

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

14th September 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we have been talking about what responsibility means with the children, helping them to understand that we all have our own responsibilities such as caring for a pet, being helpful and looking after our belongings. We looked at some people who have particular responsibilities, such as Theresa May, doctors, teachers and police officers. We thought about how we all have a responsibility to be kind, loving and caring towards each other in our school community and reflected on how it feels to be a good friend to one another. We have been learning about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashana which celebrates the beginning of the Jewish new year – celebrating the creation of the world, reflecting on behaviour and the relationship of God with the Jewish people. We thought about new beginnings and, just as the everyone is getting to know their new class teachers and routines at the beginning of the school year, looking forward to a good year of fun and exciting learning, so Rosh Hashana celebrates a fresh start. This new beginning is where the Jewish people think about the effect that their actions may have on others and how they can say sorry to God and put things right. We reflected on how we too can think about the effect of our actions and we can do positive things to make others happy, and if we do something unkind or make someone sad, then we can be sorry and put it right again.

Well done to the following children for their certificates for showing great responsibility, awarded by their parents:

Isaac – for helping to clean, Edith – for helping to pack, Dominic – for controlling his feeling of anger and getting himself ready for a bike ride, Genevieve – for comforting her aunt, George – for caring for his brother when mum was poorly, Tillia – for taking part in a funeral service and joining in, Evie C – for Helping her sisters swim on holiday, Finnlay for helping clear up a shower flood, Madeleine for sharing her carrots and helping with the washing. What amazing examples of everyone enjoying being responsible and helpful! Do keep the certificates coming in, we have attached the electronic copy again to this newsletter.

Well done to Freya P and Olivia for taking part in the 'Mischievous Makers' Summer Reading Challenge – we enjoyed celebrating your certificates with you today.

Well done to Finley P for winning the Peter Amys Memorial Cup at the Cobham Heritage Horticultural Show Annual School Competition for the tallest sunflower. Alison Menke of 1st Cobham Scout Group visited the school today and awarded the cup and certificate to Finley and the school in our Celebration Assembly. Finley's sunflower was an amazing 2.87m tall!! Next year we will be able to enter lots of our fruits and vegetables into the competition, and we will be asking Finley for his secret on growing the best plants. Finley's cup is on display in our entrance hall.

Thank you to all the children who came to Cobham Heritage Day and represented St Matthew's in its annual maypole dancing demonstration. Everyone did so well, especially as the music didn't work – they kept amazing rhythm to the clapping and skipped in and out with the ribbons beautifully. The audience really enjoyed the dancing and we will help them enjoy it even more next year with music! Thank you also to all of the parents and staff who helped with our St Matthew's stall, setting up and taking down the gazebo and table, and manning the stall throughout the day. Those that visited the stall enjoyed planting some seeds and chatting about what the plants would look like as they grow, and spent time chatting about St Matthew's school.

Rabbits class have all settled in really well this week, learning Rabbits class routines, joining in with all of our collective worship assemblies and getting to know each other and Otters and Badgers in the playground. Otters

and Badgers are enjoying their new classes and are already producing some lovely work in their books – I had 3 visitors from Otters today to share their work with me – well done Otters!

The children have started practising their harvest songs and Otters have been over to the school allotment, where they were excited to find how much everything has grown over the summer. They found tomatoes in abundance, super beetroots, beans, marrows and some fantastic pumpkins. They also discovered how well the weeds had shot up behind our backs in the past few weeks, and made a fantastic start on pulling the weeds out. Rabbits and Badgers will be over next week, getting stuck into weeding and tidying the allotment. If any parents would like to help with weeding, please let me know – there is plenty to do!

Thank you to all the parents who attended our first PTA meeting of the year on Wednesday morning. As there were no other parents stepping forward to take on position of Chair or Secretary, Isabel Meyer and Lisa McKenna remain as chair, Deena Dawes as secretary and Keri James as treasurer. These ladies did a fantastic job last year along with many others (so many I daren't name them in case I accidentally leave someone out) so I know that we have great PTA year ahead of us. Thank you to Chris Mickleburgh who brought along samples of fundraising merchandise that we could use as part of our fundraising – he shared some great ideas that we are sure will be very popular items to buy. We also discussed the school allotment which, thanks to some very dedicated and hard-working parents, finally got off the ground after many years of red tape that we had to get through. Without the help of all the parents who dug, weeded, planted and watered over the last school year, we wouldn't have the allotment up and running - and now that it is, we really need to keep the momentum going. The allotment is effectively a very meaningful outdoor classroom where the children can experience a broader curriculum - learning about plants, nature, science, maths, community, responsibility, sustainability, health and well-being. We are hoping that as many parents sign up to help on the allotment as possible and that a parent or two can offer to coordinate everyone who offers to help. Please let me know if you would like to help in any way on head@stmatthews-cobham.surrey.sch.uk

