

St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Our Vision is to enable our whole school community to live life in all its fullness

Autumn 1 No 1 2023

stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk



We embrace ALL WEATHERS in our OPAL play so please ensure your child has a raincoat with them every day! Thank you

Year 6 Residential Trip

Our intrepid travellers in Year 6 will be off to Wiltshire for their residential trip next Wednesday and are excitedly preparing for this trip. We wish them all a fabulous and very exciting time and look forward to hearing all about their adventures.

Welcome Back to a new school year!

We hope that you have had a restful break this summer and look forward to catching up on the children's news. We wish to say a special 'Welcome' to our Reception classes who join us full-time on Monday! Welcome too, to any new children that have joined us at St. Matthew's this new academic year and also welcome to any new members of staff. We are sure that you will all settle easily and quickly. We hope that you have all the information that you need but do let us know in the School Office if there is anything else with which we can help you. All parents should be receiving our regular newsletters and email alerts.

As a parent, you should also be receiving messages from your class representative on the Friends of St Matthew's Primary School (FOSMPS) if you wish to be included in their WhatsApp groups.

Exciting News

Ms Huggonson had her baby boy Sonny in early August. Mum and baby are doing well and we send her and her family lots of love. Mrs Patrick will be going on maternity leave from 15th September. Whilst she is away, her role will be covered by Miss Page. We will obviously let you know when baby arrives and we wish them all the very best too.

Pre-loved School Uniform

There has been much in the news regarding the expense of school uniforms recently. The school have very few branded items in efforts to keep costs low. Do remember too that FOSMPS advertise pre-loved uniform regularly on the FOSMPS Facebook Marketplace <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282323989532268/>



Cuppa and Chat with the Friends of St Matthew's Primary School (FOSMPS)

At the start of the academic year, FOSMPS organize a coffee morning to welcome all the new parents and carers coming into Reception classes and also any new parents to other year groups. They will explain what they do and this is your opportunity to find out more and make some new friends. This will be held **from 8.40 on Monday 11th September** in our school hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

Curriculum Year Group Meetings: are a great opportunity to hear from your child's class teacher and be able to ask any queries that you may have.

Year 5 – Wednesday 6th September 6.30pm **TODAY**

Year 6 – Thursday 9th September 6.30pm

Year 2 – Monday 11th September 6.30pm

Year 1 – Tuesday 12th September 6.30pm

Reception – Wednesday 13th September 6.30pm

Year 3- Thursday 14th September 6.30pm

Year 4- Wednesday 20th September 6.30pm



Emergency Telephone Numbers

Please can you ensure that your child's emergency contact numbers are kept up-to-date with the school office. We do require at least two numbers. If you need to update us with new contact details, please email the school office on admin@stmatthews.rbksch.org



We are delighted to announce that St. Matthew's has been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag for all the hard work and activities that Miss Chamberlain and the Eco-committee have initiated over the last year and getting the whole school, including families involved. You should all be very proud of your work! Well done!

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We encourage everyone to have a healthy morning snack such as a piece of fruit. For Reception and Key Stage 1, a piece of fruit is provided. If pupils in Key Stage 2 would like fruit too, please pay via School Gateway

Jeans for Genes Day- Friday 6 October.

On this day, your child will be invited to wear their home clothes in exchange for a donation of £1 via School Gateway to be donated to this crucial charity that investigates and supports families who are affected by genetic disorders.

Attendance remains a priority for all schools.

A recent report from The Children's Commissioner finds that children who miss one of the first few days of the new term for unauthorised reasons are much more likely to miss long periods of their schooling than their peers who attended those first few days.

Your Daily Routine Matters

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- ☑ having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- ☑ preparing for the morning routine by packing a bag the night before and setting out uniform
- ☑ talking together about all the fun their child will have at school
- ☑ arranging medical appointments, outings and holidays out of school hours
- ☑ talking to their child's teacher if there are any concerns or anxieties
- ☑ working with their child to develop healthy hygiene practices

If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with school at the earliest opportunity.

We are here to help.

Blue Contact book



By the end of the week, your child should have been provided with a blue Parent /Teacher contact book that should come into school each day. This is for any small queries that you may have such as a change to usual routine of who is picking up your child or a forgotten item. They should also have a new Reading Record and a reading book.

Information about RAAC concrete

Hopefully all families received our email that was sent out on Friday 1st September to say that our buildings have been carefully checked by a suitably qualified building surveyor and it has been confirmed that no RAAC concrete was used in the construction of any part of the school. This information has been shared with the Department for Education by our 'Responsible Body', the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.'

Farewell to our vicar Helen Hancock (in October)

Most of you will have heard by now that our vicar, Helen, will be leaving soon to take up the post of Resident Minister at St John's Church and Rushmore in the Guildford Diocese. Helen has been an amazing vicar and governor of our school for 10 ½ years and remains in post until early October. We want to thank her for all that she, and her husband Simon, has done for the school. It will be incredibly hard to say goodbye. We plan to give her a special leaving gift at the Harvest service on Wednesday 27 September. If anyone would care to make a donation and leave a farewell message, you can do this through the usual School Gateway which will stay open until 20th September. Thank you

"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.

In order to avoid children being distracted by seeing their own parents in school or upset at seeing their friends' parents but not their own, parent support readers would not listen to children read from their own child's class. We would also 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

Reading is key!

Our school reading vision is to create a reading environment and community that excites, enthuses and inspires children to become fluent, confident and reflective reading advocates. If children don't read fluently, then this will negatively impact on their understanding. Most of all the children need to practise this skill.