

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

We are now fully into the swing of 2017. It seemed a very early start to the term, returning with an INSET day for the teachers on Tuesday 3rd January, and the children on the 4th January. Whilst a short term, it has been packed with learning activities, sports events, teacher training and visits to the school.

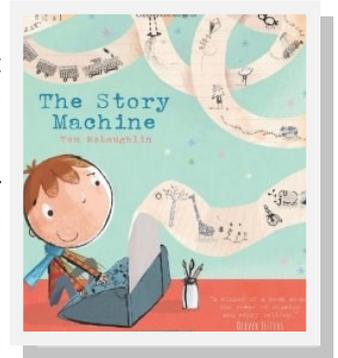


Worships

We have been treated to three class worships this term. Year 2, Wagtails, presented a lovely worship based on 'The Story Machine'. They read and acted out stories about Anasi and Noah. We listened to and saw some lovely work they had done based on their key text.

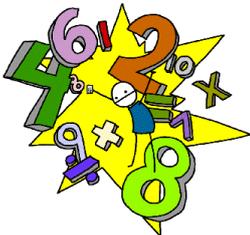
This was followed by 3P, who also used 'The Story Machine', as the basis for their worship. Some fantastic writing was read out, and we were particularly impressed with the art work they have done and the musicians who played.

In year 1, Blackbirds, have been busy making all sorts of props for their class worship, which they linked to the Creation Story in Genesis. They all spoke beautifully and everyone enjoyed listening and watching them tell their stories.



Able Maths Day

This term we have taken the opportunity to attend the Able Maths Day at Stocks Green Primary School. Leo and Dominic from year 4 represented the school and absolutely loved the challenges set. It is a great opportunity to work with children from other schools and to learn from experts.



Mathletics

Each week one class, in KS2, is now awarded the mathletics trophy. This is given to the class who has achieved the most points on mathletics. Children can gain points by completing their homework tasks, but also by playing on live mathletics, and by completing other exercises.



Forest School

Mrs Whidden is currently working towards a Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Programme Leadership, which requires a huge investment of her time on top of class teaching. She has been busy creating a forest school area onsite. Our Year 1 children have been the first to explore this area and despite the cold, they have loved building dens, lighting fires and collecting twigs and leaves.

We look forward to more children experiencing St Mathew's very own Forest School, as well as, our Year 3 children continuing their forest school experience in Langton.

School Nurse Clinic

Our next School Nurse drop in clinic will be from 9am on Wednesday 15th March. If you would like to make an appointment call the School Nurse Team on 03007900244, alternatively just drop in. The School Nurse Team is always available to offer help and advice between clinics, just call the number above.

Sporting News

Athletics

On Thursday 12th January St Matthew's became Champions for the first time ever at the 5/6 Indoor Athletics Festival at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. It was an absolutely wonderful day with all eighteen children performing to an incredibly high standard and winning many of the events that they took part in. The team consisted of Eleanor, Saarah, Caitlin, Sheima, Lottie, Dotty, Samantha, Nellie, Charli, Jamie, Harley, Evan, Aidan, Ethan, William, Ben, Luka & Munashe. Each child had to take part in two field events and two running relays. There were some amazing performances including a 6 metre 10 cm triple jump from Eleanor, a 1 metre 12 cm vertical jump from Ben, a 57 speed bounce from Jamie and a 7 metre chest push from Saarah. Caitlin and Eleanor also won the 2 x 2 relay and both the 4 x 1 girls and boys relay teams won. Each and every child was superb and the whole school is incredibly proud of them.



Eleanor becomes Decathlon Champion



On Sunday 15th January Eleanor, Saarah, Caitlin and Evan took part in the Kent Schools indoor Decathlon Championships in Ashford. There were 155 children taking part and all four children performed superbly well. Eleanor was the real star of the show winning 9 out of her 10 events and winning the girls competition overall with 523 points, 43 points ahead of second place. She will now represent Kent in the Inter Counties competition on 11th February. Saarah achieved 4th place and gained the highest vertical jump of 51 cm out of all the girls. Caitlin finished in 8th place throwing the longest javelin throw of the competition and Evan finished in 13th place after a very solid performance. Well done to all the children - you once again did St Matthew's proud.

Infant Agility Champions

On Thursday 19th January St Matthew's became champions at the Infant Agility competition for the second year running. The team consisted of Freya, Lucy, Eleanor, Niamh, Ateefa, Oliver, Charlie, Harrison, Aiden and Ryan. The children had to do 5 activities including, speed bounce, skittles, shuttle run, long jump and chest push and they all performed amazingly well. They had practised every lunchtime for 3 weeks 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.



Basketball

On Thursday 2nd February St Matthew's represented the Tunbridge Wells area at the Kent School Games Basketball Finals in Gillingham. The team consisted of Munashe, Luka, Jamie, Harley, Evan, Eleanor, Saarah, Ellie, Lottie and Caitlin. They played 6 games in the group stages winning four of them convincingly and there was some superb shooting from Caitlin, Eleanor and Munashe, great defensive play from Harley, Evan and Saarah and Jamie, Luka, Ellie and Lottie supported play well out on the wings. They finished third in their group stage and then progressed to play Ashford for 5th place over all. This was a superb game with some genius play from Munashe, who scored an incredible basket after dribbling around several of the opposition.

We were incredibly proud of the whole team as they finished 5th out of 14 teams, which is a superb performance for their first time in a Kent Final.





