

St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

6th April 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

We believe that on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again from the dead. He came back to life, defying expectations. We also believe that in this event good overcame evil, life is stronger than death and that light shines through the darkness, and that's the challenge for us all. Life undoubtedly has its challenges for each and every one of us, but with a belief that the darkness can and will be overcome by light then we can tackle those challenges head on and overcome them. For our school community, Jesus is our guiding light, and teaches us the way that we should live out our lives.

Finally, I would like to assure parents and carers that the education of our children remains of paramount importance to myself, the governors and the staff in school. The current staffing will remain in place when we return after Easter. As a school we will always try to limit the disruption and number of teachers/ adults in a class if we are able to do so. I wish you a safe and peaceful break. Thank you for your continued support

I look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday April 18th at normal time. **Please note Monday 17th April is an INSET.**

Best wishes

Mrs Sime



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Change of PE Days

Please find below the PE days for each year group, your child should attend school in their PE kit only on the days listed.

Year Group	Day
Reception	Friday
Year 1	Monday
Year 2	Friday
Year 3	3J – Tuesday (Swimming) 3W – Friday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Thursday

All of these sessions will take place OUTSIDE. With that in mind, may I remind you that the school tracksuit is grey with the badge and the PE kit is a red top with school badge and blue short. No other sports wear – including tracksuits, leggings and hoodies– should be worn for PE lessons.

Holy Communion

Canon Conor has arranged the following dates for Year 4s First Holy Communion and preparation.

**Session 4 – Thursday 20th April 1.20 pm – 2.05 pm
and 2.05 pm – 2.50 pm**

**Session 5 – Thursday 27th April 1.20 pm – 2.05 pm
and 2.05 pm – 2.50 pm**

First Holy Communion

Saturday 13th May 1.00 pm – 4M

Sunday 14th May 1.00 pm – 4R



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Community Food Store

Our School Community Food store is looking a little bare at the moment, if anybody has any non perishable foods such as pasta sauce mixes, tins etc that they do not use please feel free to bring these in.



Prime Drinks



Recently we've had a few cases of children bringing bottles of 'Prime Hydration' to school.

Although there are no reported health risks to children associated with drinking 'Prime Hydration' the drink does contain a high level of electrolytes. Electrolytes aren't recommended for children unless they are unwell or at risk of dehydration.

Another form of the drink, 'Prime Energy', contains around 200mg of caffeine for every 330ml and as a result, is not recommended for children under the age of 18.



Consequently, the school has taken the decision to ban all forms of the Prime drink. Children should therefore not bring it to school **even if the bottle is empty and refilled with water.**

Other drinks that are not allowed in school include all fizzy drinks and all other energy drinks.

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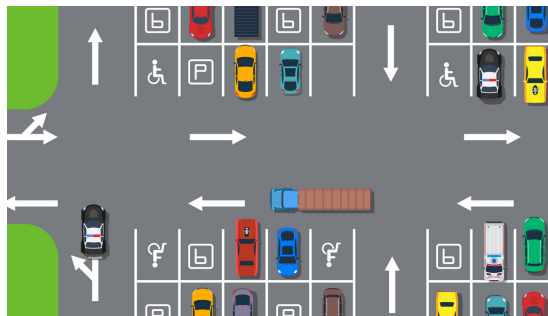


Road Safety

Thank you to all the parents/carers and pupils who are walking, cycling, or parking further away from the school gates to avoid congestion in the local areas of the school. Thank you to all parents who have changed their journey to school and parking locations.

I would like respectfully remind you that you should not be parking:

- Directly outside of school – on school KEEP CLEAR Markings, or in the bus stop
- Close to Junctions
- Double/Single Yellow Lines
- Double parking
- Parking in front of resident driveways
- Parking on Pavements the constant bumping up onto the pavement with doors swinging open across the footway continues to pose an ongoing hazard for pedestrians.



Forum Friday

We would like to introduce a Forum Friday. This will be an opportunity to support the school with future plans and next steps, in a safe and friendly forum.

These meetings will be held on the final Friday of every month at 2.15pm in the school hall. They will be attended by a variety of stakeholders for example, school leaders, teachers, governors, PTFA members, children and community people. More information to follow on the newsletter later this term. Together we can make a difference and shape the future of this school.



The first meeting will be held on Friday 28th April at 2.15pm.

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School day from September 2023

From September 2023 primary schools are expected to offer a 32.5 hour week. This is part of the government plans, and was noted in the [‘White Paper’ Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child.](#)

The document notes this is to try to “make sure children and young people fulfil their full potential in the classroom”. This equates to a six-and-a-half-hour day, Monday to Friday, the equivalent of a school being open to pupils from 8.45am to 3.15pm.

Following this guidance from September our school times will be as follows: 8:45 – 3:15pm for KS2 and 8.45 to 3.10pm for EYFS and KS1.

Summer Uniform



As the weather is beginning to get a bit warmer, we would like to remind you of our expectations for the summer uniform, which can be worn in school from **18th April 2023**.

