

# St. Matthew's

## Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we have been thinking about the meaning of wisdom and how it differs from knowledge. We talked about the story of King Solomon and his wisdom, learning about how King David told Solomon when he took over as king to *'Be strong and brave. Obey God and you will be successful'*. When Solomon became king, God appeared to him in a dream, saying *'Solomon, ask for anything you want and I will give it to you'*. I asked the children what they would ask for and they shared their ideas... *a new bike... a sister... wisdom... happiness...* We agreed that Solomon could have asked for a long life, riches or victory over his enemies, but he asked for something even better – *'Please make me wise and obedient to you. Help me know the difference between right and wrong. Help me lead your people well.'* Solomon was a good and wise king and showed that wisdom and understanding are great gifts to have.

Well done to the following children for their wisdom certificates this week: to Katie for *'choosing not to argue over a toy that both she and her brother thought was theirs. Instead she offered it to her brother to keep. He then decided to share'* (great wisdom Katie!); to Dominic for *'choosing to be brave instead of sad when his mummy was away looking after his Neube, and looking after his little brother, teaching him to be brave'*; to Lottie for *'choosing not to tell a lie for her brother and instead decided to tell the truth and do the right thing. Well done Lottie'* (super!); and from me, well done to Charlie for being brave at the doctors this week 😊

This week Rabbits have been looking at and talking about non-fiction books and what sort of information they can be finding in them. They have been locating and talking about the index, glossary and contents pages and how they can locate the information that they are looking for. They have been writing their own non-fiction information texts about plants, presenting their work as an information page with a title. In maths they have been continuing their work on teen numbers and one more / one less, using counters, cubes and bead strings to work out the answer. They have used a 100 bead string to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. In PSHE they have been talking about how some words can upset others, especially words that draw attention to features about people such as hair colour, size, sport ability and so on – remembering that we are all different and unique, and how amazing and lovely it is that we are all different. In art they have been reading the story 'The Dot' about a child who says he can't draw and just does a dot on the paper. When his teacher puts this picture in in pride of place on the wall, he is encouraged to experiment further and creates some amazing dots. The class have created their own dots using lots of different media – this has made a very colourful display in the hall.

Otters Class have worked hard on their instruction booklets, writing clear steps to a pictorial guide for making a successful sandcastle. They had a lot of fun with Rabbits class, showing the pictures and reading the steps, instructing them how to make a sandcastle – Rabbits were great at following the instructions and they all worked really well together. In maths they have started a new unit on addition and subtraction within number to 100. They have been working on adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers and ones, using concrete manipulatives such as bead strings and part-whole models to help them solve missing number equations. They went on to represent two-digit numbers using dienes and showing these on a part-whole model. They have continued to explore seashores in the past, finding out about Punch and Judy shows and designing their own Punch and Judy puppet. They have had a walk on the common where they created a journey stick using natural objects that they found on their journey. They used these to help retell their journey around the common to each other. They have started to think about what makes a church, thinking about special places in our lives and how they make us feel. They have shared what they know already about churches and have thought of questions that

they would like to get the answers to. A quick note from Otters teachers – please practise letters and sounds over the half term to keep the momentum going!!

Badgers Class have been making some wonderful Treasure Island paintings and have used their imagination to create some very descriptive writing about what can be found on their treasure island – remembering to include lots of adjectives and connectives along the way. They have been having fun with maths games, practising their addition and subtraction skills. Today they were choosing a card with a shape, clock or number and describing it using mathematical language to their partner ‘*I have a mystery for you to solve...*’ with the partner listening carefully to work out what the mystery is. They made up a human number line, representing numbers by positioning themselves carefully where their number belonged. In RE they have been finding out about the Five Pillars of Islam as the basic rules that Muslims aim to follow in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam. Carrying out the five pillars helps Muslims to put their faith first, putting it into practice. They drew the pillars in their books with pictorial representations of what each pillar means.

Following discussions with our lunch time food providers, today children tried out a selection of starters at lunch time, voting for the ones that they would like to have as part of lunchtimes twice a week. This is a healthy eating initiative that we are bringing in to school lunches – helping children to enjoy a tasty starter instead of always having a desert. The children have opted for hummus with crispy tortilla chips, tuna pate with crispy tortilla chips and dough balls with garlic butter and crudités. In autumn and winter, a tomato soup will be offered.

This week we finally have a water supply on our school allotment – typical that it arrived at the same time as lots of rain! This is very exciting as it was the final key thing needed to make our allotment dream a sustainable reality. Thank you to all the amazing team of parents who have enthusiastically got the allotment ready and who have been tending it to help the classes out. After half term the children will be watching the plants grow, weeding and watering and learning all about growing food and how to identify different plants and minibeasts in their very own allotment area! This further enhances our outdoor learning provision in a meaningful and engaging way, encouraging healthy bodies and minds as children can enjoy the experience of active outdoor learning and growing healthy vegetables.

