









NEWSLETTER 9 – 13th January 2023

 Star of the week W/e 6/1		 Values Award W/E 6/1	 	 Attendance data (W/e 6/1/2023)
Reception Darius & Antonya Year 1 Dhruva & Chetan Year 2 Zayd P & Hasnain Ali Year 3 Natan & Aarsal Year 4 Izzah & Year 5 Briony & Rumaisa Year 6 Safa B & Gabriel		Reception Ayaan & Menaal Year 1 Leo & Alexia Year 2 Muskan & Ethan Year 3 Maya & Oscar Year 4 Alexandra Year 5 Humairah & Zahra Year 6 Divine & Poppie		Punctuality Year 4 Attendance Year 6 <i>Well done everybody!</i>
Weekly attendance by year group: ■ Attendance better than 96% (Government target) - great! ■ Attendance below the target of 96% - a concern ■ Attendance of 90% or below - a great concern. <i>Let's try and get 96% or better and get some green!</i>		Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	Previous attendance figures 91.3% 85.8% 93.4% 90.2% 93.8% 89.6% 97.9%	Latest figures 87.6% 86.9% 93.3% 88.3% 96.4% 91.4% 97.5%

Dear all,

Welcome back to the new term and the new calendar year! IT is really good to see everyone again and be back together as a school family.

I hope you are all, like us, looking forward to this term and all the possibilities and opportunities that it will bring!

Staffing

At the end of last term Mrs Grilli left us to pursue her career elsewhere and I am delighted that we have been able to secure the services of Miss Houghton, a very experienced teacher, who will be teaching 1S. She has already been made to feel very welcome by the children and the staff and I am sure you will get to know her over the term.

We are also very pleased to welcome Mrs Walton (not our previous Deputy Head!) who is teaching across the infants Mon, Tue & Wed and Mr Ford who will be teaching across the juniors on Thursdays and Fridays.

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

New Building

We are finally in - sort of... We have managed to get the main office and Mrs Jordan's office open and are awaiting the delivery of the furniture for the rest of it. We hope that you like the much improved main entrance which has much more space and is much lighter.

By the end of the month we are also hoping to have our new school sign above the door so that everyone going past knows who we are!

School Day Times

Many thanks indeed for your patience and your support in the new systems we have in place. As expected, we had some difficulties and challenges at the start but it appears to be running well. It is very important that people do follow the one way system as that means we **do** make sure children are passed to the correct adult and we manage to enable around 410 children and their families to leave within less than 10 minutes. We appreciate that this system is not to everyone's liking but please, do not be abusive towards staff who are carrying out their jobs; it is very sad that some staff have been subjected to insults and offensive comments.

Thank you too for the much improved punctuality in the mornings - we are closing the gates at 8:55am with very few people running to get in on time. There are people who are arriving late on a regular basis, please do make every effort to get your child here on time so that they can make the best possible start to their learning day.

General Items

A reminder that children should only bring water into school, no juices or fizzy drinks please.

PE kit is only to be worn on days the children have PE, details are available via Class Dojo.

For safety reasons, all long hair should be tied back.

SATs

Later this school year, our Year 2 and Year 6 children will undertake their end of Key Stage Assessments. Keep an eye out for a letter coming home next week for details of booster books to purchase to support your children.

We are also planning some information meetings for parents of children in Years 2 & 6 very soon.

Swimming

Well done to children from Year 4 & Year 5 who began their swimming lessons this week; behaviour and effort were fabulous and we are very proud of them. Apologies to the parents of children in Year 4, the delayed return was out of our control and was the result of a broken down vehicle blocking the road and causing significant delays.

Reflection & Prayer

This half term with Mr Mackley, we are thinking about the words of Mahatma Gandhi who encouraged us to be the change we want to see in the world.

We began this week by thinking back to the Wise Men and how they journeyed and studied and waited a long time for the

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change they wanted to see. We thought about their hopes and dreams for the future and what ours might be for ourselves and our St Matthew's family.

God of heaven and earth

You showed your Son, Jesus, to every nation when you led the wise men to him by the light of a star. We want people to find Jesus, your light, here amongst us.

Bless this, the home of our school family, and all who come through our doors this year. May all who come here find God's peace, comfort, joy, hope and love, for Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, has come to live among us in this place and in these hearts.

We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen

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