

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

What a busy term so far. The children have come together as a community to celebrate Harvest, lead worships, raise money and donate to worthy causes demonstrating our school values of kindness and responsibility. Lots of fantastic learning has taken place this term, and this week will see lots of amazing activities as classes celebrate their books for this term.

Harvest

As always, St Matthew's were very generous donating items for Nourish food bank as part of our harvest celebrations. Thank you to Mr Aldridge and Mr Witherington who loaded up the minibus and to Matthew and Dominic who were incredibly helpful collecting all the items in the morning.

In the church, years 1-6 joined together to celebrate harvest by singing, reading and performing. It was a lovely service, enjoyed by all.



Rotary Club Christmas Appeal

Mr Cornish, who was the Head of St Matthew's many years ago, now spends a lot of his time with the Rotary Club supporting worthy causes. He came in to school to ask the children if they would support the Christmas appeal this year by donating items that can be packed into a shoebox and sent to East European countries. This is often the only gifts these children receive at Christmas time. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.



Growth Mindset Certificates

The school council are running a competition to design new Growth Mindset certificates for this year. Over half term, we would like the children to use their artistic skills to create certificates that recognise Growth Mindset skills such as trying up, putting in the effort, persevering etc.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Mrs Aspinall hosted a coffee morning for parents in the new hall and our new year 6 house captains and prefects rose to the occasion and did a fantastic job selling cakes at breaktime. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and helped raise the fantastic amount of £340.

PTA

Chair - Rebecca Smith
 Treasurer - Bibette Thompson
 Secretary - Sabrina Bridges

Our new PTA committee have already started on their fundraising efforts with the Christmas Card orders.



They have some more ideas for fundraising throughout the year.

Sporting News

Kent Indoor athletics Festival:

On Sunday 7th October St Matthew's took part in the Kent under 11s indoor athletics festival at St Johns sports centre. This was a competition for some of the most talented children in the school and our team consisted of Henry, Humairaa, Abbie and Jake. Each child had to do a jump, a throw and two relay runs and their scores were added together to make a team total. The relays were very impressive and they managed to gain the fastest times out of all 15 schools taking part. This was a great achievement and it gives us a good indicator as to how well we can do in this year's competitions.



Football

Well done to the girls football team who played their first ever competitive league game. They didn't manage to win but all of them worked incredibly hard & did St Matthew's proud. The boys played their first league game against Bishop's Down. Due to some absences within the team, a couple of players had to stand in but they did a great job and the whole team played really well. Player of the match was Petroc.



Cross Country

We went to the inter schools cross country race at Somerhill School in Tonbridge. It was a beautiful day which made the very tough course slightly more bearable. There were some outstanding runs from Cordi in the Year 3 girls who finished in an amazing 10th place, Evie in the Year 4 girls race who finished in 17th place, Jake in the Year 5 boys race who finished in an



impressive 11th place and Joe who was incredible finishing in his highest ever position of 7th. St Matthew's gained the best set of results we have ever had and Mrs Hookway was incredibly proud of all the runners.

Secondary Schools

A reminder for all Year 6 parents/carers that the form for secondary school choice must be completed before 31st October. It is very helpful for the school if you could let us know that you have completed the form and the choices you have made.

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.

Online Safety



It is very important that we work in collaboration with parents to keep children safe online. The Digital Parenting magazine has been sent home this term which is packed with helpful tips and suggestions to keep your children safe. Technology moves at such a pace, it is hard to keep up with all the changes, but it is vital that we teach the children how to use the internet in a responsible and safe manner. For more help please go to our school website

<http://st-matthews-school.org/parents/e-safety>



We have some concerns over the use of online gaming with some of our children. They are often talking about it in school which can disrupt theirs and others learning. For instance, Fortnite which is age rated at 12+ by PEGI is in the news because of its potential to be addictive. For more support please read the following article.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>

Attendance

This term has seen quite a lot of illness and so our attendance figures are down. We are currently having attendance at 95.5% with the best Infant class Ducklings with 97.5% and the best KS2 class, 6W, with 96.7%.

Letters have been sent out to those with low attendance and we hope these children are able to have a better attendance next term.



Dates for your diary:

Mon 22nd October – Fri 26th October – Half Term
Wed 31st October—application deadline for secondary schools
Fri 2nd November- 6H class worship 9:00am
Tues 6th November – Parent Consultations
Thurs 8th November - Parent Consultations
Tues 14th November – Kookaburras Class Worship 9.00am
Tues 11th December—EYFS Nativity to parents 2pm
Wed 12th December—KS1 Nativity to parents 2pm
Thurs 13th December—KS1 Nativity to parents 9:30am
Fri 14th December - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
Mon 17th December—Christmas Carol Service 1:50pm & 7pm at St Matthew’s Church
Thurs 3rd and Fri 4th Jan - INSET Days - no children in school.
Mon 7th Jan - Term 3 Starts
Mon 18th Feb - Fri 22nd Feb - Half Term
Mon 25th Feb - INSET
Tues 26th Feb - Term 4 Starts
Thurs 7th March - World Book Day
Tues 19th March & Thurs 21st March - Parent Consultations for year R
Fri 5th April - Term 4 ends

Daily Mile

This term we have introduced the daily mile. The idea is to get children outside and running to get them active with their friends. All we do is pop on trainers and go for a run for about 10 mins. The idea is that each class should aim to do it 3 times a week. Teachers have been very positive about how it focusses the children on their learning afterwards.



Uniform

After half term, all pupils should be in their winter uniform, which includes a shirt and tie (in house colours for KS2 and a gold tie for KS1.)

Mrs Church is in the office on Thursday afternoons to help with uniform ordering or you can visit our website to make an order.

Class Worship

Three classes have led our worships so far this term. 6W led the way asking us to think about the awe and wonder of God’s world. Lorikeets displayed an amazing amount of learning based on their book the Lonely Beast, and talked about how to be a good friend. 6O demonstrated their keen understanding of Growth Mindset and how they use it to produce beautiful pieces of work.

School Lunches

Independent Catering are providing excellent lunches for our children and they would love the feed even more of our children every day. You pay for school meals through the sQuid account so if you would like your child to have a school dinner, look at the menu found on our school website and let them have a taste. Thank you to all those parents who have filled in forms for free school meals. It makes a huge difference to our funding in school. If you think you may be entitled to FSM please ask in the Office or apply online at

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals#>



It has been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled this term. It has been a happy, productive term with some fantastic learning. Enjoy the break.

Mrs Hayward