



NEWSLETTER 7 – 7th February 2025

I was hoping to get a newsletter out earlier in the term but with the visit of Ofsted in the second week followed by Hothersall Lodge with Y6 it has been somewhat busy so I have missed getting one out until now with only one more week until the half-term break!

As previously mentioned on Dojo, I am unable to share with you the outcomes of the inspection yet, but I am looking forward to being able to share the report with you just as soon as I receive it.

Thankfully, the daylight hours are getting longer and (at the time of writing this!) the sun is shining which always makes things look and feel a bit better.

Mr Mackley

Headteacher

Hothersall Lodge

This was, yet again, another wonderful few days where the children had the opportunity to get stuck into a range of adventurous activities and to learn more about themselves and their resilience. We had mixed weather, including the very high winds of Storm Eowyn (which made canoeing very interesting!) but none of it stopped us doing the full range of activities. The centre staff were brilliant at arranging the activities so that the weather would not be an issue and ensure that we all remained safe.

It was a joy to be with the children and to see them having such a good time and we remain very grateful to our own school staff, Mr Ward, Mrs Rossall, Miss Young, Miss Harrison (& super sub Miss Richardson) for giving their own time up to enable the children to have this experience.

We have already pre-booked the centre for the end of January next year so that Year 5 families can begin saving/paying early to enable their children to attend. More details will follow soon.

Leave of Absence and Excessive Leave

A reminder that children should not be taken out of school for holidays / trips abroad to see family during term time. The impact on learning from even a few days' absence is significant.

As a reminder, the law around this has been significantly increased with effect from January 1st this year. Any child taken out of school for 15th days or more is classed as having excessive leave; such absences will be considered for prosecution with a maximum fine of £2500 and a criminal record.

The penalty notices have also increased.

If you are considering such leave, you must speak with the office staff to collect an application form and book an appointment with Mr Mackley **before** making any travel arrangements.

P.E. Kits

Thank you for working with us on getting the children to bring PE kits to change into in school, it is mostly running well and the children are very much getting used to getting changed in school.

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

We are still seeing some children not bring the correct kit, for information on what is appropriate PE kit, please visit [Uniform | St Matthew's Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery](#)

Please also remember to put your child's name on **every** item of clothing!

End of the school day

Following the repairs to the gate, we are now 'back to normal' at the end of the day with the exception of Year 4 who are remaining on the large MUGA to be collected at the end of the day.

Reception, Year 3 & Year 6 remain in the smaller yard - **PLEASE** can we remind parents to enter this yard by the New Hall Lane gate only in order to keep the gates congestion free at this important time. Thank you.

Reception Classrooms

Thankfully, the works to repair the floors in both Reception classrooms and the additional drainage outside have been completed. Both classrooms have had new flooring and been redecorated as part of these works. I am grateful to the Reception class staff for their resilience and patience with the disruption these works caused and for ensuring that learning continued in spite of this.

Pharmacy First – an NHS service being offered from pharmacies across England for children and adults



Most pharmacies in England are now providing the Pharmacy First service.

This free NHS service allows you to get quick access to healthcare advice for the following seven conditions:

Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)

Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)

Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)

Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)

Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

If you have symptoms that suggest you may have one of these conditions, you can walk into a pharmacy and be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room.

The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically necessary, a prescription medicine to treat the condition (NHS prescription charges apply if you normally pay for medicines supplied on prescription).

Think Pharmacy First! Find out more by watching the [Pharmacy First animation](#) or visiting nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst

Stars of the Week & Values Award

Week ending 10th January 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Saba & Abdullah	Muhyiddin & Oscar
Y1	Safiya & Aryan	Azlan & Muhammad F
Y2	Tara & Zahrah	Hafsah & Sofia
Y3	Sara & Ocean	Poppy & Dhruva
Y4	Adan & Zayd	Baksheesh & Maaz
Y5	Adam B & Ralal	Sophia & Marius
Y6	Bobby & Reis	Demii-Leigh, Michael & Kian

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs Bryden)	-
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	-
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	-
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	Anthony (Y2), Azriel (Y2) & Thea (Y2)
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	Reis (Y6)

