

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

26th April 2019



Dear parents,

Welcome back to the summer term – I trust you all had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed lots of sunshine. The children have all settled in to the new term well and are excited to be swimming this morning.

This week we have started talking about this term's value – Wisdom. We have thought about what wisdom might be, deciding that it is different to knowledge and that we can use our knowledge to make good choices.

Over the term we will talk a lot about wisdom and how we can individually develop towards being wiser. We have our owl sitting on the altar as a symbol for wisdom and wondered if an owl really is wise... opinions differed! I have sent home some wisdom certificates for you to complete and send back when you have a wise act that your child has done to celebrate with us in school. This is also sent as an attachment for you to be able to print and send more certificates. I have also sent home an outline of our collective worships / assemblies and how your child may be involved in them – children really enjoy preparing things to share such as prayers, posters and poems and love to help light the candle.

This week we have welcomed Kerry and Helen into the school office and they have started to get to know some of you already. Helen is our new School Business Manager and works on Monday afternoon, and all-day Wednesday and Thursday. Kerry is our new admin and premises assistant and works on Wednesday and Thursday mornings – she is also our new lunchtime supervisor and is enjoying getting to know the children out in the playground. Sarah, our school secretary, now works all day on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. All ladies in the office will be liaising and communicating with one another and juggling many things, so are there for parents queries as usual every day.

On Wednesday, Years One and Two are looking forward to taking part in St Teresa's Infant Music Festival. They have been enjoying learning the songs from Mary Poppins and have a special St Matthew's song to perform on the day. Parents need to drop Otters and Badgers off at St Teresa's between 8:50 and 9am and can choose to attend the concert at 1:45 and take their child home at 2:30 when it finishes or collect at 3pm. Please complete the trip form to let us know your arrangements for drop off and collection – many parents have done this already, thank you.

Our 'Happy Bag' collection is taking place on Tuesday 7th May – a great opportunity to have a clear out! Things that are accepted are clothes, shoes and trainers, handbags and belts, jewellery, toiletries, perfumes, bedlinen, towels and soft toys. They are not able to accept Bric-a-brac, mats, carpets, pillows, blankets or curtains. Please drop the bags round by the gate on the morning of 7th May. (Unfortunately we don't have the space to accept the bags before that day).

Please find an attachment to the newsletter from Mr Wells (Rabbits parent) inviting you to take part in a litter-pick on 5th May, along with others from Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust.

This term we are excited to welcome a new visitor to our school. Woody the Cockapoo is a therapy dog registered with the Canine Concern charity and will be visiting us on a regular basis as part of the Kennel Club 'Read to Dogs' scheme. Woody is our SENCO, Mrs Slessor's, dog - we are sure that Woody will become a valued member of our school community.

Please can I remind parents that the mound and area behind the PTA shed is out of bounds for all children and siblings, please make sure that your child does not go into that area. Please can parents also make sure that children and siblings do not take toys out and play in the playground at pick-up time – collection time is 10 minutes, after which we need to close the gate and have the playground free for after school clubs.

Thank you to all children who made a Science ‘Journey’ poster in science week – the posters were all very original and exciting and have been put up on display in the library area. Well done to the following children whose posters were picked to be sent off to the national poster competition (we were only able to send a total of 5 entries): Josephine, Zach, Tom H, Ella B and Ant.

Today the children have enjoyed their ‘Stand up for Surrey’ day, standing up and moving around to focus on sitting less and noticing the beneficial effects of being active. We aim to keep active bursts throughout each school day as children benefit from being active in many ways. Do send any photos in of your child taking part in active travel or the active homework.

Well done to Emily for finishing her sticker chart this week.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Hutt



Governor’s Note for Parents from Laurence Jones (Otters Parent)

By way of introduction, my name is Laurence Jones. I’m the father of Franklin (in Otters), Jessica (in Rabbits) and Noah (a few years to go yet), as well as an elected parent governor on the St Matthews’ Governors Board.

As governors, we are there to ensure high standards of achievement for the children at St Matthews. We help define the school’s vision and strategy, oversee its financial performance, as well as hold the headteacher to account for the school’s overall success. Since being elected last year, I have been amazed at the sheer quantum of work that goes on behind the scenes at St Matthews, both from the staff and my fellow governors. The inspirational staff and secure facilities all make for an exemplary front of house but to maintain them takes commitment far beyond a typical school day.

Sadly, the tabloid headlines about funding cuts in education, safeguarding failures, demoralised staff and isolated children are all too familiar. To be part of a school which continues to strive forwards in spite of a challenging educational landscape, inspiring and celebrating the achievements of its pupils, is something special indeed.

On behalf of the Governors Board, I would like to thank you, the parents, for the efforts and commitments you make towards this (our) community. Every contribution – whether time, money or simple good will – is valued. We simply could not do it without you.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	All of our Rabbits for being very well behaved when going swimming, having a great time and giving it a go!
Otters:	Dominic for showing determination to write all his sentences with capitals and full stops.
Badgers:	Millie for having an amazing first week and settling in really well.

	Wisdom Award:
	R: Gathia for making a good choice during PE – listening very carefully so that he would know what to do during all the HIIT exercise.
	O: Josie for making wise choices on how to behave and for being a super role model. B: Dexter for sharing his wisdom with the class about the link between multiplication and division

Golden Tickets	Freya, Phoebe, Alexis, Harriet, Dexter, Mollie, Olivia, Caitlin, Madeleine and James
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DIARY DATES

Wednesday 1 st May	Infant Music Festival at St Teresa's – Years 1&2
Thursday 2 nd May	Badgers trip to Wimbledon Tennis Museum
Friday 3 rd May	Swimming – all classes Rabbit's cake sale 3.15pm

GATE DUTY w/c 29th April Parents of:

(8.40 – 9.00am)

Monday 29 th April	A Avakian
Tuesday 30 th April	M Blogg
Wednesday 1 st May	S Davidson
Thursday 2 nd May	J D'Elboux
Friday 3 rd May	A Eades



Dear Parents & friends – please look at our poster displaying details of our Summer Charity Fundraiser. The school parish are supporting the Rainbow Trust [voted as the school charity] & Christian Solidarity Worldwide which supports those persecuted for their faith.
We are planting up pots approx. 40cm highx30cm diam. and they will be on sale to enhance your patio in June. PLEASE support us.
Thank you. Revds. Hugh & Elisabeth

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.