



Half term
October 2020

Dear Families,

We have been just so pleased to have the children back with us at St Matthias. This term has been filled with joy, laughter and a serious amount of learning. We are aware of the missed learning over lockdown and everyone is working hard to close any gaps. The children are a credit to their families- they have adapted brilliantly back into the classroom and have shown real focus and determination.

We are pleased that we haven't had to send any bubbles home this half term. We can report that we have had no positive tests to date amongst St Matthias children and staff. We do understand that this is likely to happen at some point but hope that all the precautionary measures we have taken will ensure as few people as possible are impacted. We know that if we were to have to send a group of children home that we will be able to provide online learning for them that reflects as best as possible what they would be getting in the classroom. We continue to ensure the children wash their hands and use the hand sanitizer provided around the school.

As a school we looking at ways to ensure we are delivering an anti racist curriculum rooted in equality. Black History month has been exciting, although we were unable to host you in the church, we saw children engaging with black history units, writing from texts about black people who have made a difference, using their voices to share opinions, dressing up and even enjoying a black history inspired menu. We are adamant that we move away from black history month and acknowledge all Black history as part of British history, all year around. Our job is to decolonise the curriculum and ensure representation is a driver in everything we do.

We are proud that our reading curriculum across the whole school are representative. Take a look by clicking here:

Values	Resilience	Kindness	Collaboration	Forgiveness	Respect	Service
Rep Story time						

This half term we have made a holiday project for all children to complete at home. This is to be done as a whole family! We hope you enjoy it.

We plan to do a parents evening next term- this is most likely to be a telephone conference rather than a face to face meeting in order to be in line with our risk assessment. We will make sure we send learning home for you to see before this. We do miss having you on site- please do feel you can still speak to your teachers on the gate and contact the school with any concerns or questions. You may not be in our playground but you are an incredibly important part of our school!

Since being back at school we have worked hard to develop a school vision that reflects our values at St Matthias. We would be interested to know your thoughts. We have chosen to focus on four key areas that we will weave through our curriculum.

St Matthias EmpowerED

Our identity, Our world, Our voice, Our Future

At St Matthias we are committed to empowering our children to become independent life-long learners who:

Know who they are, ask questions about the world around them, use their voices to make a difference and aspire to greatness. Our Christian values nurture a safe, caring and inclusive environment where Together we *'have faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'*.

We look forward to continue to build our curriculum with our children at the heart.

Wishing everyone a restful half term. Looking forward to seeing you all in a weeks time.

Blessings,

Mrs Blewett

My Identity
I know who I am



My Voice
I use my voice to make
a difference



My World
I ask questions about
the world around me



My Future
I aspire to greatness



St Matthias EmpowerEd

After school Clubs

After school clubs will run from 3:30-4:30pm
Collection from Cowper Road

EYFS clubs Nursery & Rec	Year 1& 2 clubs	Year 3&4 clubs	Year 5 clubs	Year 6 clubs
Monday Creative club	Monday Sports club	Monday Book Making	Monday Gardening & DT	Wednesday Gardening & DT
Friday Sports club	Wednesday Art Club	Wednesday Sports Club	Tuesday Sports Club Thursday Athletics	Thursday Sports club Tuesday Athletics
Book here	Book here	Book here	Book here	Book here



Anna Freud, National centre for children and families have produced a resource for parents to help explain and explore the Black Lives Matter movement with children.

Click the image below:





What to do if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19

If your child falls ill at school, you will be contacted to collect them.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If you, your child or anyone within your household develops any of the following symptoms, whether at school or at home, **you must self-isolate for 10 days and book a test.**

- a new persistent cough
- loss of taste or smell
- a high temperature

Tests can be accessed through the [NHS website](#) or by calling 119.

TESTING

All children and members of their households in England have access to testing if they display symptoms of COVID-19, including children under 5. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

NHS TEST AND TRACE

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will need to share information about who they have recently been in contact with. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.

People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to stop unknowingly spreading the virus. Further information about [Test and Trace is available here.](#)

Dates

School Photographs: [Friday 6th November](#)

This year the company has told us that their covid policy is for individual photographs only. Siblings cannot be photographed together as this would be sterilizing the area between every sitting and would risk breaking bubbles. Sorry they are unable to facilitate siblings

Flu vaccination: [Friday 12th November](#)

Only children who have returned a consent form with permission for the flu nasal spray will receive it. There are three safeguarding checks with adults in order to ensure that only those with permission (stating yes) are seen by the nurse.

Return to school: [Monday 2nd November](#)

This is a one week half term- we expect all children back in school in a weeks time.



Have a lovely half term!

