



# St Matthew's Primary

## We are the Future

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Newsletter 3

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so proud of all our learners and staff for making it this far in what has been a really different and challenging term. It is evident just how resilient our school community is and I wanted to thank each and every one of you for supporting your children with this.

We are also delighted to announce the birth of Nancie Syme, born on the 11th November weighing 8lb and 6oz. We can't wait for her to visit us when it is safe to do so.

We are delighted that Amelia won the Colin Beattie Christmas Card competition. Congratulations! Her illustration will be shared across Midlothian.

Normally, the month of December is full of festive cheer and excitement around carol concerts, nativities, visiting local care homes and other places around the community. We don't want COVID to stop this at our school. We are all busy preparing a special Christmas Nativity video, which will allow them (and you) to get in to the Christmas spirit and to spread the festive cheer. As well as this, we are building in 'Festive Fridays' to the month of December, which we hope will build up the anticipation for Christmas. While we can't make our usual trip to the King's Theatre for the pantomime, we have organized a virtual pantomime for our learners instead, which we are confident they will enjoy. Please see the 'Christmas Updates' box for more information about Christmas.

Kind regards,  
Anna Chidgey

### Parking Guidance

Please may we remind parents/carers to kindly park safely and turn engines off when dropping children at the school. Please note that Whitehill Football club and Ferguson Park Garage have given us permission to use their grounds for parking at drop off and pick up times. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation .

### Christmas Lunch and Parties

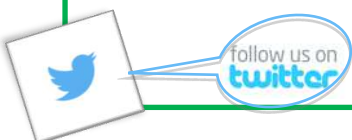


Our Christmas lunch day will be on Tuesday 15th December. P1/3 will be provided with a Christmas themed pack lunch and will be making their choices this week in class. P4/7 are invited to bring their own Christmas pack lunch and will be provided with a Christmas treat from the kitchen.

Each class will have their own Christmas party on Monday 21st December. Due to current Covid restrictions some of the party activities may be different this year but our class teachers have a lovely day planned for their pupils.

We also have a special opportunity to watch a virtual Panto by Brunton Theatre in school this year on Thursday 10th December.

To celebrate the end of term we will be holding a Movie day on Tuesday 22nd December where pupils are invited to come to school dressed in their pjs.





### Literacy

Primary 1/3 have made lots of progress in literacy this term. Our P1s have been focusing on blending set 1 sounds and reading words within small sentences. Some of our P2s have been learning new set 3 sounds and are reading with more fluency and expression. Some of our P3s have been working on Literacy and language and reading comprehension tasks.



### Nativity News

We are still planning to hold a nativity this year at St Matthews but it will look a little different due to Covid restrictions. We are recording different scenes within each class which will then be edited together to create a virtual nativity for all the parents/carers to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. More information to follow soon.

### Numeracy

In numeracy some of us have been learning numbers to 20 and focusing on our addition and subtraction skills. As a class we have been looking at telling the time at o'clock and half past as well as reading digital clocks. We have also been practising our multiplication and division skills each week with Mrs Christian. We have also been learning about tens and ones within numbers to 100 to give us a better understanding of number structures.

### Forest School sessions

This term P1/3 have had the opportunity to attend Forest School sessions this term with Miss Chidgey and Mrs Hewitt. The pupils have loved learning about and exploring their local woodland area. This week we listened to a story about a Goblin village destroyed by a dragon and we worked in small friendship groups to rebuild some of Goblin village.

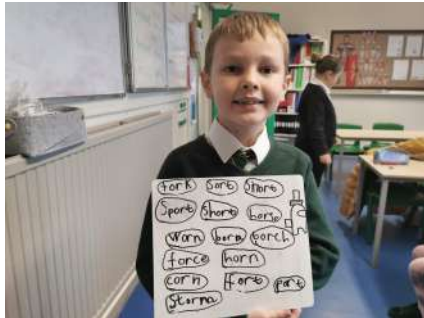


## P4-5 News

### Literacy

Our language and literacy sessions continue to be a source of enjoyment for the children as they see their progress over the year. We have created Sci-Fi stories, balanced arguments and poems, and I have enjoyed reading every single piece of work so far!

Our Read, Write, Inc group also continue to build on their knowledge, and reading fluency is coming along across the whole class! I will gradually be introducing Reading for Fluency homework tasks to give children access to a wider range of age appropriate texts.



### Colin Beattie's Christmas card competition

We wanted to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Amelia in P4/5 who won Colin Beattie's Christmas card competition this year with her beautiful wintery scene of a snowman. There were so many lovely entries from St Matthews this year we also wanted to say a big well done to everyone who took part.



### Numeracy

In addition to our daily mental maths work, we have continued to work on the basic four functions (adding, multiplying, subtracting and dividing), which has culminated recently in a times table focus week. As we build our knowledge of numeracy, we will also continue to explore maths through shape, measure, money, and data handling.

Pupils have also now received their passwords to SumDog, and occasional homework challenges will be set through this.



### HWB

After discussing bullying as part of Anti-Bullying week we are continuing with our theme of Kindness in P4/5. Recently we have made cards to praise each other in class, and are currently investigating "What a P4/5 Learner Looks Like" and creating posters to show off our skills and abilities. We have been delighted to welcome our Play Therapist, Lois, into school on Thursdays, and there has been a great uptake in use of her sessions by children already.

### Reminders

**Mondays** - Homework sent home. This includes spelling words, a maths worksheet and some independent reading follow up tasks.

**Tuesdays** - Outdoor PE kit to be worn every week.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** - Forest Schools Session.

