



St Matthew's RC Primary



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14th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another busy week here at St Matthew's, with lots going on! A real highlight for me this week has been spending time with all learners in our wellbeing assembly, where we have been speaking about the role of our school champions and discussing the 8 wellbeing indicators – Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included.



Our house captains have been enjoying their extra responsibilities around the school following their election last week and have been doing themselves proud! One of their newest responsibilities is to track



the Wider Achievements in our school and help us to celebrate all the wonderful things our learners do. We are developing a Wider Achievements Hall of Fame display in our foyer – as always, if your

child has a special achievement from outside of school, please do send us a photo so that we can add it to the Hall of Fame!

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to join me for Coffee and Chat on Friday; it's really great to get to know you all as parents and I hope that many of you will come along to the next Coffee and Chat session at 9am on 6th October.

Some parents have been requesting that we share dates of whole school events in advance so that they can make arrangements to attend. While we will do our very best to share these dates with you with as much notice as possible, please be advised that these are subject to change.

Please scroll to the end of the weekly update each week to see the most up to date lists of dates.

Mrs Cran

School Updates

September Weekend

Please be reminded of the September Weekend, which falls this weekend. The children will be off school on Friday 15th and Monday 18th of September. They will return on Tuesday 19th of September.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We would like to invite parents and family into St Matthew's for our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning fundraising morning. This will be on **Friday 29th September** from 11am. We would greatly appreciate bought cake donations being handed into the school on Thursday 28th September or the morning of the 29th. As usual we will be offering a cake and a tea/coffee for a donation towards the MacMillan Cancer Support charity.



St Matthew's Feast Day

Pupils will be attending Mass at St Matthew's RC Church on Thursday 21st September to celebrate St Matthew's Feast Day. Please could all pupils come to school in full uniform. All Parents and carers are welcome to also attend the mass at 9.30 am.

Book Fair

Please be aware that the Scholastic Book Fair will be in from the 25th of September until the 29th of September. Children will look at the books during school time and then you will be able to come in to the building **at the end of the school day** to purchase any books you would like for your children. The fair will also be out during the MacMillan Coffee morning during which books could also be purchased.

Pantomime

We have a few outstanding permission forms and payments for our trip to see the Pantomime production of "**Peter Pan**" on Wednesday 6th December. The cost per pupil for this excursion is **£18.00** which covers the price of tickets and the coach. Please could we have these in asap. If you have any concerns – please contact Mrs Golder in the office. Please could all payment be made through Parent Pay



P3-5 Swimming

Please remember swimming every Friday morning. Children should come to school in their uniforms (except on dress down days), and bring their swimming kit and towel with them in a separate bag.

PE Kit

PE this year will be taught on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits as it ensures that children do not need to use their PE time to get changed twice.

Please be reminded that no clothing associated with football clubs should be worn to school, during PE or when representing the school in the locality. Pupils should wear white T shirts / shorts/ trainers/tracksuit bottoms for PE, a St Matthew's Hoodie or Jumper may be required all year round.

P7 Camp at Manor Adventure

For any of the P7s that have booked a space on the St David's ASG camp at Lockerbie Manor, please note that the next payment for this are due 25th August next payment is due 29th September 2023. Payments can be made on parent pay.

Breakfast Club & Morning Arrival

We offer a breakfast club to all pupils at a cost of 50p per day – payments via **parent pay** (free to pupils entitled to free school meals). Pupils are invited to join in various games & art activities and given a healthy breakfast. The club runs between 8.30 am and 8.50 am - due to staffing we cannot allow children into the school prior to **8.30 am**. No booking necessary.

Please could we remind parents that the playground is unsupervised in the mornings and the doors do not open until 8.50 am. Due to safety reasons we ask that pupils are not left unattended in the playground early in the mornings.

Nut-Free Snacks

Due to severe nut allergies at our school, please do not send your child to school with snacks or lunch items containing nuts. This includes, but is not limited to, Kinder Buenos, Nutella, Daim bars and peanut butter. Please note that any snacks with nuts in them will be sent home with the child. We very much encourage healthy snacks such as fruit.



Parking

If you absolutely need to drop your child to school or collect them using your car, please ensure you park inside the Whitehill grounds and avoid parking on the roadside, particularly either side of the entrance/exit

of the football grounds. When parking on the roadside outside the grounds, visibility can be affected for cars entering and exiting the stadium grounds, which could lead to an accident.

Our JRSOs continue to put cones out every day to encourage and guide safe parking and as always we are grateful and appreciative of these cones being adhered to. Thank you for your continued support on this matter.

Medication

If your child requires any medication (including inhalers, which we require 2 held in school) while at school, please ensure that you have completed the relevant medication form. These are available from Mrs Golder at the school office.

As per our administration of medication policy, we cannot administer this medication without parental consent and permission forms need to be completed by parents prior to us administering any medication. Please also ensure all medication sent to school is in date and includes the dispensing label from the pharmacy if a prescribed medication.

