



Dear Parents, children, families, friends, governors and volunteers

Welcome back to St Matthews after a fabulous summer break. It's great to see all the children come back to school raring to go and we hope to make this the best year yet!

It has been very exciting days in Reception as our newest pupils experienced their very first days at school. Resplendent in very smart uniforms, the children confidently set about exploring their new environment and making friends.

At St Matthews we very strongly encourage children to get involved in one of our many lunchtime or after-school clubs. This year we are offering 18 clubs including everything from a wide selection of sports to music (Choirs) to Art & Craft and French. Last year we had many children attending at least one club and this year we'd like to make it even more. So that we can allocate spaces, please bring your club slips back to avoid disappointment.

As always if you have any questions, queries, complaints or compliments please pop in and see me. I am nearly always on the playgrounds at the start or end of the day or just ring the front door bell.

New Starters

In order to help the Reception Children settle into St Matthew's, we have a staggered intake/start date which allows us to get to know each child in a small group during morning sessions and carry out home visits during the afternoon sessions of the first few weeks. Our 'older' pupils are our best ambassadors and can help and support the new starters, displaying best behaviour and demonstrating our school values towards each other : respect, honesty, kindness and responsibility.

New Staff

We have recently appointed two outstanding teachers to join our teaching staff at St Matthew's School.

Miss Amy Wheeler, who joined us, will be the classroom teacher in Year 2— Woodpeckers and Mr Andrew Vale-Taylor is the classroom teacher in Year 4. We are delighted and welcome these new members to our staff!

As a good school, we have been very fortunate to offer teacher training placements to 2 new students who will be with us in class learning from our qualified and skilled practitioners : Miss Becky Osborne in 5P and Miss Olivia Williams in 2 Hawks. We consider it important to train as many of our own teachers as possible as it means that we can choose the very best talent and develop them into outstanding teachers.

Paternity Leave

As you may know Mr Hardwick, their classroom teacher has recently become a father and we would like to congratulate him and his wife on the arrival of their lovely baby boy Nathanael and wish them many happy and memorable moments. He will be taking two weeks paternity leave and will be back in school on Monday 28th September. These 2 weeks, starting Monday 14th September, Mrs Carrie Staples will be teaching the class.

READING BOOKS/TOPICS FOR THIS TERM—These books will be read and discussed in detail and form the basis of class learning.

- Yr R **Biscuit Bear** - by Mini Grey
- Year 1 **Naughty Bus** by Jan and Jerry Oke
- Year 2 **The Lonely Beast** by Chris Judge
- Year 3 **Orion and the Dark** by Emma Yarlett
- Year 4 **Jemmy Button** by Jennifer Uman and Valerie Vidali
- Year 5 **Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Year 6 **A boy and a Bear in a Boat** by Dave Shelton



PFA QUIZ NIGHT REMINDER!!

SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 7:30PM

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS FUN EVENING— ST MATTHEWS STAFF WILL HAVE A TEAM AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING THE QUIZ. A DINNER IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF £7.00 PER PERSON.

Every week, the new Uniform Shop is available in the community room on a Thursday after school. Mrs Di Church is able to assist you in ordering any items and has samples of clothing to help with the sizes.

31st October 2015—Secondary schools application deadline

Please remember to complete the application process for your child's secondary school choices for next year 2016. Please let us know which schools you have applied for. Should you wish to apply online and need to use the school's computers or need support, please get in touch with our FLO—Jan Aspinall.

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

Residential Trip—Year 6

Year 6 Residential Trip Parents Meeting – **Tuesday 22nd September 2015 6:30pm** -

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss arrangements for the Year 6 trip to the Mendip Activity centre which will take place on the 13th to 17nd May 2016. We will give you details of the venue and talk generally about the timetable & activities that your children will be taking part in as well as outlining the cost and payment plans

Early Start Club

For all parents dropping off their children early in the morning at 8:15am to participate in our Early Start Club, we would like to point out that this is not a breakfast club and therefore no breakfast is supplied. We ask parents to continue providing their children with a nourishing breakfast before they come into school. The early start club is supervised in the New Hall and parents are asked to drop off children at 8:15am. The club can offer children a smooth transition for a better start to the day and offers peace of mind to those parents juggling working life with the morning school run.

Science talks at Hillview School

These talks are going to be based on exciting topics and will be accessible to the general public. They will be delivered by science experts and professors.

Whilst mainly aimed at adults and older children, we'd just like to spread the message to parents and local people.

The first talk, Aliens...Where are you?

is on 22nd September 2015, 7.00 – 8.00pm at Hillview School For Girls.

