

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

28th September 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we have really enjoyed finding out about the history of our school and how it was founded in 1867 by a local philanthropist, Mrs Deacon. The school originally catered for the children of her orphanage and then, when compulsory education came in 1870, she opened the school to all the children in Hatchford and Downside. She gave each child a cloak, red for the girls and blue for the boys – Badgers class have created a cloak display in the hall, imagining themselves to be those children, writing their thoughts about Mrs Deacon's generosity. This original school was in the building that is now Downside Nursery.

In 1901 the second part of the school was built where our current school is - it consisted of the offices, the hall and outside buildings. Lessons took place in the hall and children had outside toilets. Otters Class have been finding out about how the building is the same as it was then and how it is different, we now have 3 classrooms on the back and inside toilets, but of course still have our amazing stained glass windows and Cockerel on the roof. They have done some amazing observational sketches of St Matthews school that are now on display in the hall.

Mrs Deacon made regular visits to the school over the years, bringing treats for the children and taking an interest in their learning – she paid for the teachers' salaries until her death in 1920, when the school passed over to Guildford Diocese. The school has continued to evolve and change over the years, in 1930 it was a junior mixed and infant school up to the age of 11, in 1976 it became a first school for children from 5 – 8 years, and in 1995 it became an infant school. St Matthew's remains true to its original foundations, being an inclusive community school that nurtures and provides the very best to all children in a beautiful building and surroundings.

The children looked fabulous in their Victorian outfits on Wednesday and enjoyed a day of finding out about what school and life would have been like in Victorian times. We had a great mix of chimney sweeps, ladies and gentlemen, and maids! Elmbridge Museum came to the school, bringing their Victorian artefacts, and talked to the children about life in Victorian times. Each class did a fantastic hands-on workshop, discovering and trying out Victorian toys, items used on a wash day and items found around the home. They found out that wash day was very hard work, as was house-keeping; and that toys then were simple, often being home-made.

Rabbits class have created a photograph display of their own outfits and pictures of what they did in their workshop. Due to our open morning, we have not had our usual Friday celebration assembly today, and all classes together are the stars of the week for their costumes and enthusiasm in learning all about our school's history. On Monday, classes are going to share with each other what they found out this week.

In our Collective Worship Assembly we talked about rules for life and that our school rules help us to grow a place where everyone can be happy and safe together. We talked about how our being responsible value helps us to remember that we can learn to be responsible for our own choices and behaviour each day and that if we get it wrong, then we can learn from that and try again.

Well done to the following children for being awarded a responsibility certificate from home: to Charlotte for doing her reading and spellings every night (well done!); to Gabriel for helping his brother with his writing; to

Leo for being sensible about screen time at home; and to Edith for being great about going to bed early (super important!).

Thank you to all the children and families who took part in the Harvest Festival Celebration service at All Saints church on Sunday, followed by the lunch afterwards. I was very sorry to miss being there as I normally would be, but Rev Hugh and Elisabeth were delighted to see a great turn out from the school. Our next big church service will be the Remembrance Service on 11th November – our children make wreaths in class and can take part in the service, taking them up to the altar and on to the memorial afterwards.

Next week, on Wednesday 3rd October, we are holding our Maths and English Parent workshops, starting at 7:30pm. The teachers have been working hard preparing lots of resources for parents to see and to try out how we teach maths, reading and writing at St Matthew's. These workshops are for **all year groups**, and we encourage all parents to attend if they possibly can as they will give great insight into how your child learns and how you can support their learning at home. This year parents will attend either the maths or literacy workshop first and will swap halfway through the evening – this way you get to meet the subject leaders and will see how children progress in their learning. Following this evening, class teachers will keep you updated with what you can practise with your child at home. If you ever need further support with this, please do let us know.

On Thursday 4th October, it is National Poetry Day and we are inviting children to bring in a favourite poem to share with their class on that day. Some of the older children in Downside Nursery will also join us to share favourite poems.

In the evening on Thursday 4th, it is our annual school quiz night and raffle - we look forward to an evening of healthy competition and lots of socialising over a meal and drinks. If you haven't yet bought your ticket, there is still time. It is always a fun and lively evening!

On Friday 5th October, school individual photographs will be taking place in the morning – siblings at St Matthew's will also have their photograph taken together. If you have a younger sibling that you would like to be photographed with your St Matthew's child then you can turn up between 8:25 and 9:00 in the school hall to have the photograph taken then.

Looking further ahead, our harvest Collective Worship Assembly for parents is taking place on Tuesday 9th October at 9:15 in the school hall, followed after wards by refreshments on the school allotment.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Hutt

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



SUPERSTARS

Rabbits: All the children for being such fantastic Victorians on Wednesday!

Otters: All the children for being such fantastic Victorians on Wednesday!

Badgers: All the children for being such fantastic Victorians on Wednesday!

Wisdom Award:



Golden Tickets



DIARY DATES

Monday 1 st October	Badgers Trip to Leeds Castle
Tuesday 2 nd October	The Dorset Dinosaur Workshop – Year 1
Wednesday 3 rd October	2.30pm Safeguarding training for Volunteers (if you couldn't make the previous one) 7.30pm Maths and Literacy Parent Workshops – all classes
Thursday 4 th October	PTA Quiz Night
Friday 5 th October	Individual school photos (8.25am onwards for non St Matts sibling photos) 3.15pm Badgers Cake Sale

GATE DUTY w/c 1st October Parents of:

(8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 1 st October	P Page
Tuesday 2 nd Oct	F Palmer
Wednesday 3 rd Oct	F Potter
Thursday 4 th Oct	H Price
Friday 5 th Oct	O Roper



EasyFundRaising

If you are looking to buy anything, remember the easiest way of all to fund raise for St Matthews is to pay for things via the Easy Fund Raising hub. It's really straight forward . . . every time you shop online through easyfundraising.org.uk the retailer (e.g TUI, Thomas Cook, Booking.com, Expedia, Amazon, John Lewis etc) donates a percentage to St Matthews as your chosen cause.

It's so simple to get going all you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmatthewscobham>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping and start raising

No catches or no hidden charges and "St Matthew's School Fund - Cobham" will be really grateful for your donations!

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. 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. You may also find that your employer will match your monthly voluntary contribution. Another is 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.

Thank you

