



St Matthew's RC Primary



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22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



Next week the school are fundraising for an extremely worthy charity – Macmillan Cancer Support. There are many families within the St Matthew's community whose lives have been affected by cancer and Macmillan are there to support in the darkest of times.

This year we are hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise much needed funds but we need the help of families to ensure it is a success...

Are you able to help out with tasty treats to sell and serve?

We would love some tasty treats to serve at the coffee morning. While we love a bit of home-baking, we are asking for store-bought donations if at all possible to ensure that we can manage allergies and intolerances within the school. We also ask that all foodstuffs are nut free and have allergens listed to help us with this. Any donations would be hugely appreciated. If you are able to make a donation, please hand them in to the school on Thursday 28th September.



Are you able to come along?

Why not support us by coming along to the **Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September from 11am**. There, you will be served tasty delights by our even more delightful children! If you would like to spend some quality time with your child during the coffee morning, we are more than happy for them to join you when you come along. All other children will still get a chance to attend towards the end of the day so even if you can't attend and support, I am sure your children will be happy to eat cakes on your behalf!

There will also be games and other activities on the day, led by our P5-7 class, which will hopefully add to the fun of the day as well as adding to the fund of donations.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support you offer and feel very lucky to have such kind and considerate families within our community.

Mrs Cran

School Updates

Cycle to School Week

We are thrilled to announce that this year's **Cycle to School Week** will take place from **25 to 29 September 2023**. We would like to encourage all pupils to come to school on their bikes for the whole week.

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 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 continuing 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

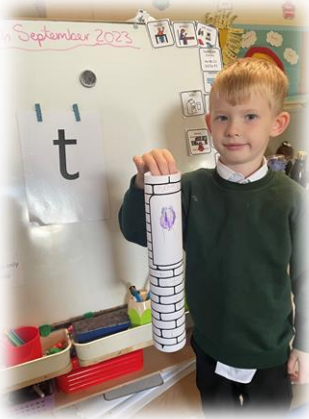
We've had a lovely week in P1-3 this week. We were so lucky that we were gifted some beautiful zoo animal teddy bears for our classroom - we've really enjoyed making up stories, playing games, and organising the teddies into categories.

The P1s have been busy building words and learning sounds - they are getting so good at blending sounds together. The P2s and P3s have been practising writing sentences and spelling with various practical activities and Kahoot quizzes.

In numeracy, we have been focussing on counting in 2s and ordering numbers from smallest to largest.

In RE, we learned about St Matthew and we celebrated his feast day on Thursday 21st September. For PE this week, we added another rule to our game of Dragon Tails - we're really having to use strategy and teamwork to win the game!

Our caterpillars have been pretty quiet this week but Miss Mac thinks that they're getting lots of rest in before they emerge over the weekend. We've learned all about the life cycle of a butterfly and next week we'll go on to learn about the life cycle of a frog and have a go at re-writing the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar but with a very hungry frog!



P3-5

This week in Literacy we have been planning our own stories based on the warning story we have been learning. We broke down the original story into different parts to see how we could change it, and thought about different vocabulary we could use. We started to write our stories on Thursday, and we aim to finish them early next week. Once the stories are finished, the children will have the opportunity to share them with their classmates.

In Numeracy we have been focussing on addition and subtraction, and how they link. We have been practising number bonds, and learning strategies to help with addition and subtraction. We have also learned about bar models, and how they can give us a visual representation of the different operations. We have some fun activities planned for Maths Week next week, which the children will be very excited about.

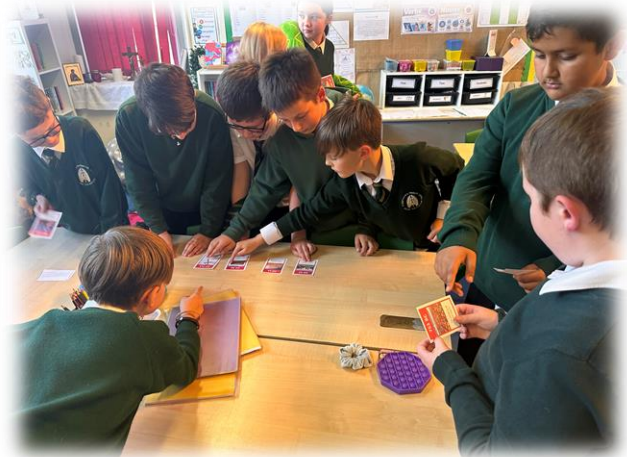
As Thursday was St Matthew's Feast Day, we learned a bit about St Matthew this week. We learned how he met Jesus and became one of his apostles.



P5-7

In literacy we have started our non-fiction novel study around the theme of Pompeii and natural disasters. This week we have been learning about how volcanoes are formed, tectonic plates and what life was like in the Roman times. We have been learning how to take notes and how to write up a science experiment. With the revised toolkit we have self-assessed our writing and reflected on our next steps we made last week and discussed whether we think we achieved them.

In maths and numeracy we have continued learning about subtracting as well as adding. We have looked at different methods for subtracting such as chimney sums and number lines. Some of us have started to learn about adding and subtracting decimals. We will continue to work on subtracting and linking it with addition over the next week along with some exciting maths week challenges.



We had another great session of PE, working with P3-5 on different games like Capture the Flag and Rainbow Ball. Lots of tactics and team work are involved in these games.



For artist of the week this week we have been looking at Earth, Wind and Fire as it's the 21st of September this week, which is the date that they sing about in one of their songs! We listened to 3 different songs and they got an average score of 4 stars.

In science we made a volcano using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. We have been ordering the events of the eruption of Vesuvius and key events in the Roman timeline. On Friday we had an exciting talk from the National Museum of Scotland on Romans and comparing life then vs now.

The Snug

This week in the snug we have been practising our sounds and then building words using our magnetic letter boards. Our focus letter this week for handwriting has been 't' too. Some of us have been practising our Read Write Inc red and green words and have been finishing our writing story book tasks.

During our numeracy time we have been sequencing numbers 1 - 20 and then building the number using counters or the numicon shapes. We have also been practising forming our numbers too. Some of us have been practising recognising and sequencing numbers above 100.

We learned with Miss Edmond this week about the colour monster and had to pick colours to match the feelings. We have liked exploring our new busy house which has lots of fine motor activities to complete, for example it has different locks and windows/doors to open.



Kind regards,

Siobhna Cran
Acting Headteacher

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