

Contents

- A message from Miss Harris
- Worship theme
- Attendance Ted
- Forest School
- Positive Changes and Successes
- A message from our new Chair of Governors
- Dates for your diary

Worship Theme

This week we have been focusing on who Jesus was and is to different people and how by asking questions, Christians believe he will guide and support decisions.



Attendance Ted

Well done to Robins (Year 1 class) and 4S (Mr Smith's class) for good attendance last week. 😊



Forest School

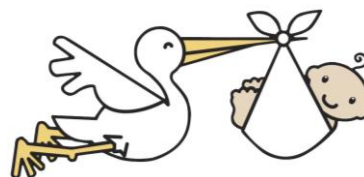
Next week, on Thursday 23rd January, 5B (Year 5 – Miss Bradley) will be taking part in Forest School.



A message from Miss Harris

With being two weeks into the term, we have all settled back in and are busy engaging with our learning topics for this term. In the next week you will receive the year group curriculum newsletters so you know what your child will be focusing on developing this term – thank you for discussing your child's learning with them to support their progress.

Today, we say very best wishes to Mrs Phillips as she begins her maternity leave. We will miss her while she is away but are delighted that Mrs Brierley will be working with Ducklings class in her place. We look forward to meeting baby Phillips soon!



A number of our neighbours and parents have approached us about parking at drop-off and pick-up times expressing concern for how some cars are parked.

Please can we ask that if you do use a car that it is parked carefully to ensure the paths can still be used, yellow lines are not parked on and crossings can be used to ensure everyone remains safe. Thank you for your support.



Positive Changes and Successes

We have discussed progress in Phonics in the newsletter before – but further progress is definitely worth celebrating!



This week, we were visited by the English Hub who we chose to work with in order to support us to enhance our teaching of Read Write Inc. Children in Year R, 1, 2 and some pupils in Year 3 engage with this programme every day and the progress data shows that children are making very strong progress due to the effective teaching and their learning. Really well done to everyone – great progress is being made!

Thank you to all parents/carers who read with their children each evening – it really does make a difference!

A message from our new Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to last week's update regarding Laura Masson's difficult decision to step down as Chair of Governors at St Matthew's, I'm pleased to confirm the following appointments, effective immediately.

*Chair of Governors - Lynn MacKay
Vice-Chair of Governors - Jayne Ingman
Parent Governor - Ruth Dearlove*

I am a familiar face to some of you, having had children at the school since 2017 and having been involved in governance since 2018. Jayne joined our board towards the end of 2024 and brings extensive experience in governance and primary education to the role, and we are delighted to welcome Ruth onto the board this week – a parent of a Year 1 and Year 5 child.

We appreciate that membership of the governing board has changed significantly since the start of the school year. While it has been sad to say goodbye to former governors, some of whom were well-known by the wider school community, such as Chris (Vicar of St Matt's Church) and Laura (our former Chair), our new governors bring a valuable range of experience to our team and are committed to supporting the continual development of St Matthew's.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with all who are part of our community here at St Matthew's.

Best wishes,

Lynn MacKay



Dates for your Diary

You will have already seen the Term dates for the year, but if you would like to refer to them again, you can find them by following [this link](#).

Below are the key dates for your diary so you know what the children will be doing in Term 3. (New dates are noted in green.)

- Monday 6th January: Term 3 begins
- Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd January: Road Safety talks for children in Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4.
- Thursday 23rd January: Year 5 and 6 Disco – Thank you to the PTA for organising this
- **Thursday 30th January @ 2.15pm: Felicity from Young Carers leading a meeting for parents**
- Wednesday 5th February: Reception year group Hearing tests
- Tuesday 11th February: Internet Safety Day
- **Wednesday 12th February: Year 5 Viking Day**
- **Wednesday 12th February: Year 3 trip to Wadhurst Park Estate**
- Thursday 13th February: Term 3 ends for children
- Friday 14th February: INSET day for staff – School closed for pupils
- Monday 17th – Friday 21st February: Spring Term break

Dates for Term 4:

- Monday 24th February: Term 4 begins
- Friday 28th February: Art Exhibition for parents / carers
- **Thursday 6th March: World Book Day**
- **Friday 21st March: Red Nose Day**
- **Monday 31st March: Easter Service at St Matthew's Church**
- Wednesday 2nd April: Reports sent out to parents / carers
- Friday 4th April: Term 4 ends