Week ending 17th January 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Robert & Dhruv	Ameena & Muhammed
Y1	Elyf & Luke	Huzaifa & Charlotte
Y2	Yousha & all 2G	Anees & Aida
Y3	Maria & Mason	Mathias, Lilly, Poppy, Lola, Yusuf & Denton
Y4	Ibtesam & Ometere	Kinza & David
Y5	Ismael & Oscar	All 5B & Marliss
Y6	Zarrar & Alveena	Samuel & Ryan

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs Bryden)	Hamza Y6 - shopping challenge solved!
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	-
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	3H won! Daniel H was most valuable player.
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	Zainab (1st), Musa (2nd) Manulya (3rd)
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	Harper in Y3 solved the challenge.

Week ending 24th January 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Hareem & Dominic	Illyeen & Lena
Y1	Laibah & Umairah	Thomas P & Eva
Y2	Raihan	Sana
Y3	Fabritio & Maryam	Nelly & Divine
Y4	Patrick & Uzair	Ali & Mohammed M
Y5	Hibah & Shama	Dora & Abdullah
Y6	All Y6	All Y6

Week ending 31st January 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Gabriela & Dragos	Alex & Emily
Y1	David & Sofia	Cobe & Rohan
Y2	Jakub & Hafsa	Layla & Maher
Y3	Haniya & Alishba	Leo & Gethyn
Y4	Amardeep & Anaya	Iasmina & Ometere
Y5	Romeo & Loreta	Ammaarah & Shazain
Y6	Aizah & Amna	Rebeca & Izzah

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs	Massimo (Y6)
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Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Bryden)	
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	Bhavik
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	5D Erum was the most valuable player.
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	Zahra Y2 (1st) Ivy-Rae Y2 (2nd) Ahmed Y1 (3rd)
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	Divine from Y3 solved the challenge!

Week ending 7th February 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Illyeen & Dominic A	Zainab & Noor
Y1	Umaimah & Manulya	Iqra & Ahmed
Y2	Raihan & Ivy-Rae	Alessia & Natalia
Y3	Ruben & Ridhwaan	Mohammed F & Harper
Y4	Ibtesam & Lola	Kinza & Amelia
Y5	Nasir & Habiba	Andreaa & Aiman
Y6	Zain & Michael	Sara & Zahra

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs Bryden)	-
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	Jakub, Y2. calculated how many stamps were bought altogether
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	6W beat 6R (convincingly!) Firdous was the most valuable player. Next week - Y4 v the teachers!
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	1st - Ahmed (Y2), 2nd Kamshire (Y2), 3rd, Mohammad M (Y1)
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	Joshua (Y5) correctly identified that East Pakistan was renamed Bangladesh.

Attendance

This is the data for the week ending **31st January 2025** and the numbers are not as good as they could be. Let's get everyone to school everyday and on time!



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Class:	Number of Late Marks:	Year Group	Present Marks
RH	3	Rec	91.7%
RT	0		
1C	2	Y1	94.66%
1SW	2		
2G	7	Y2	89.47%
2R	1		
3H	2	Y3	89.83%
3M	1		
4C	1	Y4	94.5%
4CH	2		
5B	2	Y5	94.07%
5D	5		
6R	6	Y6	94.5%
6W	4		

Reflection & Prayer

In our worships this half term we have been continuing to look at some of the Parables of Jesus and how we can learn of God's love for us through them.

This week we focused on the Presentation of the Infant Christ in the Temple, a feast known as Candlemas around the world. The Christian faith uses this time to remind ourselves of Christ being the light of the world and an example to follow. There is rejoicing with Simeon and Anna who were rewarded for a lifetime of faith with seeing the Christchild before they died.

*Dear God,
Thank you for people who guide us in our lives.
Thank you for those who care for us and love us.
Please help us to be lights to those around us, bringing hope and peace.*
Amen

All our worships can be viewed online here <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/blog/category/worship>

Google Translate

If you need to translate this newsletter into your own language, please feel free to use [Google Translate](#) . 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 31 languages other than English which are spoken here at St Matt's!