Trainers are not to be worn, unless it is your child's PE day, with their PE Kit.

Children in Reception can also wear the summer uniform, a summer dress or grey short trousers and a polo shirt.

This means that reception children will also need to attend school on Fridays next half term in their PE kits if they are wearing the Summer Uniform. .

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Our School Day



In the morning, you can come onto the yard from 8:40am, the school doors will be open at 8.45am for children to come straight in. Learning starts at 8:45am. If your child is late please come into the school office to sign them in.

If you need to collect your child early for an appointment, please ensure that you bring evidence of appointment to the office for our records.

The reception opening times are 08:30am – 16:30pm.

EHCP Meetings

If your child has an EHCP we will be sending out appointment times so that we can have our Spring meeting before we finish for Easter. At this meeting we will make an appointment time for the Summer term and set a date for the annual reviews.



SENDSCO Appointments – TUESDAYS



If you would like an appointment with the SENDSCO please call the school office and Mrs Hall will book you a time. You can have a face to face meeting, a zoom call or a telephone call.

If you cannot make it on a Tuesday we will arrange an alternative day.

Seesaw

On the family app there is an option to switch User. If you select this you can then select students and there will be an option to add in their home learning code or scan the QR code.

Everyone should have their home learning code now – if not please see the class teacher at home time.

















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Stars of the Week



 RE Apple – M Farrell	 RM Cherry – S Bird
 1MC Birch – M Tsang	 1M Oak – R Holden
 2E Fir – R Lee	 2D Alder – J Clarendon
 3W Elm – A Skinner	 3J Cedar – J Weedon
 4M Ash – G Taylor-Morton	 4R Maple – K Buckley
 5B Pine – S Trimm	 5C Willow – M Evans
 6B Sycamore – H Dunne	 6D Chestnut – R Ashworth-Coyne

This week's Dojo winners....

Noel Chavasse

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School Uniform

School uniform is important to create a sense of community, and to ensure appropriate safeguarding of all of our children. I would like to respectfully remind you that:

- Only a wristwatch (no Apple watches) and small stud ear rings to comply with health and safety guidance and safeguarding guidance are permitted.
- Hair must be of an acceptable/uniform styled and long hair must be tied back
- No painted nails or false nails are permitted in school
- Please note: all children should be wearing school PE kits and school tracksuits if they wish do so on PE days and not different sports wear.

The school uniform policy can be found on the school website and uniform is also referenced in the safeguarding and health and safety policy if you require any further information.

Our School Suppliers:

- BRIENDA – MUIRHEAD AVENUE stocks all of our school uniform.
- F&J Uniforms – 110 Muirhead Avenue East:

Knit cardigan £14	Hoodie Zip £12.50
Knit jumper £13.50	Joggers £9.50
Knit tank top £10	PE Shorts £5
Tie £4	PE Top £7
Sweatshirt (Crew) £11	Summer Dresses £9.50
Polo £7	
Hoodie £11.50	

A reminder that trainers should not be worn unless it is your child's PE day.



Boys and Girls
Y1 - Y6
PE Kit
PE T-shirt £5.99
PE Shorts £5.00
Parents please note if your child is in Reception they use their dark grey tracksuits for PE lessons.



Boys and Girls
Y1 - Y6 New School Coat
Light weight coats from £14.99
Heavy duty coats from £23.00



New Supplier Information
Brienda Ltd
74 Muirhead Ave East, Liverpool, L11 1EL
Telephone Number: 0151 226 3333
You can find this leaflet on the school website under Parents/ School Uniform. www.stmatthewsprimaryschool.co.uk



Boys Y1 - Y6
Autumn/ Spring Terms (September - Easter)
Grey jumper from £14.00
White shirt (any supplier)
Grey & blue tie from £3.50
Grey pants - £6.99
Black shoes / no trainers



Boys Y1 - Y6
Summer Term (Easter - July)
White short sleeve shirt (any supplier)
Grey & blue tie £3.50
Grey shorts & socks (any supplier)
Grey tank top from £10.00
Black shoes/ no trainers



Girls Y1 - Y6
Autumn/ Spring Terms (September - Easter)
Grey slip from £8.99 (2 designs available from Brienda - Pleats)
White shirt (any supplier)
Grey & blue tie from £3.50
Grey cardigan from £14.00
Grey socks (any supplier)
Black shoes / no trainers



Girls Y1 - Y6
Summer Term (Easter - July)
Light Blue Gingham Summer Dress (any supplier)
Grey cardigan from £14.00
White socks (any supplier)
Black shoes / no trainers

Book Bags from £4.99
Navy Summer Caps from £3.99

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Skiing Trip

Exciting news we are currently investigating the options to get involved in Liverpool Ski School Associations annual ski trip.



After Easter Mr Edwards and I have a planned meeting with one of the organisers to discuss this further. At this point we are currently on the waiting list to join the trip and we are hopeful of being involved soon.

