

St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Spring Term, February 2018 | www.stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

World Book Day – Thursday 1st March

St Matthew's staff and pupils always enjoy dressing up as their favourite book characters in this nationally celebrated day. Books are given as prizes for the best dressed. Please do help your child join in with the excitement. St Matthew's is fortunate to have visits from several authors planned for this week and we are sure that your child will have a fabulous time.

Budget Cuts to Schools

You will be aware that all schools, including ours, are subject to big funding cuts this year. Unfortunately this means that some things that we have previously paid for; we will no longer be able to fund. We would like to ask if you could donate a box of tissues for general use- and to send in tissues if your child is suffering with the sniffles.

For similar reasons- and for trying to reduce our use of plastic in school. Our school councillors are hoping that we can become a plastic free school. Therefore, they have decided that we are no longer going to supply plastic cups for the water machine inside school. If you would like to send your child in with a labelled re-usable plastic bottle, that would be greatly appreciated. Children can always use the water jet if they have not brought in their own bottle.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Parents Evenings 13th & 15th March

We are holding our parent consultations on Tuesday 13th March (3.30-5.10pm) and Thursday 15th March (3.30-5.00pm). We very much hope that you will attend one of these sessions, as it is the opportunity to understand how well your child is getting on at school and review your child's progress with their class teacher. Please visit

<https://stmatthewsprim.parenteveningsystem.co.uk>
to book your appointment.

Polling Station

Thank you to everyone who signed their name on the petition on the Council website to complain about our school being used as a Polling station which disrupts the learning and causes stress for working parents who have to organise another day's childcare. Your views have been listened to and we have been informed that St Matthew's will not be used as a Polling station this year which goes to show what 'people power' can do. Thank you for all your support.

Curriculum Overviews

Please find attached the most recent curriculum overview relevant to your child. Please note that Reception classes will come out in early March. Please also look on the school website www.stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk for current information and dates.

E-Safety Tips

Within school, children are taught to follow a set of online safety rules. Regular reminders about the importance of these are given to the children.

How to Set Up Parental Controls:

Parental controls can help keep your child safe. Even the most innocent searches online can bring up not so innocent results. Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content. They can also help to control online purchases or manage how long your child spends online. The NSPCC have made setting up parental controls really easy:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parentalcontrols/>

Change of Date

Friday 27 April 2018 will no longer be an INSET training day but will, instead be a normal working day at school for staff and pupils. Instead, Monday 4 June will now be an INSET TRAINING DAY and therefore the school will be closed to parents and pupils on that day. We apologise for this change in date and hope that it has not inconvenienced you too much.

Please note all dates should now be correct on our school website.

St Matthew's Church

With the exciting plans which St Matthew's Church has for its future there are a number of new roles which have been created and there may be one to suit you!

Each of them, in their different ways, will help to support the church and local community, use your skills (which may have got a bit rusty) and/or offer you new challenges and areas of interest. The time you spend working can be flexible and you will have the support of a friendly team, training where necessary and a fulfilling sense of purpose.

There is one paid role - the Parish Administrator - and the rest are all voluntary.

The Parish Administrator's role is for 10 hours a week and could be flexible round school holidays. For a Job Description and Application Form please email Rev Helen Hancock at teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org. Deadline for applications is midday on Monday 19th March.

The other three voluntary roles are:

- (1) helping to set up a 'Friends of St Matthew's Church' group with both local residents, businesses and other supporters
- (2) fundraising for St Matthew's Tower and Spire Appeal which needs to raise a balance of around £300,000 for urgent repairs
- (3) becoming the Heritage Activities Co-ordinator for activities which will flow from our Heritage Lottery Fund grant. This will involve engaging a wide crosssection of the community with the church's history and heritage (architecture, bells, stained glass, war memorial etc.) and helping organise training for volunteers.

If you think one of these roles might suit you then please do get in contact with Rev Helen Hancock at teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org as soon as you can.



Blue Books

A reminder that if you have any brief comments or messages to tell the teacher, please use the blue book. If, however, you have a more involved concern, please ask to arrange a meeting with the teacher.



Reading

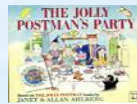
Please remember that your child should be reading a little every day and if you have the opportunity to listen to them read, please sign the Yellow Reading Record. Thanks

Attendance

The whole school attendance figure from September to February was 96.8%. All parents will have received their child's most up-to-date attendance information up to the February half-term. Please ensure that your child only misses school for genuine cases of illness so that they can make the best progress possible.

Stamps

Please keep collecting your used stamps as these are sent to charity.



Jolly Postman's Tea Party

The children had a marvellous time at the Jolly Postman's Tea Party last Thursday. The children enjoyed baking gingerbread biscuits, dressing up and singing! Thank you to those of you who kindly donated yummy cakes and biscuits, and to FOSMPS for setting up the hall and providing the tea and coffee.



Please note that there is now a calendar for the year on our website.