

# St. Matthew's

## Church of England Infant School

### Weekly Newsletter



4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents,

This week we have been learning about how Jesus taught wisdom through his parables and that these stories have a special meaning that we have to think about. We looked at the parable of the sower of the seeds where the seeds sown on rocky ground or the path failed to grow properly and where those in sown in soil grew into healthy plants. Jesus explained to the people listening that the seeds that fall on good ground are like the people who listen to what God says and try to live how God teaches us to – even when life is difficult. Jesus says that people who do this will grow good fruit in their lives. We thought about how when Jesus told this story he wasn't really talking about real seeds or fruit, but things like faithfulness, self-control, patience, love and kindness. Thank you to my assembly helpers this week who added to this learning – Freya shared her poster, showing a sad farmer who had sown his seeds on rocky ground and a happy farmer who had sown his seeds in soil. Leo shared his picture of farmers sowing their seeds and how they were sown in the different places because some were not wise. Poppy shared her poster with the message that *'The seed is the word of God... What type of soil are you?... Is God growing in your heart?'* making us all have a think. We also looked at the story of King Solomon, the 'wise king' and how his story can remind us that money and fame are not as important as being wise; and have been thinking about making good choices when playing with friends. Our whole school circle time discussion this week was about inclusivity and making sure that we take care not to leave others out when we are playing at break times.

Well done to the following children who have brought in a certificate from home to celebrate their acts of wisdom and making good choices. Well done to Rory for *'being extremely well-behaved at the dentist and being told he has beautiful teeth because he brushes them well and uses mouthwash to keep them healthy'*; to Finnlay for *'considering whether to be naughty at bedtime, or whether to be wise and go to bed on his own. Decided he wanted to be 'good' and 'wise' for mummy'*; to Edith for *'despite not liking porridge, eating it for breakfast anyway because it was raining and a bit chilly'*; to Luca for *'choosing to make a donation to a charity for sick children as he felt it was the most deserving charity and he wanted to help sick children receive the treatment and medicine they need to get better'*; to Isaac for *'listening to mummy and staying in the car with his baby sister Eden'*; to Anthony R for *'helping his younger brother, Marcus, with his reading and showing a great deal of wisdom by encouraging Marcus to figure out a word rather than just giving him the answer'*; to Marcus for *'knowing exactly when he was ready to go to bed and also said a beautiful prayer before going to sleep. He prayed and thanked God for all the people in the world'*; to Alexander for *'deciding to make a card with his Nana (Independently writing it) to say sorry to Charlie (a special friend) because he understood how upset he had been by Alex accidentally breaking his lego model that day. He had come to the conclusion on his own that his friendship was more important than a misunderstanding.'* (very proud).

This week Rabbits have been continuing to practice sharing numbers of objects in maths, using counters to represent the objects such as fruit, or bags of wool from 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'. They have been sharing into groups of up to five and have talked about whether groups are equal or unequal, and have been practising their maths sentences when sharing objects, for example: *'Ten blueberries are shared between five people, which is equal to two blueberries per person. There are ten blueberries altogether.'* In literacy they have been talking about the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and have been making a 'Wanted' poster to find Jack, who stole the Golden Hen from the Giant. They also have been learning about features of a letter and using them to write sorry letters to the Giant from Jack, apologising

for taking the hen. Rabbits would like to say thank you to Ella for bringing in some tadpoles – everyone is enjoying watching them swimming around, and learning about what tadpoles need in order to survive so that they make sure that they have the correct habitat and food to suit their needs.

Otters class have been continuing to find out all about the RNLI in both their topic and English work. They have discovered and talked about how valuable and important they are as an organisation and the fantastic work that they do, especially as it is run by volunteers and donations from the public. From this learning they went on to plan and write some persuasive letters explaining why you should think about making a donation to the RNLI. In maths they have finished their unit on measurement, using cubes to represent the chosen unit to weigh classroom objects. First they predicted how many cubes heavy an object was and then checked by using cubes in the weighing scales, finding the answer when the cubes balanced with the object. Their new unit is Numbers from 50 – 100 and beyond and this week they have been counting, reading and writing these numbers as well as beginning to find one more and one less and to understand the place value system. They have been using well-structured sentences to explain the maths that is being done, for example –when counting in tens and adding ones: *'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven... I have seven groups of ten and that is equal to seventy. Ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy... seven groups of ten is equal to seventy... one more is seventy-one.'* In outdoor learning they have been making observations about how their beans are growing and have recorded this in their bean diary. They have also planted some lettuce seeds to germinate in school, ready to take to the allotment very soon.

