



# St Matthew's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CDARI**

## NEWSLETTER 8 –9th November 2023

Hello everyone, you will have seen the exciting news on Dojo last night that Pudsey Bear is coming to visit on Monday afternoon! The BBC's annual Children in Need appeal is a vital lifeline for many charities in our country who support children in a wide range of challenging situations. We really do appreciate that the cost of living is a challenge for many people but if you are able to send in £1 per child it would make a huge difference to many of the charities.

On Monday children can come in something yellow or spotty or just their own clothes to help make a splash of colour for when Pudsey arrives!

### End of day - collecting children from the playgrounds

We put the one way system into place in order to ensure that we could safely hand children over at the end of the school day and make sure that adults on the playgrounds were not colliding with each other by walking in opposite directions.

This system was carefully considered and thought out and does work as long as you work with us to ensure it runs smoothly. We are grateful to the overwhelming majority who follow the systems; please can we ask those who are not to please use the correct gates and to wait for teachers to hand children over rather than calling your child for them to run to you - we want to be certain that each child is collected safely. Thank you for your support with this.

### Lates and arriving on time

Each day we have a large number of children regularly arriving late for school. The gates are closed at 8:55am as that is the time that learning begins - by arriving even a few minutes late on a regular basis means your child misses out on a large amount of learning.

We strongly advise being at the gates for 8:45am when they open so that your child can make the most of being ready to learn as soon as the day begins.

### Jewellery & PE

We are still seeing a lot of children come to school wearing earrings on PE days. Please can we remind you that participation in PE is a statutory requirement of the National Curriculum and that our school policy, which follows national guidelines, is that **all** jewellery must be removed to take part in PE lessons.

### Wraparound Childcare Survey - a message from Lancashire County Council

Dear Parents/Carers

We are looking to find out your views on childcare for primary school aged children. If you do not currently use childcare before or after school, we would still like your feedback.

From Sept 2024, the government have announced funding for a national wraparound childcare programme. This is to enable schools and local providers to set up and expand before and after school (wraparound) childcare provision and can include private, voluntary and independent organisations, schools and childminders. The wraparound childcare can operate on a school site or at another setting in the area, term time only.

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

To support the delivery of this programme, we need to understand your wraparound childcare needs. If you currently use before or after school childcare and the opening times do not meet your needs, we would like to hear about what could work for you.

We would be delighted if you could complete the survey by clicking this link <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/vt082j> or scanning the QR code below using a mobile or digital device. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.



Thank you in advance for taking the time to assist us.

Childcare Sufficiency Team  
 Education Improvement Service (0-11)  
 Lancashire County Council  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)  
[schoolschildcare@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolschildcare@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Stars of the Week & Values Award**

Year	Stars of the week	Values Award Winners
Rec	Anete & Hadiya	Charlotte & Musa
Y1	Satnam & Larisa	Safa & Maher
Y2	Alexia N & Khadija	Kiana & Lilly
Y3	Anjali & Areesha	Usman & Paul
Y4	Sophia & Angela	Ranveer & Marius
Y5	Zara & Alveena	Lisa & Gabriela
Y6	Kayden & Ibrahim	Senna & Zahra

KS2 Maths Challenge	
Times Table Rockstars - KS2	5D had a comprehensive victory over 6W! Izzah B was the most valuable player.

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Numbots - KS1	Most improved: 1st - Menaal, 2nd - Muhammad Bin, 3rd - Zainab B
Geography Challenge	Week before ½ term - Kainaat (Identified the colour of the Polish flag) This week - Ibtesam who correctly identified there are 7 continents.

## 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 20th October:

Year group	% present in school	Number of late marks
Reception	95.08	5
Year 1	92	9
Year 2	96.34	5
Year 3	93.64	4
Year 4	96.31	14
Year 5	97.23	12
Year 6	93.13	12

## Reflection

In our worship this week we began considering the value of RESPECT. We learnt of St Hilda of Whitby and Caedmon who, following a dream, wrote a beautiful hymn of praise of God's Creation which is still sung today and is better known as "How Great Thou Art".

## Prayer

Thank you Lord for the beauty of creation.

You created a beautiful and amazing world which we know we need to work hard to look after, Please help all those people who are working so hard to care for your world and its people and help us as we do our best too. **Amen**

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