**Mondays** - Homework to be brought back to school.



## P6-7

In Numeracy we have spent some time learning about money and measurement - we will be returning to these topics later in the year. We have moved onto learning about fractions and we will soon learn about decimals and percentages as well.



In Literacy we have looked at the features of different story genres. We looked at what to include in adventure, fantasy and horror stories. At the start of November the class wrote some great poems about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day.

We have also created artwork based on these events. In both cases we used silhouettes to create an autumnal feel.



We are continuing to develop our I.T. skills by using our Chromebooks regularly in class. In recent weeks we have used them to practise numeracy skills and strategies and have undertaken personal research projects.

Reminders:

P.E.—we have P.E. lessons every Tuesday. Children should remember to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. As lessons have to be outside, children should be prepared for all weathers.

Homework—homework is assigned each Monday and is to be submitted by the following Monday. All homework tasks can be found on Google Classroom.

## Children in Need

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated towards our Children in Need appeal this year. We raised a total of £57.40 for the charity.

## COVID/Social Distancing Restrictions and Reminders

As we said above, the children have done a fantastic job of returning to school and settling in to the new "normal" which faces them and their friends during the school day. We appreciate the support on these restrictions from home, and kindly ask that the following rules and restrictions continue to be adhered to and discussed at home:

### Before school:

Drop off is between 8:50-9:05am.

Your child should come in the "In" gate (wider gate is for exit and inclusive access).

You should remain on the outside of the playground as much as possible.

P1-3 and P6-7 enter through bottom door, P4-5 enter through the top door.

If your child arrives after 9:05, they will be marked late on the register.

Please phone the school office if your child is going to be late or absent to ensure that class teachers and registers are updated appropriately.

### During school:

Please be aware that during school hours, we ask that should you have a query regarding any school related issues that you **email the school office in the first instance**. Emails will be redirected and replied to by the appropriate members of staff, and phone calls will be made to you should this be necessary. In the current situation, adults are limited to the number of classrooms they can visit, so messages cannot be passed on as easily as before, and therefore your queries will most likely be answered quicker and more efficiently if in written, emailed form.

### After school:

**Collection for all children is at 3:15pm.**

You may enter the playground to collect your child but we kindly ask that you socially distance yourself from other people who are not in your family.

Entrance to the playground should be through the "In" gate, and you should "Exit" through the wider, double gates.

Once you have collected your child we ask that you leave the playground as soon as possible, reducing the amount of time spent with those outside of your family.

Please encourage your child to remain off their bikes and scooters whilst in the playground, to reduce the risk of injuries or bumps and crashes with those who are leaving at the same time.



## Christmas Update



- No Christmas cards to come from home — all learners will make one joint card for all their peers, which will be displayed in their classrooms
- Festive Fridays—Every Friday in December (optional)—4/12, 11/12, 18/12—Christmas Jumpers encouraged!
- Virtual Pantomime—Brunton Theatre—Rapunzel —Thursday 10/12—2.00-3.00
- As much as teachers appreciate your generosity at Christmas time, we ask that if you have planned on buying a gift for a member of staff, that you look to donate to the local foodbank or Cash for Kids Mission Christmas instead :)
- Christmas Parties will be happening in individual classrooms on Monday 21st December
- Christmas Movie —Tuesday 22nd December—wear your pyjamas!



**September**

- 30th Nov - St Andrew's Day
- 2nd Dec - P4/5 Forest Schools
- 4th Dec - **Christmas Jumper Day**
- 6th Dec - First Sunday of Advent
- 8th Dec - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9th Dec - P3 Enrolment Mass of Reconciliation
- 9th Dec - P6/7 Forest Schools
- 10th Dec - **Rapunzel Pantomime—Virtual—whole school—2pm**
- 11th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- 15th Dec - **Christmas Lunch**
- 16th Dec - P4/5 Forest Schools
- 16th Dec - **P1/3 Visit Santa—Virtual**
- 18th Dec - **Christmas Jumper Day**
- 21st Dec - **Christmas Parties—All classes 1.30—3.15**
- 22nd Dec - **Movie Day—Wear Pyjamas - All Classes**

22nd Dec - School closes at 3.15 pm for Christmas Holiday

23rd Dec -

5th Jan 20 - Christmas Holidays

6th Jan - All resume at 8.50 am

- 6th Jan - Epiphany
- 14th Jan - Parent /Carer Consultations
- 25th Jan - Burns Day
- 31st Jan - Young Carers Awareness Day

5th Feb - Finish at 12.25 for February Break

15th Feb - Staff In-Service Day

16th Feb - All Pupils resume at 8.50 am

- 6th Feb - Rugby Six Nations Begins
- 7th Feb - Time to Talk Day

- 16th Feb - Shrove Tuesday
- 17th Feb - Ash Wednesday—Lent begins

2021 cont'd

- 14th Mar - World Book Day
- 20th Mar - Spring Begins
- 25th Mar - Parent/Carer Consultations
  
- 1st Apr - School closes at 3.15 pm for Easter Holiday
- 2nd Apr—
- 19th Apr - Easter Holiday
- 20th Apr - All resume at 8.50 am
  
- 2nd Apr - World Autism Awareness Day
  
- 3rd May - May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
- 4th May - All Resume at 8.50 am
  
- 13th May - Ascension Thursday Mass
- 23rd May - Pentecost Sunday
  
- 24th May - Staff In-Service Day
- 25th May - All Pupils resume at 8.50 am
  
- 25th Jun - Term Ends 12.25 pm

**Due to COVID many of our annual events are not listed in this calendar. We have not forgotten about Sports Day! We are busy planning how we can creatively continue with some of our events and will continue to keep you updated!**

**All dates and times are subject to change.**