



# Newsletter 4

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

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

28th September 2018

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are all aware the last few weeks have been incredibly challenging for us as a school and myself personally. However, I am now able to announce that we have a new member of staff starting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Shelly Collins and a new senior leadership structure.

Mrs Collins is currently a senior leader at St James Church of England Primary School in Cheltenham. She is currently teaching Year 1 but has experience teaching across all the year groups, last year she taught Year 5. Mrs Collins has also developed the Early Years at St James' and is the Pupil Premium Champion. We are very grateful to the head teacher Mrs Harford for allowing Mrs Collins to start with us at such short notice.

Mrs Collins is an interim deputy. This means that we are borrowing her from St James for a set period of time. During this time, Mrs Collins will support us in addressing the issues in our Ofsted report. St James is graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and so I feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work with a deputy who comes with high expectations, enthusiasm, experience and lots of energy!

If you would like to meet Mrs Collins please do come along to the September Sizzle tonight after school. We will both be there and would both very much like to see and meet as many parents as possible.

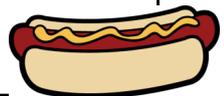
I am also incredibly excited to announce that Mrs Panton is our new Key Stage 2 lead, Miss Ward is our Maths Subject leader and Miss Szarko our English Subject leader. This will mean that my core senior leadership team is myself, Mrs Collins and Mrs Panton. As SENCo, Mrs Young will often have a role in Senior Leadership meetings as will Miss Ward and Miss Szarko.

With regard to lines of communication, if you have a question or an issue specific to your child; in the first instance, it is important to go directly to the class teacher. The easiest way to make an appointment with the teachers is through the dojo or through the office. If, after this meeting, further clarification is needed, then please do come and see a member of the Senior Leadership Team. If you have a question with regard to the teaching of English or Maths that is not specific to your child, please do feel free to make an appointment to see Miss Ward or Miss Szarko. We do, of course, have subject leaders for every subject. Rather than over load you with information this week, I will share that information in next week's newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a Parent Champion, I look forward to seeing you on Monday at 7:30.

Please do come along and support the PTA at the September Sizzle this evening and don't forget it's Harvest Festival in the church next Friday, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all welcome.

Best wishes  
Gina Thomson



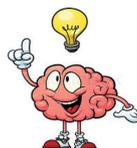
**Weekly Whole  
School  
Attendance**



**98%**

**'Thankfulness'**

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share!"



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

After school today 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!

Members of staff who are running the Cheltenham Half Marathon on Sunday will be collecting for the Sue Ryder charity at the September Sizzle. All donations appreciated.

### Collecting your child after a club

Can we remind parents that the office closes at 4.00pm daily and if a member of staff is in the office it's because they are preparing for the following day.

If you are collecting your child from a club, please wait at the top of the car park by the gates for the teacher to bring the children out to you. Please do not wait in the office reception area at this time of the day as the school is being cleaned.

### Collecting children for an appointment

If at all possible can we please ask parents to make Doctors or Dentist appointments outside of school hours. If you do have to take your child to an appointment we will need you to come to the office to fill in a slip for the teacher. Please try and avoid just turning up as this disrupts the class when the child is collected.

If your child has a hospital appointment, please bring in a copy of the appointment details for the office to copy. We appreciate your support with this.

### Library

Thank you for all your donations of books for the school Library. However, we now have plenty and do not need any more at the moment. Thank you.



### Stroud District Foodbank

For this years Harvest Festival, which takes place next Friday, 5th October at St Matthew's Church, we will be collecting for the Stroud District Foodbank. Please bring in items such as tins, dried food (rice, pasta, lentils, etc), shampoo, soap, toothpaste, biscuits, anything that has a long life. This way it can be taken to the Foodbank and be available for anyone who needs it. Donations can be brought in at any time next week. Thank you in advance for your support.

### St Matthew's School Governors

We have received a couple of requests for a list of our Governors. Please see this information below with their appointed Governing role:

<b>Mrs Jacqui Powell</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Mr Nathan Howells</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>Mr Martyn Pearce</b>	<b>Foundation Governor</b>
<b>Mr Mark Dallison</b>	<b>Parent Governor</b>
<b>Mrs Justine Bateman</b>	<b>Staff Representative</b>
<b>Mrs Jenny Miles</b>	<b>Gloucestershire LEA</b>
<b>Mrs Gina Thomson</b>	<b>Head Teacher</b>
<b>Ms Leslie-Anne Kirby</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

### Cross Country at Painswick RFC

On Tuesday, children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in the first Cross Country races of this year. They were hugely determined and enthusiastic and did really well with 10 children coming in close to the front. They were up against schools within the Stroud District and had 50 children taking part in each race.

The children represented St Matthew's beautifully and are looking forward to receiving the final results.

### Young Voices Concert—Wednesday 23rd January 2019

For the first time we are going to take part in the Young Voices Concert which is held at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Mrs Pearce has very kindly offered to help the children prepare by running Choir practice every Wednesday, beginning after half term.

This event is only open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Letters are available from the school office. All payments will need to be made via Parentpay. Please note that children will be travelling by coach with members of staff. If parents want to attend, they will have to buy tickets and find their own way to and from this event. This has been put in place for safeguarding purposes.

### 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:

Y4: Jack Dallison (44), Kieran Hughes (33)

Y5: Otis Baynham (77)

Y6: Lucy Heaton (99), Evie Cratchley (88), Thomas Partt (55),

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



### Dates for your Diary:

#### Michaelmas Term

Tuesday 2nd October	Y2 trip to Sainsbury's
Wednesday 3rd October	Y3 trip to Cheddar Gorge
Friday 5th October	Harvest Festival (Church)
Tuesday 9th October	Whole School Photographs
Friday 12th October	L2 Sportability at Archway—invited children only
Monday 15th October	KS2 Football Festival at Painswick RFC—invited children only
Tuesday 16th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 17th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 18th October	Michaelmas Term Ends
Friday 19th October	Inset Day



### Forest Schools

Years 3 and 4 will be alternating Forest School this term. Next Tuesday, 2nd October, Year 4 will have another turn.

To help you remember, please see dates below:

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.

### Head Teachers Certificate

Week Ending 28th September 2018	
Year 1	Isaac Handbury
Year 2	Isaac Smith
Year 3	Tilly Spencer
Year 4	Jamie-Leigh King
Year 5	Leo Hooper
Year 6	Dylan Berry

### Gloucestershire Music

Love music? Play an instrument? Sing? Their open week will be running from Monday 1st October to Saturday 6th October. Gloucestershire Music (Local Authority Music Service) is opening its doors to musicians from around the county. There are groups for people at all stages of learning music, from beginners to more advanced players, and adult groups too. For more information or to register your interest please visit: [www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk)

