



# Newsletter 3

## St Matthew's Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided)

<http://www.st-matthews.gloucs.sch.uk>

21st September 2018

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by thanking, on behalf of all the staff at St Matthew's, everyone for all the lovely words of support and encouragement that we have received this week. It is a tricky time however; I hope we will pull together as a community and work together to build an even stronger school.

I understand that due to the short notice not everyone who wanted to attend the Ofsted meetings on Tuesday was able to. This being the case, once we have the notes from the meeting we will be sending them out to all parents/ carers. One action that seemed popular to all was the 'Parent Champion' meetings. I understand and appreciate that picking one parent from each class may be very difficult. This being the case I am more than happy for any number of parents from each class to join me at the 'Parent Champion' meetings. It may be the case that within a group you nominate one person to attend the meetings or as a class you decide on one representative as part of your Facebook groups.

The Parent Champion meetings are designed to keep parents informed about the targets set following our last Ofsted inspection and to provide a vehicle to ensure that parents' voices contribute to decision making in respect of ongoing school improvement.

The idea is that Parent Champions take responsibility for sharing key information with the wider parent population and also bring back to the meetings, points other parents/ carers want to make.

The first Parent Champion meeting will take place in school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. This initial meeting will be based on logistics. We can discuss whether to split the groups into particular areas or year groups with a focus on different aspects of the report. This meeting will begin at 7pm and I will be asking for a volunteer to take minutes that can then be made public. If you would like to attend this meeting please fill a Parent Champion form from the office with your name, child's name and area/s you would like to focus on/represent. Meeting dates and times will then be agreed, on a meeting by meeting basis, and will be publicised in the newsletter.

Please remember that any parent/ carer is welcome to attend.

As I also said in the meeting, I am more than happy to hold smaller meetings with parents involved in the key areas for development. I do understand that you may still have many questions and although I appreciated the support and the positivity given during the parent meetings I also appreciate the fact that some of you may still not be feeling so positive and still have many questions to ask. Please understand that I do take on board all areas for improvement mapped out in the Ofsted report and that I will be held accountable for the progress made in these areas. This is not just the progress of the children but the progress that we make in raising expectations and standards whilst still holding on tight to our caring child centred ethos.

I will keep you informed as soon as I have any information to share in those key areas. Please bear in mind that I was only able to share the report with staff on Monday and so many of the plans I have not be able to put into place until everyone is aware of the situation.

In the meantime, if you do have any questions please do come and see me. My diary is very busy; however, I am always more than happy to chat when I have any free time.

Thank you again for your support, I truly hope that this situation will bring our community together.

With this in mind, I am looking forward to seeing you all, next Friday at the PTA September Sizzle. This will be a more relaxed affair to meet our new families and have some fun! On my part, I certainly won't be discussing data or producing a complicated acronym filled Powerpoint! I am simply looking forward to chatting and laughing like the good old days! My favourite quote at the moment says it all:

'To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone'

**Weekly Whole  
School  
Attendance**

**98%**



**Attendance**

As you can see, once again, you have done brilliantly with your child's attendance this week. One of the areas that Ofsted did recognise was that the whole school attendance for last year was above the national average. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting your child and us, with getting them into school each day.

We would obviously like this to continue as it makes a huge difference with your child's learning. Can we please remind parents that taking your child out of school for a holiday is frowned upon by the Local Authority and will **never** be authorised as this directly affects your child's attendance and the whole school attendance. As always we appreciate your support with this.

**99 Club Badges Awarded for this week**

Well done to the children listed below who have worked hard on their timetables and have achieved the following '99' Club badges this week:

Y5: Leo Wilkins (77)

Please return any badges that are out of date to the office so that we can give them to other children. Thank you.

**Class Dojo**

Just a little reminder that parents need to make sure that they've signed up to Class Dojo. You will be able to communicate directly with the class teacher and see work that your child has been doing. If you have any questions about Class Dojo please see your child's teacher or come to the school office.

**PTA September Sizzle—  
Friday 28th September**

Next Friday is the PTA September Sizzle. This hugely popular event takes place straight after school until 5pm. There will be a BBQ and a bar. This is not a fundraiser it's more about the school community. Come along and enjoy!

