

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

27th April 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we talked about the story of St George and the Dragon to celebrate St George's Day and the children learned how St George became the patron saint of England. As well as his famous fight against the dragon, he was a Roman soldier who protested against the Roman torture of Christians and was killed for his beliefs. We also have spent time thinking and talking about the wisdom of Jesus and how he taught us that if we have done something wrong then we should try to put things right and do better next time, and we should always try to be a good friend to others.

Thank you to Ava and Adele who both made posters about being good friends that let others join in, as a reminder that we have all agreed to be inclusive in our games at playtimes. Well done to the following children who have been awarded a certificate from home, showing wisdom : Mylo showed wisdom *'My brother didn't let me use his pens so I didn't let him use my paints. We both felt sad- we learnt it's better to share.'* ; Finley P showed wisdom by *'deciding to take a stapler away from his little sister, he brought it to mummy and said he didn't want her to hurt herself and he knew a stapler can be dangerous'* (Amazing handwriting on this certificate Finley – I thought your mum had written it!); Evie showed wisdom by *'reminding daddy she needed to take her medicine so it would make her better (even though it tastes "disgusting")'* ; Zachary showed wisdom by *'rescuing a beetle in the park from being trodden on by children, and safely putting it in a shady tree, saying "We need to protect **all** God's creatures, even the creepy-crawly ones!"'* ; Dominic showed wisdom by *'choosing a healthy snack to eat instead of an unhealthy snack. Very proud of his wise choice! His teeth and health will be better as a consequence.'* What amazing wisdom our children can show – well done everyone!

This week Rabbits Class have been extending their learning about grouping and sharing in maths, practising counting in twos to count the objects being shared more quickly. They have also been practising counting in 5s and 10s throughout the week. They have been practising writing their tricky words, first looking at them together on the smart board and then when they are hidden, recalling how to spell them and writing them on their own whiteboards. In RE they have been talking about the creation story in the Bible, using props to act it out – what happened on the six days of the world's creation and how God rested on the seventh day. Sam was particularly thoughtful about why God created the world *'because God didn't want to keep it all for himself and Jesus – he wanted to share it more'* and Finnlay thought that Adam and Eve were *'explorers who loved animals'*. The class talked about the importance of taking care of God's world. In science they have read the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk', noticing what he did on each day of the week and how his bean plant grew. They have planted their own beans in a pot and are keeping a 'Bean Diary' – so far recording what they needed in order to plant the bean and what their bean plant will need in order to grow well.

Otters Class have been continuing their exploration of the story of Grace Darling's life, finding lots of information that they have written as a fact file. This has been a helpful tool for writing an interesting information text about her, writing about why she is famous and how courageous she was. They watched a video that enacted her famous rescue and compared this with footage of a modern-day RNLI rescue. In maths they have been building on previous learning about length and weight, looking at and comparing lengths using Cuisenaire Rods, and finding half or double of a length. They had a great lesson on the Common that combined science and maths learning – seeking to answer the question *'Do plants with the longest leaves have the longest roots?'* They carefully dug up different weeds, looking at the structure of the plants, especially the leaves and roots – talking about what they noticed in each plant. Back in the classroom they measured the roots and leaves, using cubes as a non-standard measuring unit, and plotted their findings on a

scattergraph. As a group they discussed the big question and came up with a group answer – notably that the size of leaf did not appear to affect the size of the root, or the reverse. Otters also explored plants, trees and other natural objects, using different coloured shade charts to match shades seen when out on the Common. They explored the allotment area to see where they will be planting the bean seeds that they are growing. In RE their Big Question is ‘What is the Bible About?’ and they have been exploring the Old Testament and the story of Moses and the ten commandments. They have been continuing with computer coding, practising giving instructions that will guide a boat to a lighthouse, such as Forward 3, Quarter Turn Left, Forward 2...

Badgers Class had a very exciting time on Tuesday, when they took part in the Year 2 Howard Music Festival. Our children were the first to arrive so they had the enjoyment, while completing some important tasks of their own, of watching the students from Year 10 at the Howard setting up the band that would accompany everyone as all of the schools sung together. New warm-ups for voices and bodies were learnt, led by the Howard students and then the singing began... lots of fabulous songs were sung together with all of the other schools and then, finally, it was St Matthew’s turn. As our children stood to sing, suddenly the CD began to misbehave – but it was no problem for our super stars in Badger Class as they were immediately ready to sing ‘a cappella!’ And so, without any accompaniment, they sang their hearts out, with beautiful expressive voices and wonderful actions! Many of the other schools commented on how brilliant and confident Badgers were, which was lovely (well done Mrs Skudder – you are a super leader of fantastic singing in our school!!) Perhaps we shall see them all on stage in the West End, before we know it! Recounts of their amazing experience have been written so that they will always be able to remember this wonderful day. Badgers have also been practising subtraction, counting forwards and backwards and using these skills to work out maths word problems. Yesterday they had a visit from Rania’s mum, telling them all about being a Muslim and what it is like being a child following the Muslim faith. They found out how parents are greeted in the morning and the special words said before eating, as well as looking at special clothes worn for celebrating festivals. They found out that children learn to recite the Quran from the age of seven, and were very impressed when Rania quoted some – a big thank you to her mum for coming in. Badgers have also been planting different seeds ready to transfer to the allotment, already growing beans and lettuce. This is helping their science experiment too as they are busy monitoring the growth of their experiment seeds that have been placed in different locations, in order to start making decisions about the needs of a plant ... the evidence is growing (or not!!!)

