

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

5th October 2018



Dear Parents,

This week we have been talking about the sun and how, without it, the Earth would have no heat or light therefore nothing would live. The children worked out that if there was no sun, the plants would not grow... so animals would have nothing to eat... so we would have nothing to eat because humans eat meat and plants. We talked about how the sun has helped our vegetables on the allotment to grow and that we are looking forward to celebrating our harvest next week. We thought about how the sun makes us feel happy and that we could be sunshine to each other by showing that we care, and by treating each other with respect. We have been practising our super smiles, as even a smile can bring sunshine to someone else! We also thought about how we can make a difference to the lives of people that we do not know by our generosity and kindness – so our food collection at our Harvest Collective Worship Assembly is important as we are giving the food to people who need it through Cobham Food Bank.

We have talked more about charity this week and how our school was founded on local charity by Mrs Deacon who set up the school for the children in her orphanage to attend. As a school we have decided to choose a local charity to support instead of our previous charity collections such as 'Wear it Pink Day'. The children have learnt a little about some local charities and in our whole school circle time this week they have chosen to support the Rainbow Trust. This is a charity with a local connection in Leatherhead, which supports families with seriously ill children. The children felt sympathetic towards the ill children and how it could be very hard for their families also, for example if a mother is in hospital with her child then it can also be hard for the brothers and sisters. The Rainbow Trust provides practical and emotional support to families and the children would like to do fundraising that enables this work. Our next steps will be to talk to the children about how they would like to do this fundraising.

Well done to the following children for their responsibility certificate from home: to Dominic for practising his spellings every day, to India for tidying up without being asked, to Eva for being helpful while mummy and daddy were away, and to Poppy for helping her sister Grace.

There have been lots of exciting things happening throughout the school this week. Badgers Class had their trip to Leeds castle on Monday, finding out about castle life long ago and dressing up as kings, queens, lords, ladies and court jesters. Mrs Skudder and Mrs Fish were very proud of Badgers class as they were full of enthusiasm and at the same time were noted by the castle staff to be a beautifully behaved class. Otters class had their 'Dorset Dinosaur' workshop on Tuesday and found out about Mary Anning's life and her amazing discovery of the Ichthyosaurus – the children dressed up and helped to act out the story. The whole school enjoyed National Poetry Day yesterday and Otters were great hosts to Downside Nursery, sharing some favourite poems. Each class has been having outdoor learning sessions run by Hannah from Elmbridge Countryside Team – finding out about minibeasts and their habitats on the common. They have been creating their own minibeasts out of clay, talking about their features and where they are found.

It was great to have so many parents at our English and Maths workshops on Wednesday evening – the teachers are truly a dedicated team and spent a long time preparing information and resources to give insight, information and practical experience of how we help children to progress in their learning at St Matthew's. We constantly seek to improve at St Matthew's and would really value feedback so please can parents who attended complete the evaluation sheet that was handed out. If you need a new one, there are some in the office. Parents

who did not attend should have received handouts in their child's book bag. Class teachers will be keeping parents updated throughout the year on how to support their child's learning at home in reading, writing and maths – we do encourage parents to ask if they are not sure as we are always happy to share ideas on how to support. Year One and Two parents have been introduced to 'Maths at Home', which we believe will be an excellent resource as it is directly linked to units of work that children will be doing, giving parents insight into how the maths is being taught, with lots of maths activities and how to use the maths vocabulary in sentences.

Thank you to the parents who have signed up to help on our allotment working groups next week – the first session is on Monday from 9 – 11am and the second session is on Thursday from 2 – 3:15. We do need more volunteers to come forwards if possible as there is quite a lot to do – the sign-up sheet is in the office. The children are eating our home-grown tomatoes at break time today and we will be doing some cooking with our produce next week after our Harvest Assembly. If anyone would like to help me with cooking on Friday, let me know! We would also appreciate some cake donations and offers of a thermos or two for our allotment refreshments after our assembly.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Quiz Night such a fantastic evening - to all the parents who came along and made up teams, to Deena and Lisa for organising the event, to Gareth for an amazing and creative meal and to Tim for being such a fabulous quiz master and for managing so well without a microphone which had decided to be temperamental! Well done to the winning team (s!) – in fact, well done to everyone – it was a fun competition that everyone enjoyed.