The Story Machine

At the start of this term, we tried a new approach to selecting a key text. Apart from Year 6, everyone has used 'The Story Machine' to base their learning on. Superb displays have been dotted around the school, showing the variety of ideas that have been explored from the same book. As fantastic finishes, different year groups paired up to share activities. Particularly clear to the staff, were the 'Growth Mindset' language and skills demonstrated by the children during these shared sessions. Some fabulous collaboration took place as you can see from the photos. Definitely something to repeat!



Reading



Teachers received training from Accelerated Reader Experts earlier this term, and all classes from Yr 3-6 have used the programme to find children's reading scores. This programme allows children to take a test after each book they have read to assess their comprehension skills. Our fantastic parent helpers in the library have been busy labelling every book with a 'ZPD' score. This number allows the children to choose a book that is suitable for their reading level. With each test completed, the children score points and will improve their comprehension skills. The tests have to be completed online in school and all classes are developing systems to allow children time to take these tests.

We are continuing to take part in Buster's Book Club, and each class now has a John Lewis 'Buster' toy to award to the reader of the week. Thanks go to Mrs Walters who persuaded John Lewis to donate the toys to St Matthew's.



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 **'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'**.



Six year 5 children, Ben, Marc, Felix, Gib, Tara and Leanna, attended E-Safety Ambassador training before Christmas. They helped to lead the assemblies, which focussed on using photos and videos safely and positively on the internet.

Lots of useful resources to support the use of technology and how to keep children safe are on our school website.

All staff that work in Education are required to attend regular update training on Safeguarding. A new display board outside the hall has been mounted, with help from the school council, to highlight the key personnel in school who help children stay safe.

Any parents who would like support can contact our FLO, Jan Aspinall, or speak to the office staff. Chris Wicks, who is the vicar at St Matthew's and one of the school Governors, has also visited the school this term to conduct an annual review on safeguarding.



Young Carers

A Young Carer is any child who provides care for another person of any age. It is also anyone whose daily life is affected by having a family member who is physically or mentally ill, frail, elderly, disabled or misuses alcohol or substances. A young carer may also have a sibling with behaviour issues which affect the whole families daily life. If you think that your child/children fit into any above categories and you would like them to become part of Kent Young Carers, or you would like to know more, please get in touch with Mrs Aspinall.

Kent Young Carers provide Chill Clubs, advice and support for any child who fits into the above groups. We do have children in the school who already belong to Kent Young Carers and find it good fun and helpful.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 1st March—Secondary School Offer Day

Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day.

Thursday 9th March—5O class worship

Wednesday 22nd March—4W class worship

Wednesday 22nd March (eve) – Music Festival

Thursday 23rd March—Reports sent home

Tuesday 28th March—Easter Service at St Matthews church

Thursday 30th March—3BD class worship

Friday 31st March—End of term

Tuesday 18th April—INSET

Wednesday 19th April—Term 5 starts

Wednesday 26th April – Swifts Class worship

Thursday 4th May – Robins Class Worship

Monday 8th May- Thursday 11th May – Year 6 SATS week

Friday 19th May – 5CR Class Worship

Monday 22nd May- Friday 26th May – School Journey Year 6

Friday 26th May – End of Term

Monday 5th June – Term 6 Starts

Tuesday 6th June – Secondary School Choices Evening Year 5

Tuesday 13th June – Parent Consultations

Thursday 15th June – Parent Consultations

Wednesday 5th July – KS2 Sports Day

Friday 7th July – KS1 Sports Day

Wednesday 12th July (eve)– Year 6 Production

Thursday 13th July (eve)– Year 6 Production

Wednesday 19th July – Leaver's Service.

Attendance

On the last day of term, we awarded the Attendance prize to Adam in year 3. He was one of the 235 children who had attendance of 97% or more in terms 1 and 2. All those children who have an attendance of 97% or higher for terms 3 & 4 will be entered into the next draw. Our overall attendance figure for term 3 is 95%. Our attendance officer, Carly Buckwell, keeps a record of all attendance and has conducted meetings with families who are of concern to us. The best attending class this term is 3B with 97.35%



Behaviour

Every week, we love our Friday celebration worships when children receive certificates for learning and achievement. However, a small minority of children are finding it difficult to follow the school rules. In assembly this week, they were reminded of our Golden Rules and the sanctions that occur if they are not followed, including yellow cards. If your child does receive a yellow card, you will be handed a letter detailing the behaviour that led to it. This is for your information and does not require further action with the school but you may wish to discuss this with your child. Several yellow cards will result in a meeting with parents, your child and us, in order to improve behaviour.



Visiting Teachers

St Matthew's hosted the Tunbridge Wells Deputies meeting this term, and part of the day was a presentation and learning walk around the school. We were delighted with the feedback given, with many of the teachers praising the initiatives the school has implemented as well as the learning, behaviour and attitude of the children.

Staff News

We are very pleased to welcome back from maternity leave this term, Mrs Fiona Tibitts-Williams, who is now working in year 4 alongside Mrs Crabb. Mr Donovan is now teaching year 2 full-time which provides continuity for Swifts. We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Reuter, who has found the travelling from East Sussex too demanding.

Mrs McWhinnie has been both a class teacher and SENCo at St Matthew's for many years, and we are very sad to see her leave but obviously wish her well in her new part-time role at St Peter's. A new full-time Inclusion Leader has been appointed, Miss Sarah Lumley, who has a lot of experience with children with SEN. We are looking forward to her joining after Easter.

Thank you for your amazing support this term. We are delighted with the level of progress children are making with their reading. We appreciate all the effort so many of you put into this vital area of your children's learning.

Mrs Holt