

St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Believing Achieving Succeeding

Spring 1 No 1 2022

stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk



Please note that the 'blue book' email address bluebook@stmatthews.rbksch.org is only for communicating covid test results with us. If you receive a positive coronavirus test, let the school know immediately by emailing bluebook@stmatthews.rbksch.org and give as much detail as possible as to class, date of symptoms, date of test. This is especially important at weekends and holidays.

Reminder that the half-term holiday is the week Monday 14th-18th February. We are receiving lots of requests for absence during term time and these will not be authorised as children have missed so much learning time in the last twenty months. Please ensure that holidays are only booked during holiday times.

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a restful holiday and we are delighted to welcome back our pupils and staff team for 2022.

The New Year is obviously not without its challenges and as a result of the high cases of omicron in the community at the moment, we would like to remind you of the following safety measures that we have in place:

- All parents/carers/visitors to school are requested to wear a face covering. This includes whenever you are on the school site, for example at daily pick up or drop off. We cannot enforce this but hope that you will comply. No parents/carers/visitors will be allowed into our reception welcome area without a face covering.
- We continue to ensure all classrooms are well ventilated. The school heating is on- despite the cost and irony of heating rooms where doors and windows are most often open.
- We also have Co2 monitors that check classrooms for correct air flow
- Pupils should always bring a coat to school during winter- and an extra vest and gloves is always useful.
- We continue to limit visitors to our school site where possible. Sadly, this means that we shall not be inviting Parents into 'Good Work' at the moment.
- We continue to follow government guidelines and our risk assessment will be updated on our website in due course.

As from 11 January there has been a temporary change of law to say that those who are asymptomatic and who test positive on a lateral flow, no longer need to get a PCR test, and can start counting immediately. If they have a negative lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7, they can stop isolating.

Reminder

As good ventilation remains a very important element of combatting covid-19, the staff will ensure that classes have open doors/windows. If your child suffers with the cold, please encourage them to wear an extra t-shirt or vest under their school shirt to keep warm. We now have CO2 Monitors in our school which help us identify poor ventilation so that we can improve it (eg by opening a window or door) and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Thank you for your very generous donations to our school's chosen charities for Christmas. A massive £711 was raised to be split equally between The Children's Society (whose aim is to show children that they aren't alone this Christmas. They fight for the hope and happiness of young people when it's threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect) and Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness who support single people facing housing crisis in our Borough and help them to rebuild their lives.

"Do you have any spare time to support us by listening to children read in school? We would very much appreciate your support. If you are a parent who has some spare time to listen to children read. In these times when children have missed out on valuable learning, we want to ensure that our children have every opportunity for essential reading practice. Ideally we are looking for consistent reading sessions, for example, a Tuesday afternoon each week rather than ad hoc sessions so that we can plan effectively. We would require that you undertake a DBS check as well as some in-school training. If you are interested, please email admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org – thank you.



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Our Local Residents

Please can we remind parents to show courtesy to our local residents when dropping off and picking up their children for school by car.

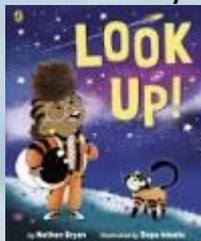
Lunches

If you have any issues or comments about the lunches, please contact Caterlink directly on info@caterlinkltd.co.uk.

Many children will have been given new devices as Christmas presents, it is always advisable to set up parental controls before the gift is unwrapped. Our online safety page has a wealth of information including how to set restrictions on gaming devices.



Book Review by Emily Mayhead



Look up by Nathan Bryan

I would award this book 4 out of 5 stars. I think this book is very good because on all the pages she looks up. My favourite part is when they looked up to see the phoenix meteor shower.

Swimming lessons- we are delighted that Year 5 have recommenced their swimming sessions this term. After the half-term holiday, Year 4 will be going swimming.

Pre-loved School Uniform FOSMPS advertise pre-loved uniform regularly on the FoSMPS Facebook Marketplace <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282323989532268> / It is a good place to both sell uniform (and anything else) as well as look for uniform - with all funds going to FoSMPS.

Bible Club re-commences this Friday for KS2 children.

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Once again Achieving for Children (AfC) will be financing the cost of free school meals with supermarket vouchers during school holidays:

February 2022 half term: 5 days, 14-18 February: £15.00 per FSM pupil

Easter 2022: 11 days, 1-19 April: £33.00 per FSM pupil

Did you know that if you are on a low income, or in receipt of benefits (except Working Tax Credit), you can check to see whether you are eligible for free school meals/funding via: LGfL Free School Meals Eligible Checker: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>

Please do check as this will benefit your child/children and the school.

Invite from Soundsteps Music

Soundsteps Music School has been running Keyboard/Piano lessons for Children aged 5 - 15 locally for the past 25 years. Lessons are aimed at providing Quality Music education whilst establishing an early enjoyment of Music.

Early Music development can not only support progress in other key subjects such as Maths and English, but can also lead to the development of key Social Qualities such as "confidence".

In addition to learning the Keyboard/Piano and learning to read, write and compose Music, we are also able to support children to develop their skills in order to gain the recognised qualifications for secondary schools. We would like to invite you to attend one of our many Free Taster Sessions below to explore your child's interest: Kingston:

Tolworth United Reformed Church Elgar Avenue Surbiton KT5 9JR on Thursday 13th or 20th of January at 4pm or Friday 14th or 21st of January at 4pm Wandsworth:

United Reformed Church Rookstone Road Tooting SW17 9NQ on Friday 14th of January at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm

Online via Zoom:

Saturday 22nd of January 11am or Saturday 22nd of January at 3.30pm

To book please contact us using the following and email: office@soundstepsmusic.co.uk or call/Text 07926371583.