Tuesday’s film event after school was a great success – thank you to everyone in the PTA who contributed to this. The children had a fabulous time together, enjoying popcorn with the film and sitting with their friends. This event made close to £300 so was also a great fund-raiser for the school. Thank you to the Darwell-Taylors who are helping us to identify a sound system that will work well in our hall and for lending equipment at this event.

Once we have all enjoyed half-term, we come back to an exciting and busy final half term of the school year. The first week back, we start our annual Golden Boot Challenge and each class is trying to be the best at travelling to school in the greenest way. As many parents have no choice but to drive, the choices that will help are to lift share or to park and stride by parking in the Cricketers car park, recorded as ‘Park and Stride.’ The Golden Boot Challenge lasts throughout June, so there’s lots of opportunity to be healthy by striding from the Cricketers, and hopefully this will ease the situation that has been drawn to our attention by our local neighbours, where parents have been stopping or parking across their driveways.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, as part of our concern for plastic waste on our planet and the number of plastic bottles in landfill, we will be taking part in a plastic bottle boat challenge. This is an event run by the Plastic Education Hub, which aims to highlight the plastic problem and to help children be aware of how to avoid further damage by choosing to use less plastic, and to re-use or recycle the plastic that we have already. This plastic bottle boat challenge is an attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the simultaneous launch of a flotilla of plastic boats that have been made from upcycled bottles – an attempt to create a lasting memory that inspires and engages people with the environment, while promoting responsibility in the way we use materials. More information will be coming out after half term.

In this last half term, we traditionally ask parents to come in and to do a talk about their own cultural background, sharing information about religion, foods, clothes, toys and traditions. These talks have been really successful in the past couple of years with parents and children doing the talk together for the school, leading to

the children finding out lots of really interesting facts about different countries and cultures around the world. We will send out a sheet after half term for parents to be able to offer to do a talk with their child and to indicate times of availability.

Our Great Get Together Afternoon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June is in memory of Jo Cox, MP, who is remembered for her dedication to working for a fairer, kinder and more tolerant world. Last year parents kindly sent in foods from different cultural backgrounds for the children to share in the afternoon, thinking about Jo's words '*We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us*' and celebrating our many different cultures. On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> June we also have our Father's Day assembly at 9:15, and in the evening is our annual school summer ball at the Cobham Curve.

Have a lovely half term

Mrs Hutt

## AWARDS OF THE WEEK



**SUPERSTARS**

<b>Rabbits:</b>	Theo and Tillia for remembering to use their phonic skills when sounding out their words in a sentence.
<b>Otters:</b>	Phoebe for working really hard on her phonics.
<b>Badgers:</b>	Thomas J for working extremely hard on his treasure island description this week.

### Wisdom Award:



R – Dominic and Tom for making very wise decisions in class.  
 O – Harriet for thinking carefully and sensitively about doing the right thing.  
 B – Luca for showing great wisdom in our PSHE lesson this week.

### Golden Tickets:



Emilio, George and Theo

Sticker Charts: Alice, Edith, Rory, Keira, Harriet, Finley P, Sam, Mylo, Tillia, Yasirah.



### DIARY DATES

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	9am PTA meeting all welcome
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Rabbits trip to Ladyland Farm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am Open Morning

### GATE DUTY w/c 4<sup>th</sup> June Parents of: (8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	K Mathur
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	R Mbarak
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	C Meyer
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	L Monaco-Haughton
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	I Morton



### **Parking**

We all take for granted that we can get in or out of our own driveways at any time that suits us, our nearest neighbour though often finds that she is unable to take her child to nursery school because a St Matthews parent or grandparent has parked across her drive. It is really inconvenient for her to have to ask for a car to be moved, and she shouldn't have to. This morning her request for a car to be moved was met with rudeness and this is completely against our values as a school. Please do not park, or even wait outside our neighbour's driveway.

### **Family Service**

Revd Hugh invites everyone to a family service at 10.30am at All Saints Church, Ockham, where there will be great fun had exploring the mystery of the Trinity (with lots of laughter!)

### **Cleaning Jobs**

[www.livingecocleaning.co.uk](http://www.livingecocleaning.co.uk)

07542 863475

### **Open Morning Flyers**

There will be some flyers for our Open Morning in your child's bookbag tonight – please could you either display them or hand them to any friends / family who have appropriate age children.

Thank you!