More information to follow.

Chester Zoo

Great news, Mr Edwards has booked our whole school summer trip. We have booked Chester zoo for the whole school.

Details to be confirmed after the Easter break.

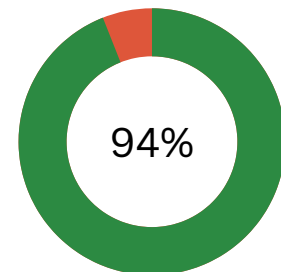


As a school we define regular attendance as 97% or above.

Good school attendance is everybody's responsibility.

Overall Attendance:

Week Commencing:	27th March 2023
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RM Cherry 97%	RE Apple 91%	1M Oak 92%	1MC Birch 94%	2D Alder 94%	2E Fir 98%	6B Sycamore 89%
3W Elm 95%	3J Cedar 89%	4R Maple 97%	4M Ash 95%	5B Pine 95%	5C Willow 96%	6D Chestnut 99%

- Attendance and punctuality is key. All children are expected to be in school and parents can be fined for non-attendance. Term time holidays will not be authorised and parents who allow their children to be absent from school could face fines from the local authority, proof of medical appointments is required.
- All queries around attendance and punctuality should be directed to **Mrs L Evans, Deputy Headteacher.**

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PE Curriculum

Here at St Matthew's, we have made the decision for the children to be timetabled to 1 formal PE lesson per week. This decision was well thought out and discussed with our leadership team and the PE specialist who supports our school, LSSP. The Department of Education state that "There is no required number of hours you need to teach PE for each week, so you can choose. Take your pupils' needs and circumstances into account when deciding how much time to spend on it".

As a school, we found that many outdoor PE lessons were being cancelled, due to poor weather, and this was having a negative impact on children's timetables and their sequence of learning which resulted in gaps in certain topics. To help close these gaps, we have moved to a longer and focused PE lesson each week, which has been planned taking into consideration the needs of the children.

The Department of Education also states that "There is no statutory guidance on what constitutes a PE lesson, so you can decide what counts towards your PE provision".

During school hours, our children are provided with a daily 1 hour 15 mins active playtime outside. The chief medical examiner for the UK advises that children should spend at least 60 minutes outside a day and our school provides more than this in addition to their PE lesson. We have spent a lot of time working with staff, and continue to do so, to ensure that all children have the chance to enjoy positive and active play time and we have spent a considerable amount of the PE budget on resources and equipment for children to use during this active time.

In addition to PE lessons and active play, St. Matthew's also provides a number of physical after school sessions throughout the year, visits to Windsor gardens and out of school experiences which include sports celebrations and competitions. We have also provided children with intra year group sports competitions in school and recently invited parents to join in and celebrate our physical education time.

We continue to review PE in school and understand the importance that physical education has on children's physical and mental wellbeing. We will continue to provide as many active opportunities for our children and plan and introduce them to a wide and enriching sport curriculum.

Thank you
Mrs Dunbar
PE Lead



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40 Acts of Kindness

How do you feel when you are hungry? Does your stomach grumble? Does it GROWL? Imagine not eating for 40 days. That's what Jesus did when the Bible tells us he was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. You can read the whole story in [Luke 4:1-13](#).

Lent, as we know, is the 40 days leading up to Easter when we remember Jesus' time in the desert and the challenges he faced when he was there. Because Jesus didn't eat for 40 days, Christians like to remember this story by giving up something themselves during Lent. Have you ever given something up for Lent? Maybe chocolate or your favourite TV show?

This year, we have gone a step further and not only given something up but given something out to someone else. Our Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and school council have spent some time with the residents of Broadway Care Home tend to their garden ahead of Spring.

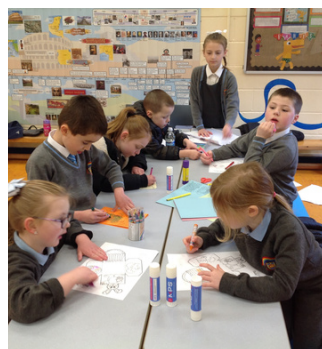
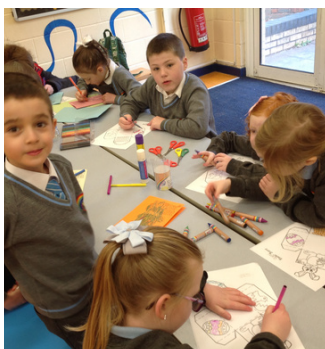


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Early Bunnies

Our Early Birds have been very busy making some Easter crafts this week.



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VOTE
NOW!

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE
ARTWORK ONLINE.

VOTING IS OPEN FROM
MON 3 APRIL – MON 1 MAY 2023

SCHOOLS.DOT-ART.COM/BROWSE-SCHOOLS



The artwork from each school with the most votes wins a place in the 11th annual dot-art Schools exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery.



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