Another top speed week in Badger Class - They have been busily writing information booklets, linked to one part of their Science work, to explain why they have chosen particular foods for their families in their Time to go Shopping activity. The children are really developing a great understanding of the different foods, how much to have, which food group they belong to and what each type of food does for your body. However, they have all decided that they find chocolate a bit too hard to resist! :) They have also continued to closely monitor the development of their plants to see whether they have any proof yet of what a plant needs. The children have also been focusing on developing their reading, retelling and answering skills - The detail many of them recall is amazing - Keep practising!! In maths they have been practising telling the time to the nearest 15 minutes, extending their learning from analogue to digital clocks. They have been solving time word problems and played time games with each other.

With the arrival of the lovely weather, we have been able to make better use of our playground facilities and we would like to say a very BIG thank you to the Jarrett family for their extremely generous gift of transforming our sensory garden and old vegetable planting areas from their scruffy, weather beaten state into beautiful areas for the children to use at break times. Do have a look at pick-up time – they are very inviting and have lovely features such as herbs and places to sit. Children can now choose to be in these quiet and beautiful spaces to read or draw or to use them as a social space to sit and chat. Another BIG thank you to everyone who has been and is planning to be involved in preparing and helping to care for the school allotment – the classes are building their gardening skills and are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their planting later this term.

The children are very much enjoying their swimming lessons each week – thank you to our parent volunteers who are helping with the changing and supervision. Deborah, the swimming teacher, has asked me to remind parents that boys should wear swimming trunks and not swimming shorts as shorts encumber and slow down swimming.

Looking ahead, we have our **school sponsored walk on the afternoon of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May**, raising money to go towards our continuing journey with the fantastic Mathematics Mastery Programme that we launched in September. The programme provides up to date research-based professional development for leadership and teachers along with a professional network where expertise is shared between schools and ideas are grown. The structured lessons use specific maths equipment and the Mathematics Mastery hands-on approach, building skills, mathematical language, understanding and fluency. Observations show that our children are very much engaged in maths lessons through using the Mathematics Mastery approach and that they are also learning from the growth mindset approach, that maths skills grow through effort and problem-solving. There is great enthusiasm throughout the school.

As the sponsored walk is the day before the Royal Wedding, we are inviting children to wear red, white and blue for the day on 18<sup>th</sup> May and to bring a flag to wave. Parents are also invited to attend and to cheer their children on – perhaps entering into the red, white and blue theme also! Following the walk Parents, staff and children are invited to take part in a Royal Wedding afternoon tea – for which we will need donations of cakes / scones etc ☺ A letter will come out with more details and a sponsor form for the walk.

Well done to Katie, Samuel, Ant R, Phoebe and Gabriel for finishing their sticker charts this week.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable, sunny bank holiday weekend,

Mrs Hutt

## AWARDS OF THE WEEK



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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Rabbits:</b> | Dominic for putting up his hand a lot more during lesson time and answering lots of questions.<br>Rory for having a great learning attitude and working hard in class. |
| <b>Otters:</b>  | Sophia for caring so beautifully for the snail she found in the playground.  |
| <b>Badgers:</b> | Xavi for working exceptionally hard and giving 100% in maths.  |

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|  | <b>Wisdom Award:</b> | R – Josephine for thinking out of the box and suggesting different ideas of how to do something. |
|  |                      | Genevieve for coming up with different ideas and explaining her thinking.                        |
|  |                      | O – Ant R for consistently making sensible choices and being an amazing role model.              |
|  |                      | B – Charlotte for being really wise by always thinking carefully and making the right choice.    |

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| <b>Golden Tickets:</b><br> | Freddie W , Charlie C, Alfie L and Rory E |
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## DIARY DATES

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May    | BANK HOLIDAY                             |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May | Badgers trip to Wimbledon Tennis Museum  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May   | Swimming all classes<br>Otters Cake Sale |

## GATE DUTY w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May, Parents of:

(8.40 – 9.00am)

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May   | F Richardson     |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May | J Rivers Moore   |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May | M Roussot        |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May   | E Strang Osborne |
|                               |                  |



### The Seeds in Our Heart

Family Worship at St Andrew's this Sunday at 10am is being led by the amazing St Andrew's Youth. It will be a short, informal but heartfelt family worship service. Everyone welcome.