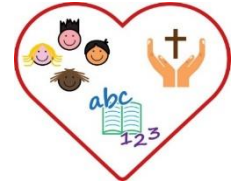


St. Matthew's C.E. Primary School

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



NEWSLETTER – 12th April 2021

★ St Matthew's Half Term Achievers ★	★ St Matthew's Star Writers ★	★
Reception Muhammad & Erika Year 1 Cosmin & Angela Year 2 Imaan & Zara Year 3 Sofia & Briony Year 4 Lara & Aaminah Year 5 Krystal & Muhammadhasnain Year 6 Anas & Aisha	Reception Muskan & Ayesha Year 1 Zainab & Hiba Year 2 Juwairiyah & Freya Year 3 Halima & Mohammed Year 4 Heena & Patrycja Year 5 Mazama & Nadiya Year 6 Rida & Oliver	★
		Best attendance Year 1 Best punctuality Year 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone, in spite of the rather chilly weather we have been having, it is officially the summer term!

As with many around the world, we are saddened by the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh after a long life of dedicated service to his Queen and country. School are following the protocols asked of us as a Church of England school and we will be holding an act of worship on Tuesday morning to remember with thanks the life of the Duke of Edinburgh and on Friday we will be holding a period of silence as part of our weekly worship.

In recognition of the period of national mourning, I will be avoiding bright colours and will wear a dark coloured tie. Prince Philip was a very interesting man, I have learned much about him over the last couple of days that I was not aware of. Not only his very challenging early life, but his dedicated service within the Royal Navy and his devoted service to the Queen throughout her very long and successful reign. He put her before himself and sacrificed his own career in order to support her as the monarch of our country. Of course, he was human and so was not perfect but he had many qualities which we would do well to emulate. It is quite fitting that the value I will be looking at in our worship this term is 'service'.

If you would like to sign our book of condolence, it is available here [Remembering HRH Prince Philip | St Matthew's Church of England Primary School and Nursery \(st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/remembering-hrh-prince-philip) or via the link on the home page of the school website. The book will be available until next Sunday, the day after the funeral.

Very best wishes,

Mr Mackley

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire PR1 5XB Tel: 01772 794482 Fax: 01772 655481

Email: bursar@st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk Website: www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk

School Nursery

A very warm welcome to the new children & their families who are joining our Nursery this week, we are delighted that you are joining our school family. Our Nursery is now full which is marvellous!

School Rules

We have some new, simplified school rules, which are 'Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful'. These, along with an updated system for managing behaviour are based on our core school values and are intended to enable each member of our school family to know how to behave so that all are welcomed, respected and cared for.



The rules and systems have been shared with the children and we are looking forward to celebrating more and more, the positive impact of the good behaviour of our children.

Ramadan

As this period begins this evening, I wanted to let you know the expectations and arrangements in place regarding children choosing to observe the fast. All children attending school are still expected to take part in all aspects of school life, including PE which is a statutory requirement of the National Curriculum.

We understand that normally children aged 11yrs and over would be expected to fast during Ramadan, and therefore would expect very few children in school will be fasting. However, we are aware that some children may choose to fast. We are anticipating that the majority of children wishing to fast will be in Years 5 and 6, and we respectfully request that lower junior children and infant age children do not fast during the week. Younger children may want to fast at weekends where energy levels can be conserved.

We have sent home a letter tonight with the Year 5 and Year 6 children which has further details and also a consent form which must be completed and returned to school if your child intends to fast.

We extend our good wishes to all our families observing Ramadan as you look towards the Eid Celebrations at the end.

Attendance



A reminder that it is very important for children to come to school everyday and on time so that they do not miss out on any vital learning experiences. We know that this has been a very unusual and tricky year and now we are back in school, we want children to be making the most of every opportunity to learn that we can offer.

Mrs Naik has been reviewing attendance figures and as a result, some families may be receiving a letter over the next weeks as their child's attendance has fallen below the minimum target of 96%. We do understand that children get ill and that sometimes missing school has to happen; however, just like you, we want the children to be in school as much as possible.

When a child's attendance levels are below 90%, this is classed as 'persistent absence' by the Government and could mean engagement with local authority attendance officers.

Headteacher: Mr M Mackley

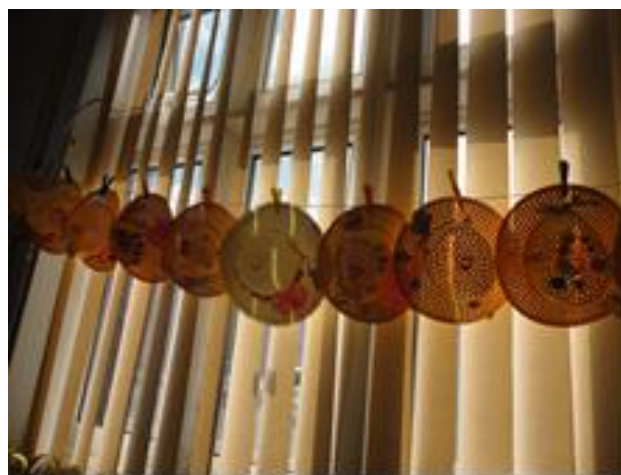
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Can we remind you that if you are likely to be wanting your child to have time away from school (not for medical reasons) you must request a meeting with either Mr Mackley (Headteacher) or Mrs Walton (Deputy Headteacher) to discuss your request **before** you make any bookings.

Easter Pause Day

Just before we finished for Easter, we spent a day as a school to pause and reflect on the events of Easter and why they are important for Christians around the world. The children (& staff!) had a great day and here are a few photos of what we did:



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Prayers

Remember, O Lord, your servant Philip,
who has gone before us with the sign of faith
and now rests in the sleep of peace.

According to your promises,
grant to him and to all who rest in Christ,
refreshment, light and peace;
through the same Christ our Lord





Amen

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the Queen and the Royal Family with
your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by
their loss, but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Dates for your diary:

-  May Day Holiday – Monday 3rd May
-  Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
-  PTFA Meeting 15th June, 2pm
-  School Closes for the summer – Friday 16th July.

Governor Meetings:

-  Curriculum & Standards Committee – 26th April
-  Resources Committee – 10th May
-  Vision & Ethos Committee – 17th May
-  Full Governing Board – 14th June

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