

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

A warm welcome back to all our pupils after the summer holidays and a very special welcome to those children who have joined us in Reception. They have settled quickly and we are delighted to have some new families joining the St Matthew's community. As a 'new entrant' myself, I have been struck by the dedication of the staff and the enthusiasm of the children. There is so much excitement planned for coming weeks, it should be a fantastic term.

Classrooms

Each class started the term with exciting activities to introduce the children to their new book. Year 5 children were surprised to see their teachers in togas on the first day, and some (although not all) found that they were partial to a bit of Greek food. There have been clay fish designed, created and painted and one of our favourite book characters, Claude, has been drawn and made. Apparently, Mr Vale-Taylor thinks year 6 have some artists in the making, after their efforts in observational drawings on buildings.



Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all those parents who have come to the meet the teacher sessions so far. It is a great opportunity for the teachers to introduce themselves and to let you know what plans they have for the year group.



Reception

The Reception classes, Goslings and Ducklings, are full of activity. The teachers and teaching assistants are enjoying getting to know our newest additions.

They have been exploring the indoor activities with great enthusiasm and making new friends very easily.

The teachers and teaching assistants relish the opportunity to visit the children and parents in their homes as it begins a great relationship that will be built on during the year.

Teachers

Yr R—Mrs Hibbett & Mrs Cheesman, Mrs Aspinall

Yr 1—Miss Williams, Mrs Salmon & Mrs Butcher

Yr 2—Mr Hardwick & Mrs Crabb, Mrs Boyages

Yr 3—Mrs Brown & Mrs Deacon, Miss Prideaux,

Yr 4—Mrs Pollard & Mrs Curry, Mr Donovan

Yr 5—Mrs Walters, Mrs Tibbetts-Williams & Miss Shears,
Mrs Claro & Mrs Davies

Yr 6—Mrs Howden, Mr Vale-Taylor, Miss Osborne.

Empiribox

The KS2 teachers have already had training for this term's science lessons. The focus this term is chemistry and Mr Donovan described the training as fantastically informative and entertaining. I think this means the children are in for some exciting experiments this term.



Clubs

We run a wide range of clubs for children which are well attended. A parentmail has been sent out detailing all the clubs on offer. Forms are available at the school office for you to fill in and return.

If children have been selected for particular events such as sports matches, they will be sent an individual letter.

Secondary Schools

Year 6 parents will need to fill in the Secondary School Application form by the 31st October with up to 4 choices of secondary schools. Many secondary schools are holding open days and evenings at this time of year and it is well worth a visit to those you may be interested in.

The form is filled in online at

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

If you require any assistance in filling in the form, please ask for Mrs Aspinall in the office.

Sporting News

The PE team are very excited to be back and are looking forward to starting a new year of competitions, and we are very hopeful that we will be as successful as last year. The first competition for Years 3/4 is the Quicksticks Hockey Tournament on Wednesday 18th October and all the children will be starting hockey practise in their PE lesson to enable us to pick some good quality teams. The first competition for the older children in Years 5/6 will be Basketball which is usually in November, but the date has not been confirmed.

We have had huge numbers of children sign up for the after school clubs, so we are looking forward to discovering more new children to represent the school this year.

House Captains

Our House Captains and Prefects have been presented with their badges and we are looking forward to them doing a great job.

Ridgeway:

Captain – Luka Visser

Prefects – Niamh McGeever, Ethan MgBeze

Brokes:

Captain – Kieran Rowden

Prefects – Ella Thomas, Chloe Davy

Barnetts

Captain –Holly Bradshaw

Prefects – Ellie Moyce, Archie Dowling

Powder Mill

Captain – Kamila Szalasny

Prefects – Munashe Bhubho, Ben Smith

School Census

On Thursday 5th October, a school census takes place across all schools and in particular, funding for school meals is based on the numbers. Caterlink, our meals provider are putting on a special menu that day and we would encourage you to give your children a chance to try a school dinner. All KS1 are entitled to Free School Meals and Mrs Aspinall, our FLO, based in the office, is happy to help families apply for Free School Meals.



Uniform

Our children are looking very smart in their uniform, although we have had children needing to borrow PE kit.

The children should keep their PE kit in school all week.

- School green sweatshirt or school green sweat cardigan with school logo
- White shirt/blouse, short or long sleeve with tie collar
- Gold tie (EYFS and KS1), House colour tie (KS2)
- Grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore dress
- White or grey socks, grey or bottle green tights
- Flat plain black/brown school shoes (no boots or trainers)
- Plain green shorts (green joggers in colder weather), a house colour T-Shirt and plimsolls or preferably trainers for P.E in a named drawstring bag
- Plain Hair bands should be worn with no large hair accessories



Summer dresses and the school green polo shirt can be worn until the Half Term Holiday.

Start and End of Days

At the start of the day, KS2 children should wait on the lower playground from 8.45am. The bell will ring at 8.50am and we ask all children to stand still and on the second bell to walk in quietly. KS1 children wait on the upper playground from 8.45am until their teacher leads them into their classroom. Reception children are brought to their classrooms by parents/carers.

At the end of the day, could we ask all parents/carers who are collecting children to stand well back from the doors so that teachers can bring their whole class out and clearly see everyone.

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 4th September – INSET day
- Tuesday 5th September – INSET day
- Thursday 7th September – Kent Test (11+)
- Tuesday 12th September – Yr 3 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Thursday 14th September – Yr 6 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Friday 15th September – Yr 1 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Monday 18th September – Yr 5 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Tuesday 19th September – Yr 4 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Thursday 21st September – Yr 2 Meet the teacher 2.50pm
- Thursday 21st September – Yr 6 Residential Meeting 6:30pm
- Friday 29th September – MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Monday 2nd October – Open Afternoon for new starters
- Monday 9th October – Harvest at St Matthew's Church
- Tuesday 10th October – 6O Class worship 9:10am
- Tuesday 17th October – Kookaburra class worship 9:10
- Thursday 19th October – Individual Photos
- Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October – Half Term
- Tuesday 31st October – application deadline for secondary schools
- Thursday 2nd November – Open Afternoon for new starters
- Tuesday 7th November – Parent Consultations
- Thursday 9th November – Parent Consultations
- Tuesday 14th November – Lorikeets Class Worship 9.10am
- Tuesday 14th November – Open Afternoon for new starters
- Thursday 16th November – 6VT class worship
- Thursday 21st November – 6H class worship

Hellos

As well as all our new children, we welcome some new staff to our school.

We welcome back **Mrs Butcher and Mrs Salmon** from maternity leave. **Mrs Curry** will be working alongside Mrs Pollard in year 4. **Miss Shears** is job sharing in year 5. **Mrs Church** has become a regular member of our dinner staff, and **Mr Brennan** will be working everyday supporting in year 6. The children have made them feel very welcome and they already feel part of our community.

Staff

Please contact the school if you have any enquiries and to report absences: 01892 528098

Office: Mrs Lewis, Mrs Heitrich, Mrs Brown, Mrs Buckwell

FLO: Mrs Aspinall

SENCo: Miss Lumley

Assistant Heads: Mr Hardwick & Mrs Pollard

Headteacher: Mrs Hayward

As you can see, there is so much excitement ahead. We look forward to a fun packed term with children making fantastic progress across the curriculum.
Mrs Hayward