



Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Friends

I cannot believe that I am writing the very last news- letter of 2014-15 after what has been a very busy year and perhaps the most successful year in St Matthew's history.

And looking back on the 190 days of learning which have taken place we hope you share our pride in everything your children (and the staff) have achieved.

We have all worked exceptionally hard and we are pleased to announce that our **progress and attainment** has risen amazingly this year. This will be available on the brand new website in the 3rd week in September. Well done to the pupils for sharing their love of learning and to the staff team who are committed to the learning of every child. Our staff work tirelessly to make St Matthew's the school it is today.

We are very proud of our achievements this year and want to thank parents for their continued, excellent support.

We look forward to the summer holidays and staff and governors would like to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holidays.

Fond Farewell

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Sue Elliott this term. We would like to once again thank her for all her dedication and commitment to St Matthew's Primary School and wish her the very best in her new endeavours.

Year 6 leavers

Our Year 6 leavers are become wonderful ambassadors to our schools' education: they are respectful towards each other, have achieved so much, have developed an inner bravery needed to face new challenges and we have an unshakeable belief that they will succeed in any endeavour.

They are an enormous credit to the school and the perfect role-models for younger pupils.

We have no doubt in our minds that, should they continue on their current path, they will achieve many great things in a future bursting with opportunity.

The Year 6 Performance of Shakespeare rocks was an absolute highlight and an outstanding performance from the pupils in Year 6! With commitment, passion and sheer enjoyment this was a must see musical! The audience were captivated by the talent seen. Huge thanks to Mrs Walters and Mrs Tibbits Williams. who made it happen!

New Staff

We are very privileged to have a team of devoted and committed staff who work tirelessly (often late into the evening) to make St Matthew's the school what it is today. We would like to say a huge welcome to our school:

Mr Alan Dodd, a qualified sports coach,
Miss Amy Wheeler and Mr Andrew Vale-Taylor, outstanding teachers and the enthusiastic teaching placements Miss Rebecca Osborne and Miss Olivia Williams.

We welcome you as new members to our team!



SPORTING NEWS



Sports Day news

Winners for KS2 were Ridgeway. Well done to all the children who competed for their House superbly. There was some great cheering and supporting led by our House Captains and Prefects. Photos attached.

House Captains

The children in year 5, alongside the staff in school, have voted for their choice of House Captains and Prefects. Well done to the following children

Ridgeway: **Captain – Rachel Warner** Prefects – Libby Wood Ollie Bolger

Brokes: **Captain – Pedro Ferreira** Prefects – Ruth Abraham Helen Percy

Barnetts **Captain –Olivia Perry** Prefects – Melanie Gamble Sian Williams

Powder Mill **Captain – Kyra Dawes** Prefects – Jamie Stevens Humairaa Abdussamad

Sports Uniform

There are black skorts now available for girls on the uniform list. They will cost £13:00—£14:50 and are ready for ordering.





Summer Fayre

A huge thank you to the whole of the PTA team—especially Mrs Julie Wood—for organising and arranging this years Summer Fayre again. The afternoon was a huge success and we are delighted with the impressive amount raised in excess of £3500.—. This money will go towards school equipment. All these events could not be possible without helpers who volunteer their time and efforts so generously.

An apology to everyone for not supplying the Surf Simulator as advertised. The company brought the wrong simulator and refused to let us have just the slide. But nonetheless, it was a fabulous event.

Many thanks to our staff, our pupils for their decorations and to name a few, Paul Thornhill, Sam from Barclays, Katie Walker and B&Q, Mother Goose Estate Agent. Katie and Becky from Harlequin who manned the bouncy slide and Rodeo Bull for us!

School Uniform

If you would like to order bottle green polo's preferably with school logo, then please visit the school shop on Thursdays after school. The bottle green polo shirt or the white shirt and tie is the school uniform for the Summer term. Children will still be wearing their summer uniform until the October half-term. Letters have been sent out via Parentmail in advance already but please feel free to contact the school office with any questions.

