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Worship Theme

Through our worships this week, we have been reflecting on 'life givers' and how Christians are thankful to Jesus for the life he gave with a particular focus on the importance water has in providing life.



Forest School

Next week, on Thursday 30th January, 5K (Year 5 – Miss Kimber) will be taking part in Forest School.

Please can the class come to school dressed for the weather conditions and wearing coats, boots etc. Thank you!



A message from Miss Harris

It has been good to talk with many of you across the week before and after school as you drop off and collect your children – thank you. Please do take the opportunity to have a quick chat with myself, Mrs Pollard or Mrs Dent (our Family Liaison Officer) if there is anything we can help with.

Thank you to the PTA for organising and running the Year 5/6 disco yesterday evening – it was another great success, and the children had a brilliant time. We saw some spectacular moves on the dance floor!

Positive Changes and Successes

It's lovely to report on lots of successes with events run this week... it's been a busy week at St Matt's!



Our Reception and Years 1-4 children all had talks on road safety this week. They thought about how to cross roads safely as well as the different sorts of vehicles on roads and how to be aware of keeping ourselves safe.

It was lovely to welcome David Fuller, an author of children's books, into school this week who talked to Key Stage Two pupils about the process of writing and how he develops effective stories.

David shared some of his approaches to writing, some extracts of his books and answered lots of questions the children had about how he got into writing and the processes he goes through.

An event thoroughly enjoyed by all!

If your child would like to order signed copies of David's books, there is still time to do this – please see the letter sent home for details.



Well done to the boys who represented St Matthew's at a football tournament yesterday – a great time was had by all and they did us proud!

Attendance Ted

There was fantastic attendance across the school last week – and particularly in our younger classes where there was significant improvement in attendance. Children's learning and progress will have benefitted massively!

Well done to everyone!



Ducklings (R) 98%	Goslings (R) 97%		
Robins (Y1) 98%	Owls (Y1) 93%	Kiwis (Y2) 99%	Lorikeets (Y2) 94%
Puffins (Y3) 95%	Peacocks (Y3) 98%	Class 4S 95%	Class 4W 97%
Class 5B 97%	Class 5K 92%	Class 6C 93%	Class 6H 95%

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.)

- Thursday 30th January @ 2.15pm: Felicity from Young Carers leading a meeting for parents
- **Thursday 30th January: Year 6 trip to the Islamic & Cultural Centre Tunbridge Wells Mosque**
- 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
- **Monday 3rd March: Recorder Festival for Year 3**
- 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

An opportunity

Does your child have a diagnosis of Autism, or is on the pathway for a diagnosis of Autism?

Do you want to meet other parents, share experiences and empower yourself to understand more about autism and how your child's mind works?

Then please sign up to attend the National Autistic Society's EarlyBird Plus 8-week programme, here at school. Refreshments will be provided!

When: Wednesday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 starting 12th February for x8 weeks

Where: St Matthew's High Brooms Church of England Primary School, Sunflower Room

Who: Delivered by Clare Craggs and Emma Watson, who are both Parent Support Workers at Spurgeons Family Services. Clare and Emma are trained and licensed group leaders in delivering the National Autistic Society's EarlyBird Plus programme.

How many: Spaces are extremely limited but each family is able to bring two parents/carers, so up to 3 adults per child. You would need to attend each session weekly on Wednesday mornings for 8 weeks.

Please email me to sign up and complete a referral form together as soon as possible:

Senco@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk

You can also find out more about the course here

<https://spurgeons.org/resources-and-courses/courses/nas-earlybird-plus-and-nas-teen-life/>

Thank you,
Miss Hadjicosta (SENCO)