**Year 1 Toy Request**

This term Year 1's topic is 'On the Farm' and they are in desperate need of some farmyard toys. If you have farm animals, soft farm toys, fuzzy felt, dressing up clothes, etc, with a farm theme that you no longer want, we would love to have them. Please bring them to the school office. Thank you.

**Charity Run—Cheltenham Half Marathon (30th September)**

Miss Szarko, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Panton and Mrs Young will all be taking part in this half marathon in aid of the Sue Ryder Charity. Members of staff with collection buckets will be outside the gates during the morning to receive donations next Friday 28th September. Thank you for your support.

**Your Child's Annual Flu Vaccination**

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against Flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. A leaflet explaining the programme was sent home on Monday.

Where possible the Gloucestershire Care Services team have asked that parents/carers use their preferred online option. In order for your child to receive their vaccination please complete the online consent form (one per child) so that your child can be given the vaccine in school by visiting their website on:

<https://www.glos-care.nhs.uk/consentforms>

On successfully completing your online consent form, you will receive an email confirmation.

If you did not get the original letter and leaflet from Gloucestershire Care Services please come to the office for a copy.

Just to confirm the vaccination is a quick and simple spray up the nose.

St Matthew's vaccination date is 8th November 2018. If you wish to vaccinate your child earlier, please contact the team



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**YR Lunch Register**

To make things a little easier in the classroom, can we please ask parents with children in Reception Class to indicate on the lunch register, (which is put outside first thing in the morning) to tick their child's hot dinner choice daily or weekly, or putting 'PL' (packed lunch) instead. This will help speed things up in the morning. Thank you.

### 'Thankfulness'

"A thankful heart is a happy heart!"



### Parents' Evenings

Clipboards to book an appointment time for your child/children will be available in the office reception area from Monday 8th October. Further information regarding the Parents' Evenings will be in next weeks newsletter.

### Dates for your Diary:

#### Michaelmas Term

Tuesday 25th September

Friday 28th September

Tuesday 2nd October

Wednesday 3rd October

Friday 5th October

Tuesday 9th October

Friday 12th October

Monday 15th October

Tuesday 16th October

Wednesday 17th October

Thursday 18th October

Friday 19th October

Cross Country at Painswick RFC—invited children only

Interhouse Football & Netball

PTA September Sizzle

Y2 trip to Sainsbury's

Y3 trip to Cheddar Gorge

Harvest Festival (Church)

Interhouse Football & Netball (reserve date)

Whole School Photographs

L2 Sportability at Archway—invited children only

KS2 Football Festival at Painwick RFC—invited children only

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening

Michaelmas Term Ends

Inset Day



### Forest Schools

Years 3 and 4 will be alternating Forest School this term. Next Tuesday, 25th September, Year 3 will have another turn.

To help you remember please see dates below:

Tuesday 25th September Year 3

Tuesday 2nd October Year 4

Tuesday 9th October Year 3

Tuesday 16th October Year 4



Please remember to bring waterproof clothing into school in a named bag with wellington boots as they will be going outside in all weather conditions.

### Coats

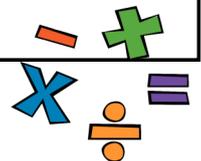
As the weather is now turning colder and wetter could you please make sure your child is wearing a sweatshirt and a coat (named). This way they can still go outside to play.



### Year 2 Requests

As part of their topic on 'The Great Fire of London' Year 2 need some cardboard boxes to make some buildings of old London town. They can be large, small, cereal boxes, tea-bag boxes, etc. Please bring in as soon as possible.

Miss Ward is also in need of board games which will help make maths fun. If you have any old Snakes & Ladders, Ludo, board games and even Top Trump cards to help the children have fun with numbers that would be amazing. Please bring to the school office.



### Head Teachers Certificate

Week Ending 21st September 2018	
Year 1	Daniel Oates
Year 2	Evelyn Hocking
Year 3	Joshua Barfield
Year 4	Katie-Marie Ferguson
Year 5	Archie Wilkinson
Year 6	Ellie Beale