



"I am with you always" Matthews 28:20



LOVE



RESPECT



CREATIVITY



FRIENDSHIP

This Term's Value is:
Compassion

"Clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and
patience.

Colossians 3.12

See what we've been up
to this week:

Visit the class pages on
the school website to
find out more

www.st-matthews.bolton.sch.uk

A Note from the Headteacher

Well we have made it to the end of term
and what a strange one it has been!

Thank you for continuing to support
your children in their education both at
home and in school.

The children have had a great 3 weeks
back in school and managed to take part
in lots of exciting activities, trips out of
school and Red Nose day! Have a look
and see what has been going on in the
pages below.

Let's hope the spring sunshine makes an
appearance over the coming weeks and I
wish you all 'Happy Easter Holidays'!

Miss Ritchie



Dates For Your Diary

Easter Holidays

School closes at 1.00pm on
Wednesday 31st March
2021, children may wear
their own clothes.

School reopens on Monday
19th April 2021.

**Please Note—Nursery will
be closed to all pupils on
Wednesday 31st March
2021**

New term starts

Monday 19th April 2021

School closed Monday 3rd
May 2021—Bank Holiday

School closed Thursday 6th
May 2021—Local elections

Important reminders

The timings to the school day. All classrooms will be open at the start of the day from 8:45am. Every pupil **MUST** be in school ready to learn by 9:00am. If they arrive after this time they will get a late mark.

Children finish at the end of the day at the following times:

Y1, Y3, Y5 will finish school at 2:55pm

Reception and Y4 will finish school at 3pm

Y2 and Y6 will finish at 3:05 pm

Uniform

Girls

skirts/pinafore dresses (grey/black), trousers (grey/black)

sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece/cardigans (navy blue)

blouses/shirts/polo-necked shirts (white)

socks/tights (white/grey/black)

footwear – black shoes/trainers (all black including laces, no obvious logos)

Boys

trousers (grey/black)

sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece (navy blue)

shirt/polo-necked shirts (white)

socks (white/grey/black)

footwear – black shoes/trainers (all black including laces, no obvious logos)

Children should come dressed to school in school uniform everyday ***unless*** they have P.E. when they should come ready dressed in suitable P.E. kit.

PE Kit for both boys and girls is as follows:

White polo shirt or T-shirt

Dark (navy blue, black, grey) jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts

Dark (navy blue, black, grey) sweatshirt/ fleece

Black Trainers or pumps

Please check on your child's class page to see when their P.E. days are.

St Matthew's Prayer

Dear God,

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do.

Amen

Ethos Team Challenge

Think about the words lost and found.

How can we comfort people who feel lost?

How can we show compassion to those who wish to be found?



Reflection Time

Think of a time when someone has showed you compassion.
When did they show you compassion? Why did they show you compassion? How did it make you feel?



A message from Mrs Sharples, our Pastoral Manager

Parents- Looking after yourself

Being a parent can be challenging in everyday situations. Now, more than ever, taking care of your mental health is important. Staying at home more or having to work during a difficult situation can put different pressures on everyone. If you're struggling, it's okay to reach out for support from friends, families, school and organisations that are here to help.

Changes to our mental health can sometimes affect children and their well-being. They may pick up on your anxiety or low mood.

This doesn't mean you should hide your feelings. You can try to explain them using phrases like, "It's ok to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown up's job to look after the children."

When things are different to what we're used to and everyone is going through a big change, it's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being so don't be afraid of doing something for yourself to take care of your own well-being. And reach out if you need help. Staff in St Matthew's are here should you need any support or signposting to other services. Don't be afraid to ask for help; we're all in the same boat.

If you would like a confidential chat or signposting to other support services, please call the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Sharples.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance Information

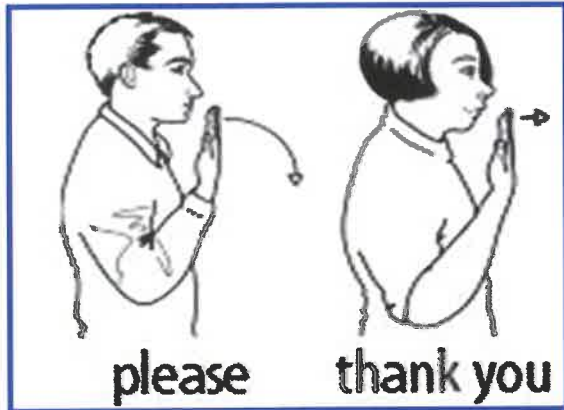
(Monday 8th March — Friday 19th March 2021)

