

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

The Christmas holidays seem a long time ago, even though this term has been very short! The children must have made New Year's Resolutions to work hard as they have been doing some fantastic learning.

Young Voices



What an opportunity the choir had this term. They joined over 7000 other children from schools all over the South East, and some further afield such as New York, to perform a range of songs to a very appreciative audience of friends and families. The choir have been working very hard to learn all the songs, including all the movements that were led by the Urban Strides dance group, over the last few months.

It was a long day, as the children left school around 10:45am and travelled up to London by coach. After lunch, the rehearsals started in the arena and the amazing organisation by Young Voices meant that soon all the children were singing together, creating a fantastic sound.

However, nothing could prepare them for the evening's performance when the whole place came alive, with music, lights, dancers and audience. An unforgettable experience. Huge thanks go to Mrs Morton, for arranging the whole event, including teaching the choir all the songs. Thanks also to Mrs Pallot, Mrs Page and Mrs Pollard who accompanied the children, and to Mrs Emmerson, who arranged all the parents tickets.



Worships



This term, we have been lucky enough to have three class worships:

5W created theirs around the book 'Stay where you are and Then leave'. A very poignant and powerful presentation of the thoughts and emotions of the children after reading the book.

Lorikeets created theirs around the book 'Man on the Moon'. The children in year 2 have great imaginations and we heard a lot a lot about aliens.

5ST continued the theme of 5W's worship. They performed poetry and songs fantastically and read out their fabulous writing.

It's been so lovely to see so many parents come into school and watch their children in our class worships.

Sporting News

Athletics

On Thursday 11th January St Matthew's finished in 2nd place out of 12 schools in the Year 5/6 indoor athletics. The team consisted of Nikola, Olivia, Demi, Lily, Jasmine, Erin, Tara, Ella, Shantaya, Luka, Munashe, Henry, Kieran, Ethan, Aiden, Dominic, Petroc & Zach. There were some fantastic performances especially from Demi & Lily who won the 2 + 2 relay, Luka & Henry who won the 1 + 1 relay and Munashe, Ethan, Aiden & Henry who won the 4 x 1 relay. In the field events Olivia, Ella & Nikola won the girls speed bounce event scoring 54, 54 & 57. The boys, Luka, Munashe & Aiden also won the boys speed bounce event scoring 62, 60 & 54. Munashe, Henry & Zach won the long jump and Tara, Jasmine & Demi also won the triple jump. All the children performed really well and did St Matthew's proud. Well done all of you.



Kent Schools Decathlon Championship

On Sunday 14th January Luka, Henry, Olivia and Demi took part in the Kent Decathlon Championships at the Stour Centre in Ashford. They had to take part in 10 different events to gain an overall score. Luka and Olivia were excellent in the balance bar gaining the maximum of 60 points. Henry gained the furthest distance out of everyone in the javelin throwing 17 meters and Demi achieved the second highest score in the target throw and ran a very fast time in the sprint race. There were 58 boys taking part and Luka finished in an incredible equal 3rd place and Henry was in 10th place. In the girls event there were 59 taking part and Olivia finished in 7th place and Demi in 9th place. This was an amazing performance from all the children and they have now been selected to represent Kent in the Inter counties on 10th February



Infant Agility Champions

On Thursday 18th January St Matthew's became champions at the Infant Agility competition for the 3rd year running. The team consisted of Jackson, Justin, JJ, Logan, Archie, Sally Lilia, Leah, Florence & Lacey. The children had to do 6 activities including, speed bounce, skittles, shuttle run, long jump, chest push and javelin and they all performed amazingly well gaining some really high scores. They had practised every lunchtime for 2 months and their dedication really paid off today. They will now progress to the Kent School Games Final in June. Well done to each and every one of you



Southern Schools Regional Judo Championships

On Saturday 20th January 2018 Theo took part in the Southern British Schools Regional Judo Championships in Gillingham. He fought really well winning several bouts and even fought against someone a year older and heavier than himself. It was a great day for Theo as he managed to win the silver medal

New Value Stickers and Certificates

Last Friday afternoon, we launched our new Values stickers! Sonny has been awarded one for HONESTY. Billy, Willow and Humairaa have been



awarded theirs for KINDNESS. Zach has been awarded his for RESPECT. Holly, Kamila, Luka and Kieran have been awarded theirs for RESPONSIBILITY. Well done to all these children for setting such a wonderful example to us all.

