

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

5th April 2019



Dear Parents

This week we have enjoyed the build up to our Easter service and the children have been singing all week in preparation and practising their words. They all did a brilliant job this morning and helped us to think about what happened at Easter and what Easter is all about.

We have had a great time watching the chicks grow and develop their wings throughout the week. They visited the classrooms and the children got to hold them and to see them up close. As the week progressed, the chicks grew in confidence and ability to escape – so although we were sad to see them go, we knew that they were rapidly outgrowing their brooder box. In the end, we were very lucky as all ten chicks have gone to an ex-employee of St Matthew's – Rosemary is used to having chickens and we know that ours will be very well cared for. We also will get chick updates!

The children really enjoyed talking and learning about the chicks and the awe and wonder of them hatching - *'You can hear the chicks chirping 24 hours before they hatch... it only takes a few minutes for them to go from floppy to walking!.... they tapped out of their shells quite quickly...they are very cute... tickly... amazing... fantastic... it's new birth... they are adorable!'* and many more comments!

The children wanted to say thank you to the PTA for their Easter Egg hunt yesterday – they had fun searching them out and had been very excited about it before-hand.

Thank you to all the parents who have been working so hard on our school allotment – it is very much appreciated and means that children can start sowing seeds, planting, watering and weeding when we return after Easter. They learn so much from working on the allotment and have a great time over there, so we are looking forward to the summer term. Thank you also to all volunteers who come in to do different jobs in the school – it all makes a very big difference to the teaching staff and they are grateful for your time and energy.

Next term we have a lot of exciting things to look forward to and a list will come out in the first week back – we start our first swimming session for all classes on Friday 26th April. Please see the emailed letter about swimming lessons and sign up if you would like to help on Friday mornings.

It is time to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Bayliss, for all her amazing years of service to St Matthew's over the past 44 years. She is looking forward to some leisurely lunches and holidays in term time! We also say goodbye to Mrs Spooner and a huge thank you for everything that she has done and achieved for St Matthew's during her time here. It's not really goodbye to either as Mrs Bayliss is looking forward to coming to the Leavers' Assembly and Mrs Spooner won't be able to resist eventually coming and helping out and we look forward to that! We raise our glass to two lovely, special ladies!

From April, we welcome Mrs Wiggins to the school office as School Business Manager and Mrs Fenn as Office and Premises Administrator and Lunchtime Supervisor. We will help both settle in quickly and help them get to know our lovely St Matthew's family.

Have a lovely Easter everyone! Mrs Hutt



DIARY DATES

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| Monday 22 nd April | EASTER MONDAY |
| Tuesday 23 rd April | Summer term starts |
| Friday 26 th April | Swimming starts (please remember to bring in your swim bag) |

GATE DUTY w/c 23rd April Parents of: (8.40 – 9.00am)

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|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday 22 nd April | EASTER MONDAY |
| Tuesday 23 rd April | J Rivers moore |
| Wednesday 24 th April | M Roussot |
| Thursday 25 th April | E Strang Osborne |
| Friday 26 th April | E Teissedre |



FAMILY RUN

Sunday 19th May

<https://resultsbase.net/event/5001>

We are now live! Please get friends and family to sign up for our annual family run by clicking on the link above.

CAKE SALES

Thank you so much for your contributions this term towards the class cake sales. We have put the money towards:

Rabbits – doctors surgery sets

Otters – 2 x boxes of Sea life animals, sensory lights, sensory timers

Badgers – constructions toys

EasyFundRaising

If you are looking to buy anything, particularly your summer holiday, 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.