Our school attendance for 2020 / 2021 target is 96%

The last two weeks whole school attendance was 96.2%

Rec E—94.3%
Mrs Elliott
Rec S—96.4%
Miss Smith
Y1B—96.4%
Miss Bateman
Y1D—91.0%
Mrs Davidson
Y2B—97.3%
Miss Burkmar
Y2W—96.5%
Mrs Shaw
Y3F—99.0%
Miss Foster
Y3J—98.4%
Mrs Johnson
Y4C—96.3%
Mr Currid
Y4R—95.7%
Mrs Rotherham
Y5M—96.8%
Miss Manly
Y5R—97.4%
Miss Ramshaw
Y6C/M—95.7%
Mrs Clarkson
Y6P—96.2%
Mrs Phillips

Sign of the Week



We have been busy learning lots of new signs since we returned to school. We now know: hello, good morning, good afternoon, please and thank you!

Keep practising these at home and visit our website for helpful videos.

Back to school support

Back to School Transition Advice Family Lives have created some useful resources to support the transition from lockdown back to school.

Have a look at their website for more information:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/familylife/back-to-school-transition-after-lockdown/>

Comic relief

We raised a fabulous £454.35 for Comic Relief. We dressed in red, with silly socks and wacky hair. The whole school had a brilliant day. We played team games, did a craft, did a quiz and decorated a biscuit. Thank you to everyone who donated money to a great cause.



On the 17th March, Year 6P went for a walk up Winter Hill. The Year 6 Team planned the trip to help us all readjust to being back together, strengthen teamwork and build resilience. The children and staff all had an amazing, enjoyable time.



Year 1 had so much fun visiting Moss Bank Park on Monday. The teachers are so proud of how well behaved they were.



Reception

Reception have been enjoying coming to craft club. The children have made their own photo frames and Easter eggs!



Y2

On Friday Bluebells went to Jumbles Country Park for a walk.

Luckily the weather stayed dry for us and we had a great time.



Y4

Y4 have been learning about the Ancient Greek empire. We dressed up as Greeks, looked at artefacts from Athens and Sparta, made Greek coins and then acted out a Greek myth. We had lots of fun.



Y4

Woodpeckers and Goldfinches have been studying the ancient Greeks this term. We have had a wonderful time learning about the myths, Gods, different city states and the Olympics. We were visited by an ancient Spartan soldier and Athenian lady, made clay coins, performed ancient



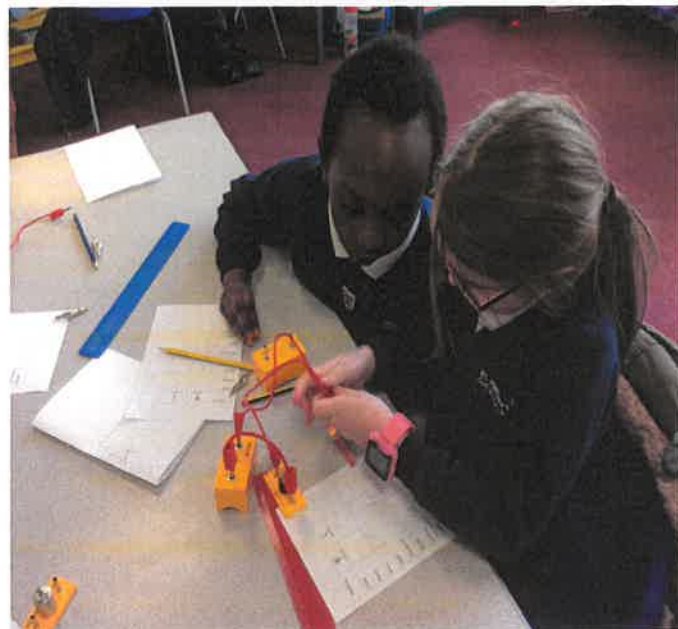
Y4

Woodpeckers and Goldfinches went to Moss Bank park last week and had a great time. We played lots of team games, as well as having fun on the adventure playground and climbing trees. Members of the public commented on how nice it was to see children outside enjoying themselves once again .