Class Updates

P1-3

What a busy week in P1-3! We have really enjoyed watching our caterpillars change and grow as the week has gone on, they're now forming their cocoons and we're hoping to have butterflies next week after the long weekend. We have enjoyed learning about the science of life cycles and exactly how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly and goes on to lay new eggs. The P1s have been showing off their handwriting skills and learning new sounds every day. The P2s and P3s have been working on tricky words which don't follow the sound rules that we know. In numeracy, we have all been focussing on counting backwards from 20, 50, and 100. The P2s and P3s are learning how to skip count in 2s and 5s. In PE, we learned a new rule in the game Dragon Tails and played four games! The P3s really enjoyed their drumming session on Tuesday and will have a few more sessions in the coming weeks.



P3-5

In Literacy we finished adapting the story we have been learning. We kept the same structure, but changed the details, such as the characters, setting and events. We then made a boxed up plan of the story, which will help the children to write their own personal version of the story. They have already decided the setting and the characters for their story, and will plan and write it next week.



In Numeracy we have been focussing on subtraction and its links with addition. We looked at addition and subtraction number families, for example $2+3=5$, $3+2=5$, $5-2=3$, $5-3=2$, learned about the partitioning strategy and how to subtract 10 and multiples of 10. We will be continuing with subtraction and addition next week.

We also had a visit from the drumming teacher, who taught us about drums and other instruments from West Africa. The class really enjoyed the lesson and are looking forward to further lessons later in the term.

P5-7

In literacy we have continued our talk for writing block. This week we have been learning about how to use different openers in our stories. In groups we created a variety of sentences and then made some individually. We have revised the toolkit for our writing and along with the next steps we identified from our writing we will be planning and writing a new version of the "Keep off the Tracks" story. During milk and story we have been watching the episodes along with the story and then comparing it to the book. We have continued with our spelling groups with new words and using the different activities each day to reinforce the spellings.

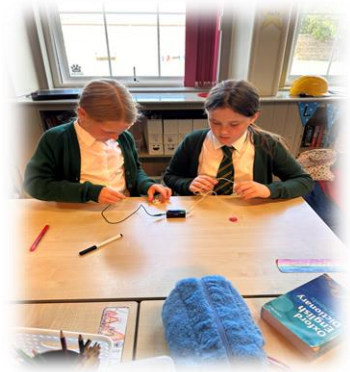
In maths and numeracy we have started learning about subtracting as well as adding. We have looked at different methods for subtracting such as chimney sums and number lines. To aid this we have been using concrete materials like Dienes 100s 10s and 1 blocks to help with exchanging. We will continue to work on subtracting and linking it with addition over the next two weeks.

We another great few sessions of PE and we have been learning how to play Basketball. We continued to develop our dribbling and passing skills. This week we have been focussing on footwork, pivoting and keeping possession.

For artist of the week this week we have been looking at the Proclaimers as they came up in our milk and story book and we hadn't all heard of them. We listened to 4 different songs and give each one a star rating. At the end of the week we give an overall rating for the artist.

In science we have been learning about electricity. We have created different circuits using a variety of components such as buttons, switches and motors. We have been drawing the circuits using the appropriate symbols.

Drumming started again this week and we all had a great time learning different rhythms on the djembe drums, claves, Ghana bell, doum doum drums, caxixis.



The Snug

This week in the snug we have been practising our phonics and reading our reading books. For those focusing on phonics we have been practising our sounds with picture prompts, then to add an extra challenge we have placed all of the cards on the table without the pictures and had to find the sound asked for as quickly as possible. We have also been using magnetic boards and been building words by listening to the sounds. For those on RWI reading levels we have been practising our speed sounds and story words. Once we have read the book we complete a writing activity that matches our book.

Dates For Your Diary

Please note these are subject to change

September:

- w/b 25th September – Cycle to School Week
- Fri 29th September – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 29th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning @ 11am
- Fri 29th September – Dress Down Day/Wear Green for Macmillan

October:

- Tues 3rd October - Drumming
- Fri 6th October – Coffee and Chat – in person @ 9am
- Fri 6th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 13th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 16th - Fri 20th October - October holiday
- Mon 23rd October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Fri 27th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 27th October – Dress Down Day

November:

- Fri 3rd November – Coffee and Chat – virtual @ 9.30am
- Fri 3rd November – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 10th November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Scottish Book Week
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Catholic Education Week
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Anti-Bullying Week
- Thurs 16th November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17th November – Flu Vaccination Programme in School
- Fri 17th November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 20th November – Fri 24th November – Road Safety Week
- Fri 24th November – Dress Down Day
- Fri 24th November – P3-5 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30

December:

- Weds 6th December – Pantomime at Festival Theatre
- Mon 11th December – Fluoride Varnish
- Fri 15th December – St David’s High School maths teacher visit to P7
- Fri 22nd December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm

January:

- Tues 9th January – New term starts for pupils

Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

- Wed 1st Nov – All Saints Day
- Fri 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Thurs 9th May – Feast of the Ascension