The presenter of the talk is Dr Francisco Diego, who has been featured in TV series like Stephen Hawking's universe, BBC's The Planets and most recently - BBC's Wonders of the Universe. A summary of the talk can be found below.

The talks are completely free. We just ask visitors to book via our box office link, which can be found below:

More information can be found at <http://www.hillview.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Events&pid=582>



Healthy Eating

Our bodies need a balanced diet to live and work properly. A balanced diet includes drinking enough water and eating the correct amount of items from the 4 main food groups—something we are really trying to emphasize with the children. We are trying to discourage over eating and sugary items.

To all new parents, we do have a no chocolate rule and ask that any pack lunches do not contain chocolate in any form. Many thanks for your support!

Parent Reading Workshop 24 September 6:30pm—KS2

As part of our continuing programme, and following on from our hugely successful maths workshop we will be running a Workshop on reading.

Over the one hour evening programme we will be covering:

1. The role reading for pleasure plays in a child's development.
2. How reading for pleasure is encouraged at St Matthew's.
3. How reading for pleasure is 'taught' at St Matthew's.
4. How you can best support your child as a reader.

The workshop is aimed at all parents of children in Key Stage 2 – even if your child is already an avid reader or perhaps the opposite! –please come along!

There will also be a book fair, so we can advise you if you would like to buy some books too!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING SCHOOL YEAR

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits by the Governors and senior management.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

P.E. Kits

Please ensure that your child has their P.E. kits in school each day. This is especially important after they have worn it for an after school club the day before!

OPEN DAYS FOR RECEPTION START 2016

St Matthew's would like to invite 2016 new parents to our 'Open Mornings' for a tour of the school and to meet with our Headteacher and deputy head.

Wed 14.10.2015 9:45am
Wed 21.10.2015 9:30 am
Fri 23.10.2015 9:30 am
Fri 06.11.2015 9:45 am
Wed 11.11.2015 9:45 am
Tues 24.11.2015 9:30 am



A Photographer from the Tunbridge Wells Courier will be in School on

Wednesday 23rd September at 10 am

to take a photo of the new Reception Classes. If you do not wish your child to be photographed, please notify the school office or your classroom teacher. On the School Admissions form, you would also have had the opportunity to give permission to have their photo taken. If there are any changes, please inform us as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Class Assemblies

Day—Class

Wednesday 21.10.2015 - 5 P

Friday 06.11.2015 - Puffin

Wednesday 03.02.2016—2 H

Friday 12.02.2016—Owl

Wednesday 02.03.2016—2 W

Thursday 10.03.2016—2 C

Friday 18.03.2016—3 S

Wednesday 20.04.2016— 4 B

Wednesday 27.04.2016—4 G

Friday 06.05.2016—3 BB

Thursday 19.05.2016—5 H

Wednesday 01.06.2016—6 W

Friday 10.06.2016—4 VT

Thursday 16.06.2016—3 P

Wednesday 29.06.2016—6 TW

Friday 08.07.2016—Reception

Harvest Service

This year's Harvest service will be taking place in St Matthews Church on 13.10.15. Due to limited space restrictions, this will be a school service only however parents who would like to volunteer their time to accompany the children to the church would be most welcome. This year we will be making donations to a very worthwhile cause, The Food Bank which provides foodstuffs for people and families with very limited cooking facilities and to needy families in our area. We will be inviting pupils to bring to school food contributions (tinned or packet food, pasta, teas and coffee which must be six months within their sell-by date) from Monday 5th October 2015. We have a tradition of contributing generously to the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves and we wish to continue to demonstrate our Christian commitment by helping this charitable cause this Harvest. Thank you in advance for your support.

Class Assembly – Parents Welcome –

We will be having Class Assemblies again this year and on these occasions, we invite parents to join us in a 15 min worship and assembly led by their children's class. Afterwards we offer parents the opportunity to pop into the Class to see the work of your child and have a chat with their teacher – If you can, we would love to see you! Dates are listed here but you will be notified nearer the time.

Reminder Year 3 Parents

Your child is not entitled to free school lunches anymore as they have moved up a year and this benefit ends after Year 2. Please could you remember to pay for your child's lunch in advance and the cost is £2.20 per day. A copy of the menu for the week is in the school office. You can also pay online at www.GSplus.org/kent for the complete week.

However if you receive Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Child Tax Credits or Working Tax Credit or with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, you could be entitled to continue receiving Free School Meals. With your registration as a school, we can also receive additional money and funding to support your child's learning. Register at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals> or contact the School Office please.

Without your registration we will not receive funding that we are entitled to and you may be missing out on free school lunches.

This additional funding is on top of the core educational funding and can be used to buy additional resources and equipment, offer fabulous incentives and opportunities to increase and create a vibrant learning place for your child.

Many thanks.