Early start clubs/After school Clubs

Please be advised that Early Start Club spaces are filling up but we are delighted that our Early Start team have agreed to increase the intake of pupils at the start of each day. Your child can enjoy learning and playing in a small group and acquire skills for a good start at school. Forms for registering are in the school office should you request this provision. If your child is interested in joining an afternoon club, letters will be available after the school holidays in the office or from the club leaders—as spaces are limited, it will be run on a strictly first come first served basis.

Improving the school

Although the children and staff are on holidays, our site manager will still be busy working and attending to the school and its upkeep. With the help of various contractors we will be modernising and renovating further areas: 2 classrooms, the office and reception area, the New hall boys and girls toilets and also the school hall roof will be completely repaired as part of a 5 week project.

A special thanks to our ground staff Mr Kevin Aldridge for his continual hard work throughout the year.

Quiz Night

Please save the date for our Quiz night on Saturday, 19th September. There will be teams of up to 8. First come first served basis. Numbers are limited. Fish and chip supper and entry to quiz will be £7.00. There will be soft drinks and alcohol on sale—the letters and forms will go out shortly.

Parking

Parking (again): We have had complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking and complaints from disabled drivers about able-bodied parents blocking the disabled bays by parking here at the beginning or end of the day. Please consider others when parking.

Thank you to the 'eagle eye' parents who alert us to issues in and around the grounds. It is a great help to have so many sets of eyes ensuring our grounds are safe and well maintained. Should you see a safety concern regarding our grounds and buildings please report it to the school office.



School is closed all through the summer holidays until the Inset Days on Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September, but if parents need to contact anyone urgently about an educational issue which cannot wait until school re-opens, the number – Kent County Council's Contact Centre can forward you: 03000 41 21 21. The website www.kent.gov.uk is a very useful website with lots of information so please have a look.

Special Dietary Requirement

We aim to provide a healthy school meal service to all pupils who require them; any pupil who has identified as needing a special dietary requirement or who has an allergy towards a food, please give us details of their particular diet and a letter from their doctor or dietician to support this.

In order to provide the correct nutritional balance through school meals we are not able to simply exclude ingredients from a dish, but where possible these can be replaced with an alternative.

Ageless Connections



Thirteen Year 6 pupils recently spent time with some of Sherwood's older residents, sharing stories and swapping memories whilst enjoying a drink and biscuits! Back at school the children wrote up some of the stories they had heard, these write ups were then published into a small booklet, copies of which were presented to everyone at a celebration tea party. The children and adults all enjoyed meeting each other and we hope that we can participate in a similar project next year. Thank you to everyone who participated from school and the Sherwood Partnership.

Governors Blog

Another great year at St Matthew's has flown by, throughout this year the Governing body have regularly met to discuss the school's progress and continued development.

Since the last time I wrote, some of the main agenda items at our meetings have been:

St Matthew's 2015/2016 school budget - agreeing the budget is an annual task. This year school's budget will then be continuously monitored through the year by us, ensuring the money is spent according to the priorities of the school's improvement plan and of course making sure the school does not go in the red!

SIAMS – which is the Church of England's inspection framework. This is a regular item whilst the school has been developing it's church school identity and values.

Development plans for next year. These are still to be finalised at the beginning of the new year.

We have also been into the school to monitor the following:

Collective Worship - daily for a week

Child Protection

Leadership and Management

Teaching and Learning

At our last meeting of the year the Governing Body were pleased to learn that due to the hard work of the Year Six children, St Matthew's have had it's best SATS results ever - Well done Year Six, we are really proud of you.

Finally the Governing Body would like thank Mrs Lees and Mrs Roberts, the teachers, the TA's and the support staff for all their hard work this year making St Matthew's school a great place to learn and achieve.

To everyone have a lovely sunny summer holiday and see you all in September.