

St Matthias CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 27th
February



Play at St Matthias: Finding Joy Whatever the Weather

We have seen the most consecutive days of rainfall since 1908, but this hasn't stopped us on the playground. Our children have embraced every puddle and muddy moment, and our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme has helped turn even the wettest days into opportunities for creativity, collaboration and fun.

At St Matthias, play is a vital part of learning. It builds resilience, confidence, social skills and imagination. Over recent months, our playground has been transformed with mud kitchens, pogo sticks, tunnels, tyres and tumble mats. Children have been dressing up, experimenting with water play, creating with chinks and fabric, and even building their own pallet stage and crate-based nail salon. For children who have experienced stress or trauma, high-quality play is especially powerful. It offers a safe space to regain control, express feelings and build trust. Open-ended play helps children problem solve, connect with others and experience success in small but meaningful ways. It is an important part of our research into positive childhood experiences.

We're also working hard to make sure the weather is never a barrier to great play. We've secured funding to purchase dry coats for every member of staff, and we are awaiting the outcome of a further bid that would provide every child with their own wellies and waterproofs. Since introducing our play strategy in September, we have seen a reduction in behaviour incidents and accidents and an increase in engagement as well as enjoyment.

Sustainability is central to OPAL, "loose parts" of everyday objects that might look like junk on our playground but become dens, vehicles, obstacle courses or anything our children imagine. These materials encourage teamwork, independence and creativity. Children have been bringing in items to donate from home and staff have been collecting cable drums and pallets from building sites!

Despite the rain, our pupils have shown remarkable resilience and joy. As OPAL continues to grow, we look forward to offering even more ways for children to explore, create and thrive outdoors. The next phase of our play drive will take us into the church meadow- watch this space!

Play is powerful — and at St Matthias, it's becoming more magical every day.



Important dates:



**Wednesday 3rd
March (weekly)**

Year 3 Trip Butterfield
Green - Outdoor
Learning 10:30-12:30

Year 4 Trip Butterfield
Green - Outdoor
Learning 1:30-3:30

Thursday 4 March
World Book Day!



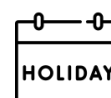
**Monday 30th March -
Friday 10th April**
Easter Holidays



Monday 13th April
Summer 1 Term
Starts
**ALL CHILDREN BACK
TO SCHOOL!**



Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday



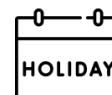
THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026



Saturday 16th May
Hackney Run School
Challenge!



Monday 25th - Friday
29th May
Half Term



Physical Education

PE next week - please ensure pupils are in the appropriate PE kit.

NEW Spring 2 P.E Days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Year 4	Year 3
Year 2	Year 1	Year 5	Year 6	EYFS

News from our classes: What has been the most memorable learning this week?		
EYFS: We've had a really great first week back and it's been lovely to see everyone so happy and ready to learn. We've been busy learning about Chinese New Year and Ramadan in our Understanding the World lessons and the children have really enjoyed talking about different celebrations. Reception have started a new story, a modern twist on Little Red Riding Hood, and Nursery have been loving The Very Hungry Caterpillar. In write dance, we've been singing She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain and having lots of fun with the actions. We've also been exploring which things float and sink, learning about shapes, and going on an exciting shape hunt around the school. Well done everyone for such a fantastic start!		Year 1: It's been a great start to the half term, with the children returning energised and engaged in their learning. In Science, we continued our animal topic, focusing on reptiles discovering fascinating facts about camouflage and shedding skin. We introduced our new text, <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>, with a wonderful immersion lesson where the children walked in after break to see the classroom had transformed into a forest floor, creating a rich sensory experience. In Geography, the children learnt about oceans and practised naming the oceans and continents, while in Maths they used 'First, Then and Now' stories to represent addition. In RE, we began preparing for Easter by learning about the start of Holy Week and its importance to Christians. The week ended with a trip to Dalston Library, where the children enjoyed a story session and chose new books for our class book corner.
Year 2: We have had such a positive and busy start to our new half term, everyone has arrived back to school refreshed and ready to learn! We started the week by making predictions about our new book based on objects we found in a feely bag. Next week write setting descriptions and poems inspired by some of the illustrations - we finally read our new book Granddad's Island and it quickly became a firm favourite. We have been exploring the relationship between multiples of ten and 5 in maths this week and started learning about the United Kingdom by labelling some maps in Humanities!	Year 3: Year 3 have started the term strong! In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of column addition using regrouping. The children have worked hard to apply their place value knowledge to solve more challenging calculations with confidence. In Writing, we have begun exploring our new book, <i>Jemmy Button</i>. We are currently analysing the text carefully to help us create our own return narrative in the coming weeks. The class have already shown some thoughtful ideas and great discussion about the story. Well done, everyone, a fantastic start to the term.	Year 4: Year 4 have had a very busy week back! On Tuesday we went to visit the Tower of London, we took part in a Pirate workshop learning about how people travelled across the world doing this for the king! We also had a look at the Crown Jewels which was wonderful! In writing we have been immersing ourselves in our new book of The Lost Happy Endings, reminding ourselves of old fairy tales and thinking what would they be like if they were to be changed. In humanities we started our topic of Migration and learnt what the definition of migration is and the different types. In maths we have been looking at coordinates and the translation of shapes on a grid. We have been very focused in order to be as accurate as possible.