Thank you to the children who accompanied me to plant poppy seeds along the line of newly planted Cherry trees that have created the Avenue of Remembrance in Cobham. We had to mix the seeds with soil in a bucket and then distribute them evenly in our square of earth along the avenue, then make sure that they were gently raked in afterwards. Everyone was proud to represent St. Matthew’s in this special community event and we look forward to seeing the poppies and wild-flowers grow. Do go and have a look, the avenue is really impressive and will look wonderful with the flowers all along it.

A big thank you to Lisa and her helpers who helped to make the Ladies Evening last night so enjoyable for those who attended. Unfortunately I was not able to make it, but Mrs Selencky informed me that everyone had a great time, choosing from lots of different lovely things available such as a summer strawberry cocktail (thank you Gareth), having nails done (thank you Sarah) and makeup (thank you Katherine).. you could even have a massage – welcome at the end of a busy day! The event raised a great £270 so thank you to everyone who supported the evening.

An important Stop-Press notice for everyone is that the date of our Annual Fun Run has had to be changed from 20th May to **Sunday 17th June** . This is also Father’s Day, so we will put a Father’s Day twist on it and as it is a morning activity, it leaves plenty of time for arranging a lunch afterwards (which the dads will need after taking part!!) Our children’s sponsored walk will still take place on **Friday 18th May** and this will have a Royal Wedding theme, inviting parents to attend and to have a royal celebration afternoon tea afterwards – another exciting date for your diaries!

Well done to Freddie W, Evie and Harley for finishing their sticker charts this week.
Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Hutt

GOVERNOR NOTES, AND PEOPLE /HELP REQUIRED

Dear Parents

Welcome to the summer Term!

As a new Governor and parent with a child at this fantastic School I wanted to say a few words, plus ask for a bit of help.

Some of you know us, but my partner Jo and I live in Ockham, and I run our own (separate) recruitment businesses, aimed at the Creative industry. I hold a business degree from West of England University, and thus felt I could bring some commercial /financial input to the school (and hopefully add some value).

Being a Governor does require commitment, in terms of time, energy and emotional input but it's very rewarding, and by being part of such a great team it's nice to feel I'm doing my bit. As well as Full Governing Board responsibilities I help oversee Maths and Art and help with fundraising.

The Governing Board along with the Head are taking a more a strategic approach to fundraising, to better safeguard the financial position of the school over the coming years. This is alongside the sterling work the PTA already does, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts.

We're looking for people to join the fundraising working party to help coordinate these efforts. There are several spots up for grabs, including Marketing, Comms, Project Management and Product Sourcing. No experience is required apart from energy, enthusiasm and a bit of commitment (4-8 hours pcm as an average).

Anyone is welcome to apply, so please get in touch via email/phone - andrewosbornesmail@gmail.com or 07917 177 697.

Thanks, Andrew Osborne

A NOTE FROM PTA REGARDING BENEFITTING THE SCHOOL THROUGH CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate Social Responsibility and Charitable Giving

If you are a working parent it may be worth checking out your employer's policies around corporate social responsibility and charitable giving. The School has charitable status so should qualify. Some examples of policies are when employers will match a charitable donation made by an employee up to a fixed limit, e.g £1,000, or where an employer will match funds raised at an event if the employee has volunteered their time at the event, again this would typically be up to a fixed amount. Another example might be where an employer allows their employee paid leave to work at the school, a day at the allotment for example.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



SUPERSTARS

Rabbits:	Sam and Finnlay for working really hard in RE and producing a great piece of work.
Otters:	Olivia for always being so kind and thoughtful and for considering the feelings of others.
Badgers:	Rania for always giving 100% effort at St Matthews.

Wisdom Award:



- R - Poppy for being incredibly kind and helpful to everyone in our class.
- Theo for using different strategies of how to make a pentagon using elastic bands
 - Leo for working out a way of how to stop a leak in our outside water tray
- O – Freya for having some great suggestions on how to deal with conflict in PSHE.
- B – Michelle for doing lots of reading at home and over the Easter holidays.

Golden Tickets:



Louise A
Finnlay B
Sam J



DIARY DATES

Friday 4 th May	Swimming – all classes

GATE DUTY w/c 30th April, Parents of:
(8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 30 th Apr	H MacBryde
Tuesday 1 st May	T Meyer
Wednesday 2 nd May	P Mickleburgh
Thursday 3 rd May	D Morgan
Friday 4 th May	M Page



Pre loved Uniform

There have been a number of requests recently for second hand uniform so we've updated the inventory should anyone else require any additional items, please see attached. The pre-loved uniform not only raises money for our PTA which goes straight into the pot to support our school but it is also great for both the environment and your pocket! Please email any orders directly to us and we'll forward them to Mrs. Gow for your collection at the school office. Also, if you have any St. Matthew's branded items that your little ones have outgrown that are in good condition we'd love your donations, so please drop them at the school office. Just as an FYI, we currently have lots of PE kit so please bear this in mind before future purchases.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone that came along and supported our Ladies Night last night. We managed to raise £270!

Lisa

We will be having our annual collection from the **Happy School Bag** company after the May bank holiday.

This scheme raises funds and helps the environment by diverting discarded but reusable textiles away from landfill.

In a nutshell, we ask you to bring into school on a specific day, any unwanted children's and adult clothes, paired shoes, accessories (hats, belts, handbags, etc...), soft toys and bed linen, towels etc. We are then paid by the kilo for what we have collected and the textiles are reused/recycled.

So if you are planning a clear out any time soon please could you save any textiles for our collection.

Further details will follow, along with bags, as soon as we have been allocated a collection day.
 Many thanks