Y3

Year 3 have had a lovely few weeks in school. We have read Iron Man and George's Marvellous Medicine and done some work on them. We have explored 2D and 3D shapes and have been learning to tell the time. We planted grassy heads and said kind words to them to help them grow. We explored circuits on Science Day. We explored magnets and made a magnetic maze game. We made a worry doll to tell our worries to. We made a metal sculpture. We discussed forgiveness. We made and flew kites. We did Cosmic Yoga, hockey, dodgeball, Just Dance. We played in the sand pit. We had a brilliant day exploring Jumbles. We painted birds. We made Mother's Day cards, Easter cards and Easter crafts. We discussed the amazing NHS. We did drumming.





NUT Free School

We children in school with a nut allergy which means that all staff and parents must be vigilant about ingredients we use in school and items put into lunch boxes. No nuts or snacks containing nuts should be put into packed lunches.

Peanut allergy is the second most common food allergy in children and this is increasing. It now occurs in 1 in 50 children.

As we now have a pupil in school who suffers from a severe nut allergy please could I take this opportunity to explain to everyone that our school has now become a "Nut Free School. " If our pupil comes into contact with a nut product, they can suffer life threatening consequences. It can be easily initiated from a simple handshake or touching of a pupil's table who may have had some nuts in their food. Therefore children **must not** bring nuts or nut products as snacks into school at any time.

We ask that you do not provide your child with any products containing nuts in their lunch box: Some examples:

- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Nutella
- Peanut butter
- Cakes made with nuts
- Muesli bars
- Baklava
- Any nuts

School will be making regular checks on the children's lunches to ensure these rules are being followed.

Whilst we know some children like to bring in cakes/chocolates for their classmates to celebrate their birthday we ask that they do not bring in anything that contains nuts, if they do then unfortunately they will not be handed out and will be sent home unopened, which could lead to lots of disappointment.

We have a rule not to use nuts in any of our food prepared on site at our school. Our suppliers provide us with nut-free products, however, we cannot guarantee freedom from nut traces.

Please help us in providing a nut free school and assisting those parents who have a child who may have a life threatening reaction by children **not** bringing nuts or nut products as snacks into school at any time.

Many thanks for your support.

An easy way to improve children's reading!



You may have seen some news articles recently about the impact of turning on the subtitles while children are watching television: it can actually double the chances of them becoming good at reading! 10 seconds of effort (if you can work out how to do it on your TV!) can make a huge difference for your children. This is all backed up by decades of scientific research and is a quick, simple, free way to make TV time, reading time.

Visit <http://www.turnonthesubtitles.org> for further information.

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7** Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: [eef.ac.uk/eef-research/preparing-for-literacy](https://www.eef.ac.uk/eef-research/preparing-for-literacy)

Education Endowment Foundation (2018).

Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

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Breadmore, H.J., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).

Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: [educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf)



Education
Endowment
Foundation



Free School Meals

Even if your child is currently receiving Universal Free School meals, because they are in either Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, if you think that you might be entitled to standard free school meals, because you meet the criteria below it is very important that you still apply for them.

You can get further help on how to apply at the One Stop Shop in Bolton Town Hall.

What are free school meals? They are school dinners for children between the ages of 4 and 16 who attend full time school (but not private schools). They may also be awarded to some children outside this age range who attend full time school or nursery.

Do I qualify? To qualify you or your partner must be getting one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit only (but no award of Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income, as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190.

What evidence is required & how do I apply? You need to provide an up to date document showing that you are getting one of the above benefits. You do not need to make a separate claim if you are already getting or have applied for Housing Benefit / Council Tax Support. We will use the information and evidence you have already provided to confirm your entitlement,

If you would like to make a claim this can be done by;

- Telephoning 01204 331590 or
- Visit our website www.bolton.gov.uk (search for free school meals)

In addition from **September 2014** children who are attending full time at any Sixth form college (not private) may also be eligible.

Washing your hands

Step 1 Wet hands under warm running water.

1



Step 2 Add soap to aid cleaning and to kill germs.

2



Step 3 Rub well for at least 15 seconds.

3



Remember
Rub the front and
back of your hands
well and between
your fingers!



Step 4 Rinse well under warm running water.

4



Step 5 Dry hands with clean paper towels.