Year 5 Faith: Year 5 have had a great start to term, they have been working extremely hard. In writing we have started our new text called Promise which children were immersed in and made amazing predictions! Within maths, we continued our work on conversion, looking at the links with units of measure. Within reading we wrapped up our Ghost book, using our comprehension skills to answer questions together as a class. As part of PSHE, we started our new Healthy me topic, which sparked very interesting debates about how we could keep our body healthy. Well done year 5 you have been amazing this week!	Year 5 Hope It has been a good start to the new half term in Class Hope! We have started a new text 'The Promise' in writing, and the children have fully immersed themselves in role play to help them explore the main character and setting in depth. In maths we have been continuing to multiply and divide numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 which we are now applying to converting between different units in length. We learnt about Ash Wednesday and the period of lent in RE, with Easter being the focus. In science we have continued with the unit properties and changes of materials, and today we learnt about separating a soluble solid from a solution via evaporation.	Year 6 Year 6 have had a fantastic and productive few weeks! We are extremely proud of how the children approached Assessment Week. They showed determination, resilience and focus throughout, giving their best effort in every subject. Their positive attitudes and hard work were clear to see — well done, Year 6! During our regular weekly music lesson on Monday, the children learned a new song with support from the St Paul's Cathedral singing team. They sang confidently and enthusiastically, developing both their musical skills and enjoyment of singing. We would also like to congratulate the majority of Year 6 for their improved punctuality. Arriving at school on time has had a very positive impact on learning, allowing lessons to start calmly and effectively. Thank you for your continued effort and support — please keep it up!	
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Hot chocolate Friday!

Pupils enjoyed hot chocolate this week. They have consistently displayed exemplary behaviour and learning.



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 Hope	Year 5 Faith	Year 6
Raymond	Nevaeh	Sadet O	Sally	Mohamed	Maya	Niyah	De'Keriah

School value in focus this week **collaboration**:

Each week the class teacher nominates a pupil in their class who has shown the school value that was in focus.



The pupils who have shown excellent **collaboration** are:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 Hope	Year 5 Faith	Year 6
Georgia		Isla and Kemal	Jhoan and Ryaan	Delaney & Crystal	A'meirah Kendrick	Ellis and Dolly	Luna Amelia

REIMAGINING OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 2006

BADU
CLUBS & CAMPS



SCAN TO BOOK YOUR BADU CLASS

BADU is a multi award winning community organisation reimagining opportunities and opening doors since 2006.

Based at the heart of Hackney, BADU is a home for multi sport, movement and wellbeing. Through BADU Clubs, we bring together all generations, abilities and backgrounds in a welcoming and inclusive space where everyone belongs.

Whether you are taking your first step or developing your craft, this is a place to move, grow and connect. Our coaches and practitioners understand you, meet you where you are and support you to thrive at your own pace.

Built for community, connection and confidence, BADU is more than sport. It is a space to belong.

That is THE BADU WAY.

★ RATED 5/5

BASKETBALL

TENNIS

ADULT SWIM

ATHLETICS

GIRLS FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL CENTRE

RUN CLUB

JUNIOR SWIM

Keeping Children Safe

The safeguarding of the children at St Matthias is our number one priority. We adhere to stringent safeguarding procedures to protect the welfare of all the children who come to our school. We will endeavour to work with parents and carers as it is our duty as a school to protect our children and to keep them safe.

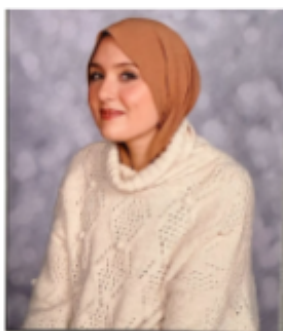
If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Blewett) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Ms Frohock, Ms Cherid or Ms Janeice).



Lucy Blewett
Headteacher
DSL



Amy Frohock
Deputy Headteacher
Deputy DSL



Yasmine Cherid
Assistant Headteacher
SENDCO



Janiece Headley-Walker
Pastoral Manager
Deputy DSL