

Contents

- A message from Miss Harris
- A message from the School Council
- Worship Theme
- Forest School
- Attendance Ted
- Writing competition
- New resources and provision for our children
- Dates for your diary



Worship Theme

This week, we have been reflecting on the work of John the Baptist and how Christians celebrate and remember him as spreading God's messages and preparing communities for the arrival of Jesus signifying a new beginning. We have thought about new beginnings for ourselves and what we might say sorry for or change at a new starting point.

Forest School

On Thursday 29th January, Ash Class (Year 1/2, Mr Voke) will be taking part in Forest School.

Please send your children into school wearing suitable clothing (a warm coat / waterproof and wellies) so they enjoy their time in the forest!



A message from Miss Harris

What a wet week it has been this week – the children have coped well with the weather but it has been a shame to have to spend some breaktimes inside – we get the children outside as much as we can and would like to thank you for making sure the children have the right clothing to enable them to be outside.

This week, we have said 'goodbye' to Miss Hussain who has begun her maternity leave – we wish her well with the last part of her pregnancy and becoming a mummy. We have also welcomed Mrs Sasse to the team – she has begun working in Chestnut Class and, I know the children are supporting her to settle into life at St Matt's quickly. It is lovely to have her on board.

A message from the School Council

The School Council met with Miss Harris this week to share with her some of the ideas they had about events we could run and how we can continue to improve the school. It was a rich conversation where all School Council members represented their classes well and where thoughtful and mature discussions occurred about the ideas being presented. We discussed lunchtime clubs, children being involved in the newsletter, curriculum days to celebrate different cultures and how funds could be raised for a 'buddy bench' – this is a continuation of work that began before Christmas at the Fair when the Positivity Committee ran a cake stall and began raising money.

As an outcome, we have agreed on a number of outcomes and we will share two here.

1. We will be setting up a Comic Book box of resources for the Key Stage 2 playground for lunchtimes for those children who would rather enjoy a comic than run around.
2. The School Council will be running an own clothes day on Friday 13th February for a suggested donation of £1 which will go towards buying the 'buddy bench'. The theme for the own clothes day is to wear clothes that express who you are and what makes you comfortable which contributes to the theme for the Mental Health Week – 'This is my place'. It would be lovely if everyone joined in.

To help with setting up the Comic Book box, we are asking that if you have any old comics that you now longer want, that you donate them to the school by bringing them into the School Office please – we can then enjoy them in school.

The School Council love being involved in decision making and on leading changes in school – we will let you know about further updates as we move through the rest of the year!



Attendance Ted

Here's this week's attendance data – most classes have improved this week and is stronger than last week. Let's keep working to improve it! 😊

Year R Willow 92%		
Year 1/2 Ash 97%	Year 1/2 Birch 97%	Year 1/2 Elm 98%
Year 3/4 Chestnut 93%	Year 3/4 Hazel 92%	Year 3/4 Pine 88%
Year 5 Maple 97%	Year 5 Sycamore 95%	
Year 6 Oak 94%	Year 6 Yew 94%	



Writing Competition

A huge well done to Finlay Finch for entering the BBC 500 Words writing competition and for his story to be chosen to be in the top 100 and judged as 'highly commended'. The final results will be announced in February – Finlay, we are all rooting for you and are excited to read your story.



New resources and provision for our children

The children in Year 6 have new chairs! The sets of chairs which are now in the classrooms are far more comfortable and look better too... we hope this will support the children to concentrate on their learning even more than they have been.



Some lovely feedback - Well done Year 4!

One of our parents in Hazel Class who works at St John's pool was at work when Year 4 went swimming this week. She wrote to say: "I thought you would be pleased to know that the sports centre commented to me today that they were the most quiet and well behaved students they had seen in a long time. Well done Year 4!"

Fabulous – and really well done to Year 4!

Dates for your Diary

Below are key dates for your diary (new events are coloured green):

Term 3:

- Tuesday 27th January – Pine Class trip to a farm
- Friday 30th January – Hazel Class trip to a farm
- Tuesday 10th February – Chestnut Class trip to a farm
- Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11th February – Choir attending Singing Festival
- **Friday 13th February – Own Clothes Day for a suggested donation of £1**
- Friday 13th February – End of Term 3

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February: Spring Break – School closed for children

Term 4:

- Monday 23rd February – Term 4 begins and school reopens to children
- Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
- Thursday 2nd April – End of Term 4

Friday 3rd April – Friday 17th April: Easter break – School closed for children