A Looking-ahead date for your diaries if you like helping in school – we are going to need lots of parent helpers on Friday 16th November as all classes will be making lanterns for the Cobham Extravaganza. We need parents from 11am until 3pm, so we will be having sign-up sheets for parents to indicate the time that they can be in to help. For this activity in class, any parent can sign up to help even if not a regular volunteer with a DBS check as it will be everyone working together on the same project in the classrooms. If you would like to help, put the date in your diary.

We have welcomed two new governors to our Governing Team here at St Matthew's – Alison Boothby who is a Diocesan appointed governor and Laurence Jones, our new parent governor. We are delighted to have them on board – they both bring their own skills and knowledge to further enhance the team. We are also very pleased to inform you that our new Chair of Governors is Mark Scholey, who has been a St Matthew's governor for 2 years – replacing Chris Wilkins who has done a great job as Chair, but now needs to step down due to his own work pressures. We are very lucky in that Chris is staying on as governor, so we still have the benefit of his experience.

We look forward to seeing you at our Harvest Collective Worship Assembly at 9:15 on Tuesday 9th and to you joining us for refreshments afterwards on the allotment.

Well done to the following children for finishing their sticker charts: Phoebe, Gracie, Keira, Freya, Gabriel, Charlie, Sophia A, Franklin and Alice.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hutt

Some words from our new Chair of Governors (and photo wearing a St Matthew's Uniform as it was then!) It is a tremendous honour to have been selected to become the next Chairman of the Governors at St Matthew's. As you can see from the photo, the school has always had a special place in my heart since I started my own learning here in the early 1980s, and I have served on the governing body now since 2016. Whether Mrs Morley, my strict but forgiving headmistress, would have thought this elevation wise or not, I still fondly recall the warmth of the teachers, the sports days and drama events, the regular trips to chapel or for lunch in the village hall, the understanding and reassurance when I erred, and the encouragement to 'try, try and try again'. I also arrived at my next school nearly a year ahead of my peers academically due to the outstanding teaching. These are all features I recognise in the school today and I hope I, along with the rest of the governing body, can play a part in ensuring that the school continues to provide the very best in education to the children lucky enough to be learning here. Thank you for your support of the school and please don't hesitate to say hello on one of my visits, or to get in touch remotely if you wish.



AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	Isabella for coming happily into school. Samuel for working really hard in school and Sienna for reading a story to her class.
Otters:	Poppy for always having a big smile on her face.
Badgers:	Keira for always working really hard and asking for extra maths work. Plus great thinking in RS too!

Wisdom Award:

R – Jack, Jena, Wilf, Amelie for being very responsible and helping their friends to get dressed for PE.
 O – Frederick for helping to keep the classroom tidy.
 B – Sam for always being really responsible.

Golden Tickets

Josephine, Ant x 2, Charlie, Freya, Loki, Finley P, Jena, Alice, Ruby, Gracie & Dominic

**DIARY DATES**

Monday 8 th October	9-11am Weeding at the allotment
Tuesday 9 th October	9.15am Harvest Festival Assembly (food collection for Cobham foodbank)
Thursday 11 th October	Puppet Assembly 2-3.15pm Weeding at the allotment
Friday 12 th October	Badgers cake sale Last multi-sports lesson

GATE DUTY w/c 8th October Parents of:**(8.40 – 9.00am)**

Monday 8th Oct	A Roussot	
Tuesday 9th Oct	S Weisz	
Wednesday 10th Oct	F Williams	
Thursday 11th Oct	M Wilson	
Friday 12th Oct	K Worrall	

***COBHAM FOODBANK***

We will be collecting donations at our Harvest Festival on Tuesday 9th October. The donations will be given to our local charity, the Cobham Foodbank.

Some of the items that they desperately need are:

Tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, tinned meat & fish, tinned fruit, rice pudding, custard, sugar, juice, sponge pudding, chocolate spread, toilet rolls, ketchup, shampoo, cleaning sprays and washing up liquid, disposable razors, deodorant (male and female), washing liquid, gel or powder, marmite, peanut butter, UHT milk, long life juice or squash, dog/cat food, honey, pasta sauce, large instant coffee, cereal, biscuits.

www.cobhamarea.foodbank.org.uk

Cleaner Required – Cobham Hospital

3 hours per week – over 2 days @£15.00 per hour

Tel: Sue 07780605083