angry and to use our feelings and energy to make things better for other people.

Amen



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## Google Translate

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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