

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

8th March 2019



Dear Parents,

This week we have enjoyed our focus on the amazing world of books, celebrating them in our classrooms and throughout the school, sharing lots of stories and super facts from books that we have read. Yesterday everyone looked fabulous in their favourite book character costumes, and we celebrated these in a parade around the hall in our assembly. The children all enjoyed hearing Christina's new book 'Hedgy' being read to them and asked lots of good questions about being an author and creating a book. Badgers class did a super job of welcoming children from Downside Nursery and reading books with them – they all had a lovely time together.

Thank you to Lisa for a very exciting evening of pyjama drama story-telling for each class. The children were engaged in re-telling parts of the story through drama and joined in with fun games. Their evening session ended with hot chocolate, a biscuit and a final game. Thank you for all the £1 that we collected on Book Day – a total of £70, which we will put towards some new phonics books that we have had our eye on!

This week has marked the beginning of Lent and each class has learned about how Jesus was in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights, avoiding temptation put before him – Lent lasts for the 40 days to remember this. Shrove means being forgiven for wrong-doings. Long ago, Shrove Tuesday, or as we often call it, Pancake Day, was a time for feasting and having a good time. People then went to church to confess the bad things they had done and would be 'shriven' or forgiven before the start of Lent. The children have all made pancakes, learning that this was a good way to use up the rich foods such as eggs, that would later be forbidden during Lent.

As a school, we have decided to take up kind, friendship actions instead of giving something up – so we are doing 40 acts for Lent (these are shared with parents on the gate and front door during Lent). This week we have given compliments, been helpful in tidying up, written special thank you messages to adults and tried to be the first to say 'sorry.'

Well done to the following children for their friendship certificate from home: to Gabriel for helping Lucas put his shoes on and for solving the problem, and to Tiber for giving his toys to some children he met on holiday in South Africa as they didn't have many toys.

This week, our whole school circle time was inspired by Loki, who brought in a message about supporting action about Climate Change, and Isaac, who brought in lots of amazing fish art work and reminded us about the damage that plastics do to our oceans. In our circles we talked about the amazing things that God created in our world and how it is sad that climate change has a negative effect for many animals and plants, changing weather patterns and melting ice in the Arctic regions. The children came up with some big questions: *I wonder what God is thinking about it all... What could we do to save the Earth... How can we stop pollution? Why is the Earth getting hotter? How does weather link to global warming?* Loki reminded the children that action is needed now for their, and future, generations. The children thought about what they would like to do to try to make a difference: *make posters about what is happening and share the message... tell factories to make fewer products... pray to God and ask for help... say 'No!' to McDonalds as they use too much plastic... recycle plastic...*

make pollution a crime... and make everyone keep things and make new things from old things. Our first action is to make some posters and put them on placards to share the message. The children are going to do this next week and share their placards with parents at pick-up time on Friday 15th March. If the weather is good, we will go on to the common at 2:40 and return to school at 3:05 ready for normal pick-up. Parents are invited to join us on the common at 2:40 to see what the children have been working on and to promote some positive discussion about climate change and simple actions that we can take to try to make a difference. If any parents have cardboard that could be used to make a placard, please send it in early next week.

Next week is National Science Week and Mrs Rook, our science leader, has been getting lots of exciting learning activities ready for the classes to engage in. The theme is 'Journeys', celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Channel Tunnel, and will encourage children to think about different scientific journeys that take place every day – journeys that affect objects, animals and nature, such as how objects are made and where they end up. We would like to encourage children to get further engaged at home, representing their school by taking part in The British Science Association's 2019 poster competition. A poster can be made about anything involving journeys and can be done as an individual or as a team, or with a sibling. Please send posters in to school by 27th March - all posters made will be celebrated in school, and we will be able to send on a total of five to the National competition. Entries must be 2D and on one side of A4 or A3 paper, using no templates. Please put name and age on the back. Some ideas of what the children will be learning about in school can be found on <https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/>, where there is also a family pack.

Reminder dates for diaries are the PTA Ladies Night on Thursday 28th March and St Matthew's 5k / 10k Fun Run on Sunday 19th May. On Saturday 30th March, there will be an Easter Crafts workshop from 10 – 11:30 at St Matthew's, more information to follow.

We continue to support Rainbow Trust as a school and will be joining with All Saints Church to do a summer fundraiser – making and selling early summer flowering pots. If you have any pots that you no longer need (roughly 40cm tall and 30cm diameter), please bring them in to school and we can make good use of them to support our charity. Flowering pots will be on sale in May.

Well done to Iyla, Charlotte, Ella B and Ruby for finishing their sticker charts this week.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Hutt.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	Tilly for learning her tricky words so thoroughly. Dylan for being a delightful and lovely member of the class and being a great friend to others.
Otters:	Tom for working extremely hard with his phonics.
Badgers:	Sophia for writing a super parable with a very special message.

Wisdom Award:



- R – Lucas for always letting other children join in his games.
- Wilf for doing a great job looking after his friends.
- Sienna for always offering to help your friends.
- O – Alice for always considering the feelings of others – what a lovely friend you are!
- B – Sam and Anthony for being really caring in the playground

Golden Tickets	Tiber, Mia and Allie
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DIARY DATES

Tuesday 12 th March	Otters trip to Painshill Park
Wednesday 13 th March	Easter workshop at Guildford Cathedral for Badgers class Rabbi workshop for Otter's class
Friday 15 th March	Otters cake sale at 3.15pm

GATE DUTY w/c 11th March Parents of: (8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 11 th Mar	E Burns
Tuesday 12 th Mar	E Coccolios
Wednesday 13 th Mar	E Cook
Thursday 14 th Mar	T Darwell-Taylor
Friday 15 th Mar	B Dawes Wood



Breakfast and Afterschool Club - Adhoc

Our breakfast club and afterschool club are proving very popular, so if you would like to book an adhoc session, please book with the office. Our Tuesday morning is currently full therefore we can not offer adhoc on this day.

If you don't pay for your adhoc days by a voucher scheme, **please bring cash in on the day** as this will save a great deal of administrative time. Thank you

Children's Notebooks

The lovely personalised notebooks that the children designed before Christmas are available to buy from the office if you didn't already purchase at the fair. The cost is £3.00