

# St. Matthew's

## Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

28<sup>th</sup> June 2019



Dear Parents

This week we have been thinking about our different cultural backgrounds and celebrating diversity. Zach and Xavier started us off with a super talk on Monday about France, telling us lots of interesting facts such as France being like the shape of a hexagon and it is two times bigger than the United Kingdom. Zach looked great in his beret and moustache and wore onions around his neck :) – and this really helped us to think about stereotypes and how easy it is to not think beyond these sometimes. On Wednesday, we found out lots of facts about South Africa from Ant, Marcus and Daleen – for example, that it is five times bigger than the United Kingdom and is full of beaches and wonderful animals such as the cheetah, lion, and elephant. We found out that the flag was designed in 1994 to symbolise unity when Nelson Mandela was removed from prison and became president of South Africa. It was lovely to hear his famous words *'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world...'* on the same day that we thought about the words that Jo Cox left with us: *'We are far more united and have far more in common than things that divides us...'*

From there, we went on to celebrate our diversity on our Great Get Together Day in memory of Jo Cox and it was amazing to see so many different countries represented in our midst and to taste the amazing variety of food. Thank you to everyone for their contributions – the children enjoyed talking to their class about what they were wearing and what food they had brought in. We do have some more talks by parents and children booked in and there is room for more if anyone else would like to come in – just let me know by email and we can check out the diary.

Thank you to my assembly helpers this week – to Leo for sharing his words about wisdom and to Finnlay for his prayer.

Today the Cobham Library visited our assembly to tell the children all about the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge, called the Space Chase. The challenge is to read 6 books over the 6-week summer break – you do need to be a member of Cobham library to take part and then you can be enrolled on the challenge from 13<sup>th</sup> July. You will receive a challenge pack with stickers and a space to write down the books that have been read as well as some comment about the book. Anyone who completes the challenge will get a certificate and can bring it in to school in September so that we can celebrate together. Leaving Badgers can let us know how they have done as we will be awarding golden tickets for all who have completed the challenge.

This week's Young Climate Warriors Challenge is to investigate which bathroom products contain palm oil and to write a short letter to the manufacturers to urge them to use only sustainable palm oil... don't forget to hit the red button when the challenge is completed. If anyone has done any challenges, do let me know so that we can talk about it in assembly.

Well done and thank you to everyone who organised the summer fair last Saturday, and to those who ran stalls – it was a really super fair with lots of fun activities, and it was great to see so many families there enjoying themselves. As well as being a super event to be at, it also raised an amazing £1,750!!

Now... I have some special news to share... that Sue, our very amazing Teaching Assistant in Rabbits Class, has decided to take early retirement at the end of this term. She has worked at St Matthew's for 20 years and so she will be very much missed, but also we are celebrating with her as she makes this decision because we have been very lucky to have her for so long! Sue, you have been amazing, reliable, professional, helpful, kind, thoughtful.... an endless list of great qualities – and we will miss you, but know you won't be able to resist popping in and we may even entice you back occasionally :)

We have been fortunate to secure a great Teaching Assistant replacement for Rabbits Class from September 2019 – a super job-share in fact. Anna and Kay worked together as a job-share at St Matthew’s a couple of years ago – Anna will be increasing her hours to 3 days per week and Kay re-joins us for 2 days per week.

Next week, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we are having our Moving Up Morning where all classes spend some time in their new classroom, getting to know the layout and to do some fun activities with their new teachers (Badgers get to have some fun with Mrs Joyce!) Parents are invited to the first half hour of the moving up morning from 9am to 9:30 and this is an opportunity to find out a bit about the class routines ahead of September. For parents who are not able to be here on Wednesday morning, there will be a hand-out – also do pop in at the end of the day or another time to say hello to your new teachers.

We are looking forward to our Sports Day on Friday morning and to the picnic afterwards – following the Sports events, children will return to school and will be dismissed from the classrooms following registration. A separate letter is coming out today with the details about Sports Day, including the contingency date should it rain. During the picnic, children are the responsibility of their parent or designated adult and may be taken home rather than return to school. Please let the office know if your child is going home with someone else or if you wish your child to stay in school following the picnic.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Hutt

**AWARDS OF THE WEEK**



**SUPERSTARS**

<b>Rabbits:</b>	Everyone! – children and parents for all the Great Get Together contributions and costumes
<b>Otters:</b>	Everyone! – children and parents for all the Great Get Together contributions and costumes
<b>Badgers:</b>	Everyone! – children and parents for all the Great Get Together contributions and costumes



**DIARY DATES**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	9.00am – 9.30m Moving up transition Morning for parents of future Y1 &yr2 9.15-10.15am New Rabbits transition morning
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	10am Sports day and summer picnic

**GATE DUTY w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July Parents of:**

**(8.40 – 9.00am)**

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



## PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

We will be holding a preloved uniform sale for our new Rabbits on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July during transition morning and for the whole school next Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 3.15pm. It is that time of year where you may be thinking of buying new uniform, so if you have any good condition, branded uniform items that have been outgrown or no longer needed, please donate to us by 28<sup>th</sup> June. We can only accept good condition, washed items.

Thank you!

Sarah / Mrs Gow

## School Photos

Your children will all come home with a sample of their class photo today. If you would like to order one, please go to [www.flashlight-photography.co.uk](http://www.flashlight-photography.co.uk). You will have a username and password on your sample photo. Please place your orders by 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you