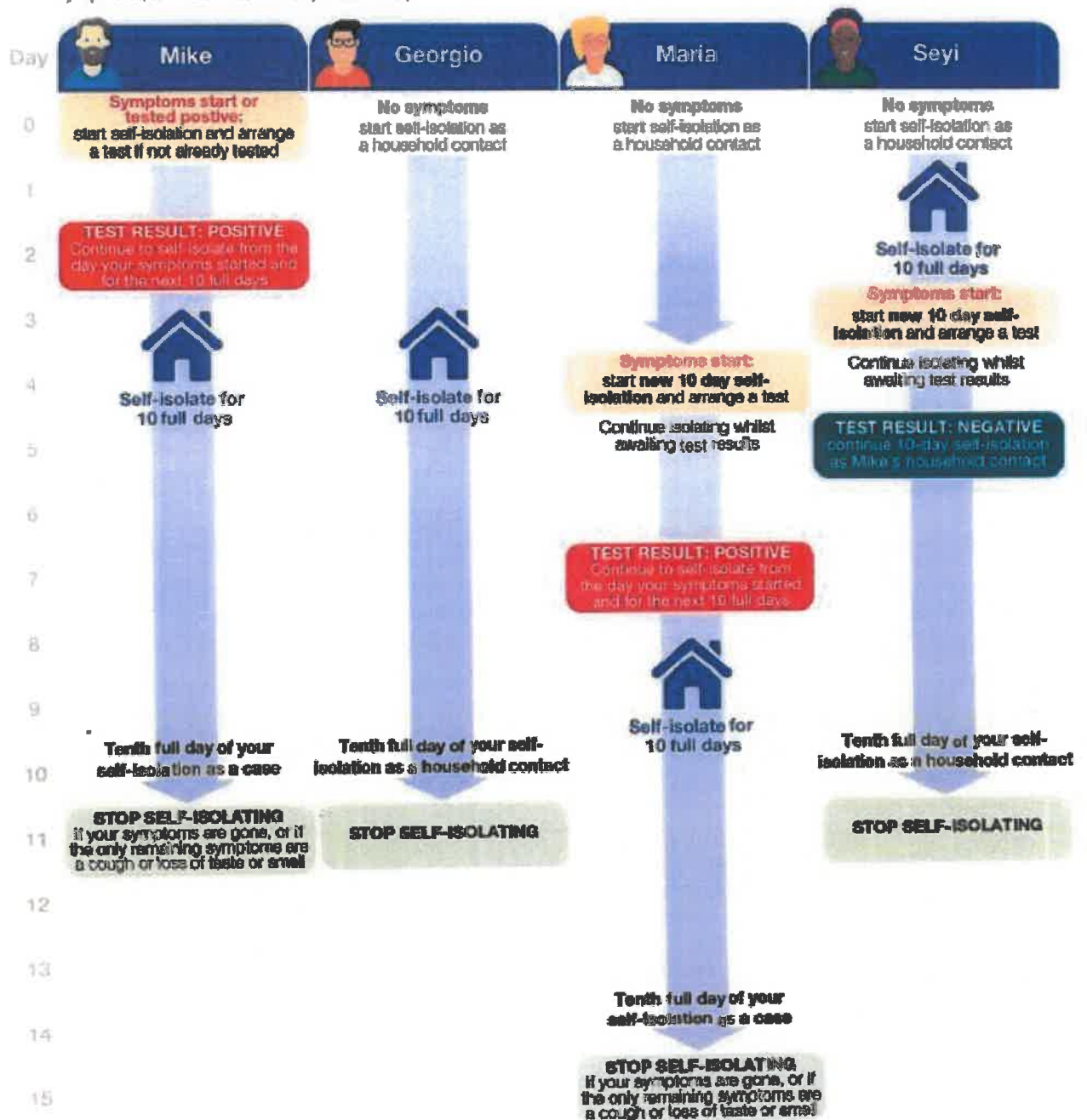
5



Stay at home and self-isolate.

Please see [detailed guidance online](#).

Mike's household: In this example, Mike lives with Georgio, Maria and Seyi. Mike is the first case of COVID-19 in this household. He and everyone in the household begin self-isolating from the day Mike's symptoms start (or if he had no symptoms, from the date of his positive test).



Self-isolate for 10 full days.

You need to self-isolate from the day the first person in your household started symptoms and for the next 10 full days. If they did not have symptoms, self-isolate from the day of their test and for the next 10 full days.

To self-isolate means:

Do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. Only leave your home to get to your test if you need to, observe strict social distancing advice and return immediately afterwards.