It was great to see so many parents attending our Welcome Parents Evening on Wednesday evening as we value working with parents to achieve the very best that we can for each and every child. For those who were not able to attend, my messages were:

- Sharing our school statement: Christ is at the centre of our school, Children are at the centre of what we do; and our school vision: *Let the little children come to me... start them off on the way they should go... and they will spread their wings and soar like eagles.* Translated, our vision is that we are welcoming and inclusive to all children of any faith, ability or need; our values underpin the whole school curriculum, helping to shape children as successful learners and unique individuals within a thoughtful, nurturing community – preparing them for their next steps; we enable all to achieve their very best academically and personally by the end of Key Stage One, knowing and understanding themselves as learners now and into the future.
- A reminder about clubs: please provide a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit / dried fruit or a couple of oatcakes – something quick and easy to eat. Please pay up front when booking a club and sending in the form. Penny's after school club and Sue's breakfast club are well subscribed but there are still spaces for any ad hoc need – please pay when booking or on the day. If you wish for your child to eat breakfast at breakfast club, please arrive by 8:20 as any later than this does not leave enough time for breakfast to be served and eaten.
- A reminder about parking – please use the Cricketers car park as first choice. If parking on the road, do not at any point park on the yellow zig zag lines, across driveways or at the T Junction with Deacon Close. I recommend that parents do not park in Chilbrook Road as crossing over to school from there is dangerous due to car speeds two junctions.
- My final reminder was about uniform, asking parents to please support our policy of correct uniform, small blue hair clips, headbands and ties (no big bows or headbands), no nail varnish, no jewellery, and to have knee length socks for girls. We also ask that children have the correct PE kit in school each week.

Next week I am holding the essential safeguarding and confidentiality training for parent volunteers. It will take place in the school hall at 9:15 on Tuesday 18th September. Please attend if you wish to volunteer in school – it is much easier to train everyone together at the same time. If you are unable to attend and wish to volunteer,

please contact me and I will try to organise another date. We really appreciate our parent volunteers and the teachers are looking forward to the help that you bring.

Do put the date of All Saints' Harvest Service, followed by a Harvest lunch on Sunday 23rd September in your diaries – it would be great to see lots of St Matthew's families there. Another note for diaries is that the date for our school quiz night is now **Thursday 4th October** – now is the time to start forming your teams!

Throughout the week of 24th September we will be learning about the history of our school and how it was founded by the philanthropist Mrs Deacon. On Wednesday 26th September we are being visited by Elmbridge museum and will be taking part in various different Victorian workshops. On this day children are invited to wear Victorian style clothes for the day to really enter into learning about what it was like for Victorian school children who came to St Matthew's.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hutt



AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	ALL of Rabbits class for settling in so well. We are very lucky to have you all in our class!
Otters:	Alice for setting such an excellent example to others – amazing listening and hard work.
Badgers:	Gabriel for being such a busy worker this week!

Wisdom Award:	R: Gathia, Hugo and Joshua for being very responsible and tidying up the classroom. What a good job! O – Edith for showing a responsible and hard working attitude to her learning and Rory for showing a responsible attitude in and around the classroom. B – Harriet for being a very responsible and helpful assembly Monitor.
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Golden Tickets	
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DIARY DATES

Saturday 15 th September	Parkside U7's Football Tournament
Tuesday 18 th September	9am Volunteer Safeguarding Meeting
Sunday 23 rd September	10.30am Harvest Festival at All Saints Church

GATE DUTY w/c 17th September Parents of:

(8.40 – 9.00am)



The website has now been updated with this year's event dates. We are still waiting for confirmation of a couple of events but will let you know when we have added them. Thank you

Gate duty rota will be sent out on Monday.