

# St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

No sooner have Summer Holidays finished when we seem to be facing October Half Term. It's amazing what we have packed into this term so far. We have welcomed our brand new Reception children and seen all the year groups settle in well to their learning. We have celebrated Harvest together in the Church and supported our community here and others far away by collecting donated food items for Nourish and items for the Christmas Shoebox appeal.

## Harvest

As always, St Matthew's were very generous donating items for Nourish food bank as part of our harvest celebrations. Miss Osborne and Mr Donovan organised our Harvest Collection and service. We had many children from across the school showing pictures, models, reading stories, and explaining what happens to the food we donated. Alongside this, we heard super singing so much so, that Mrs Hayward asked for an encore!

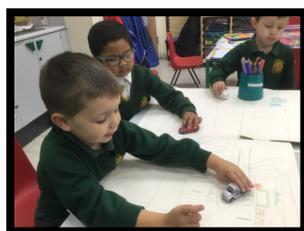


## Reception Children

Take a look at these photos of our new Reception children enjoying their start to St Matthew's. We still have spaces on tours for next year's intakes on the following dates:

Fri 8th Nov at 2pm

Thurs 14th Nov at 2pm



## Rotary Club Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all those parents and children who have donated items for the Rotary Club Christmas appeal. They will be collected and packaged so that children can open a Christmas parcel that contains useful as well as fun items.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Mrs Aspinal hosted a coffee morning for parents in the new hall and cakes were sold to staff to raise money for this worthy cause.

## Tunbridge Wells in Bloom

Having entered the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom schools competition, we were delighted to be awarded a gold award and a certificate, 30 pounds of gift vouchers for a garden centre, lots of seeds and a trowel and a new water butt to use at school. The two colouring competition winners, Caleb Brierley and Darcie King, won a goodie bag each too. With such a success we aim to enter next year, and are thinking of ideas already. Thank you to Blossom Wheeler, who

volunteered her time to support with the gardening in the Reception area.



## Sporting News

### Kent Indoor athletics Festival:

What an amazing start to this year's events. These 4 superstars gave up a Sunday afternoon to compete in Sports Hall Athletics. An incredible performance saw them win the under 11s, beating 15 other schools. There were 8 different events and St Matthew's won every single one of them. We are so proud of all 4 children.



### Rugby

On Friday 4th October two Year 3/4 teams took part in the Rugby World Cup Celebration Festival at Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club. St Matthew's represented Ireland and Canada and had so much fun taking part in rugby based games and then matches against other schools. All the children played really well but the star of the show was Cally who scored so many superb tries.



### Cross Country

St Matthew's had a great start to this year's cross country season on Tuesday 1st October with some superb performances at the Somerhill School race. This is the most difficult course of all the races throughout the winter, but it didn't seem to prevent any of our runners from achieving really impressive performances. Jonathan and Charlie ran really strongly in the year 5/6 races finishing in 15th & 16th places out of 155 runners and there were some great debut performances from Olly and Annalys. Well done to all the runners you did us proud.



## 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

The BBC has created a "wellbeing" smartphone app called '[Own It](#)', available through app stores, aimed at supporting children and young people to interact safely and responsibly with friends and family online and through messaging apps.



The app is not a monitoring or reporting system and does not report to parents about children's activity, however it is designed to enable children to develop resilience online and offers targeted help and support when necessary.

The app enables users to install a special software keyboard which monitors the tone of the words being typed and language used by children. The app uses AI to evaluate children's mood so it can offer advice, encourage them to talk to trusted adults, or prompt them to think again if they are about to share sensitive data or send an upsetting message.

The 'Own It' app also has its own content to help children manage the amount of time they spend looking at their screen and shares advice about responsible online behaviours. The app also has advice for parents/carers to explain how the service works and support available.

For more info: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/about-us/own-it-app-faqs>



## Attendance

Our whole school attendance is 95.8%. The highest attending classes are Ducklings at 96.8% and 3DB at 97.9%.

Can we please remind everyone to let the office know on the day your child is poorly, as we don't want to have unauthorised absences.

Also, please ensure you are on time for school. Children who arrive late also count as an absence when the numbers are submitted to the Kent Attendance Officer.

## Dates for your diary:

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Oct – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term  
Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct - pre-loved uniform shop  
Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - Bedtime stories - Reception  
Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct—application deadline for secondary school  
Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct- Lorikeets class worship 9:05am  
Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parent Consultations Yr1-6  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Nov - Parent Consultations Yr 1-6  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Kookaburras Class Worship 9.05am  
Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Flu Vaccinations  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> & Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov- Anti-bullying workshops Yr2-6  
Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov - Grandparents tea party Reception  
Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov - Non-uniform Day for Xmas Fayre  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec - PTA Christmas Fayre  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec—EYFS Nativity to parents 2pm  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec—KS1 Nativity to parents 2pm  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec—KS1 Nativity to parents 9:30am  
Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec—Christmas Carol Service 1:50pm & 7pm at St Matthew's Church  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Children's Xmas Lunch  
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec - End of Term 2  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan - Term 3 Starts  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - INSET day  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb - Half Term  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb - INSET  
Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb - Term 4 Starts  
Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March & Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March - Parent Consultations for year R  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> April - Term 4 ends

## 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

Year 6 have led our class worships this term. They have taken our value of responsibility and explored the ways we can look after our world. We were incredibly impressed with their maturity and presentation of such a key issue. This has tied in with our new initiative with the local council on recycling school waste.



## House Captains and School Council Reps

Our new House Captains and Prefects have started the year well, and are already calculating the house points each week. They will be able to announce the House Points winners for Term 1 after half term.

Mrs Brown has held her first meeting with the School Council Reps. They have already started to think about how to improve our 'Who helps us in School' notice board.

## Staff News

There is a lot of baby news! Congratulations to Mrs Prideaux and her family, who welcomed a little boy into their lives at the beginning of September. Mrs Hibbett is expecting her second baby in January and to provide continuity Mrs Cheesman will cover in Ducklings. Mrs Aspinall and Mrs Williams are also due in January with their first babies. Goslings will be covered by Mrs Staples and Mrs Bradshaw, who have worked as a job-share before in a Reception class in St Matthew's. Robins will be covered by Mrs Akers and Mrs Faulkner.



We look forward to exciting news in January and lots of cuddles!

**The children have been brilliant this term, and I have been impressed with the attitude to learning I've seen across the whole school. At the beginning of term, we started with our revamped school rules and over the last couple of weeks, we have observed the classes and really noticed the respect the children are showing to their peers, to the adults they are working with and to the school environment. I wish you all a lovely half term.**  
**Mrs Hayward**