Some of the children were selected by teachers and some were selected by the children. It was lovely to hear the reasons why children had been chosen.

The school council ran a competition to design new growth mindset certificates for our star of the week worships. Tara, Ben, Ashleigh and Alyssa's designs were chosen.



Reading



All the children are enjoying selecting books from our library and also from class libraries to read. We have labelled all the books where possible with their book level, so that children can select books in their ZPD range.

When children have read a book, they can take a quiz on the book in school. All those that pass the quiz, gain points towards their targets. Also with the wealth of data that Accelerated Reader gives us, we can see just how many words the children have read.

Mrs Hayward is holding the first afternoon tea for the children who have become word millionaires on Friday afternoon. Congratulations to Ben, Humairaa, Millie, Theo and Tara who are the first to reach this amazing milestone.

Activity Afternoon

There is an Activity Afternoon for families who include a child with ASD or ADHD or a social communication disorder. Activities will include outdoor games, painting on canvases, craft activities and pancake decorating. Light refreshment will be available and the whole family is welcome. This afternoon will take place on Tuesday 13th February from 1-3pm at The Ark Children's Centre, Broadwater Lane, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5RP

Safeguarding

Safer Internet Day, co-ordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. This year's theme is **'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'**.

Assemblies have been held for all the children, with the focus on how we need to think carefully about what we say online, and how to make sure our messages to friends are respectful.

Our school website has links to useful websites that can support parents and children in their activities online. <http://st-matthews-school.org/parents/e-safety>

We are finding that more and more children are bringing in mobile phones to school. These should always be left at the school office, with their name clearly displayed. Smartphones are particularly concerning as often children have no parental controls installed on them. Please make sure that if you are buying and paying for a phone for your child they understand the rules for keeping themselves safe. Lots of support can be found on the Safer Internet Day website

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology/smartphones>



Dates for your diary:

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February—
Half Term

Tuesday 20th February—Year 3&4 Indoor Athletics
Competition.

Thursday 1st March—Secondary School Offer Day
& World Book Day

Book fair in school following World Book Day

Wednesday 7th March—5CD class worship

Tuesday 13th March—Owls class worship

Tuesday 20th March—Sports Relief—sports
clothes worn for a donation

Thursday 22nd March—Robins class worship

Friday 23rd March—Reports sent home

Tuesday 27th March—Easter Service at St
Matthews church

Thursday 29th March—End of term

Monday 16th April—Term 5 starts

Wednesday 2nd May—4CP class worship

Friday 11th May—3BD class worship

Monday 14th May to Thursday 17th May—KS2
SATs week (Year 6)

Friday 25th May—4D class worship

Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June—Half Term

Monday 4th June—INSET day

Tuesday 5th June—Term 6 starts—Year 5
Secondary School meeting 6:30pm

Staff News

This term we welcomed Mrs Diane Ferrell to our school. She is working as a TA in year 4 and year 2 as well as doing KS1 lunch duties. Also, Mrs Askew joined us to work alongside Mrs Pollard in Year 4, and she is already fitting in well to St Matthew's.

Attendance

In term 3, our highest attending class in KS1 & EYFS is Robins with 96.5%, and in KS2, the class with the best attendance is 5W with 95.8%.

This term our attendance has dropped which is probably due to some nasty bugs that have been going around and is currently 94.5%. Let's hope that as Spring gets underway, the sun comes out and everyone feels healthier!

Fire and Safety Education Service

The fire and rescue service came into school to remind children what to do to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. They talked about how we practise fire drills in school but that we should also have escape routes/plans for homes. The children listened very well and were able to answer lots of questions. The importance of testing fire alarms was also stressed so hopefully your children have reminded you



Time Tables

Parents of Year 3 and 4 children were invited into their child's class to look at the way we teach times tables. Mrs Howden then gave a presentation in the hall about the importance of knowing these facts and how to help at home.

By the end of year 4, all children should be able to recall multiplication and division facts. up to 12x12!



I was so lucky to end the term in a tea party with our wonderful readers, listening to them enthusiastically discussing their favourite authors and how well they do on the reading quizzes. This term the children at St Matthew's have shown how confidently they can speak out in worship and have continued to excel at PE, becoming champions yet again! Have a lovely half term and a well earned rest.—Mrs Hayward