

# St Matthias CE Primary School Newsletter

My Identity    My World    My Voice    My Future



Know who they are    Ask questions about the world around them    Use their voices to make a difference    Aspire to greatness

Friday 6th February  
2025



## OPAL Playtimes at St Matthias



At St Matthias we understand that play is integral to a child's development. As many of you already know we have started the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme which is designed to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, co-operation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved playtimes.

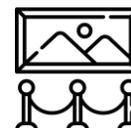
You may have already noticed some changes to our playground over the past few months from mud kitchens and pogo sticks to tunnels, tyres and tumble mats! The children have been enjoying dress up, water play, being creative with chinks, paints and fabric, and most recently, creating a stage out of pallets and a nail salon out of crates! Sustainability and use of materials that can drive open-ended creative play are at the heart of the OPAL Programme so expect to see more loose parts that may look like 'junk' but are in fact brilliant tools of play.

We are very much at the beginning of our work towards making our playtimes more exciting, no matter what the weather and we need some equipment to help keep improving. As mentioned in the OPAL launch letter sent out at the start of the school year, we will be continuing collecting loose parts and donations and any of the following would be greatly received:

- Cardboard boxes, large and small
- Fabric (Sheets / Saris / Curtains)
- Large Buckets and containers
- Dressing up clothes / accessories in good condition, think hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses (particularly for our older children)
- Small toys (farm animals/ dinosaurs / dolls / cars / lego)
- Pots/ pans / metal bowls/ metal spoons / spatulas / plates (plastic or metal)
- Swimming pool noodles
- Guttering and pipes

### Important dates:

**Monday 9th February**  
Year 2 Trip to the Tate Modern



**Wednesday 11th February**  
Year 4 Trip to the British Museum



**Wednesday 11th February**  
Year 3 Trip Butterfield Green - Outdoor Learning  
10:30-12:30

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



**Thursday 12th February**  
Year 6 St Paul's Cathedral Singing Trip



**Monday 16th-Friday 20th February**  
Half term holiday



**Monday 23rd February**  
Spring 2 Term Starts  
ALL CHILDREN BACK

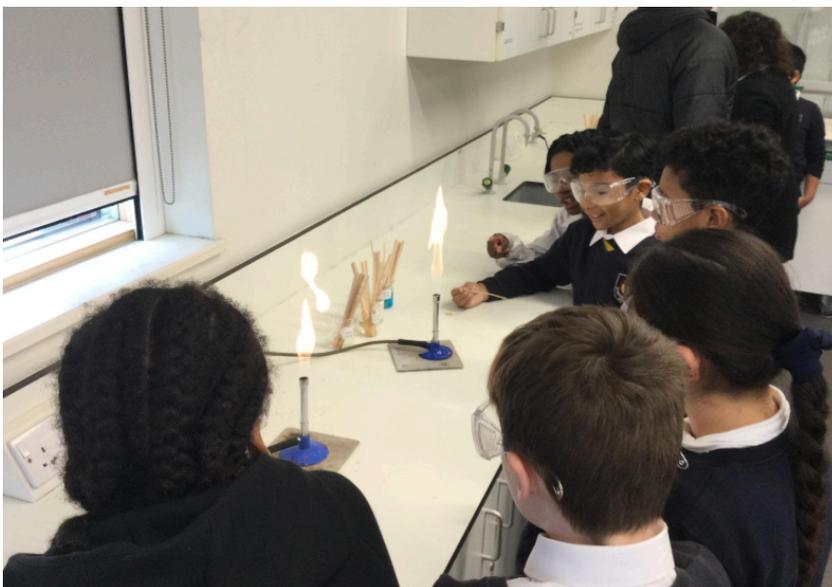
- Wooden pallets
- Cable drums / reels

If you have any of these items, please bring them to school and leave them in the OPAL donation box outside the school office or leave a message for Ms Clem at the school office if you are wanting to bring larger items in. We are always happy to receive donations of welly boots too so that children can continue to play out in the puddles.

You can learn more about the OPAL about the programme on their website [here](#).

### Year 5 visited Cardinal Pole for a Science Workshop

Year 5 took part in a brilliant science workshop at Cardinal Pole School this week. They were taught a lesson in one of their science labs. The classes learnt how to use bunsen burners and were then given the opportunity to create different coloured flames.



TO SCHOOL!



**Monday 23rd February**  
Registration for Hackney  
Run Schools Challenge  
opens



**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



**Saturday 16th May**  
Hackney Run School  
Challenge!



**Monday 25th - Friday  
29th May**  
Half Term





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

**Spring 1 P.E Days**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>CHANGE Year 1</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>CHANGE Year 2</b>	<b>Year 4</b> <b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 5</b> <b>EYFS</b>

**News from our classes: What has been the most memorable learning this week?**

**EYFS:**

This week has been a super busy and fun week in EYFS! In Early Years, we have been reading The Naughty Bus story and exploring different types of transport, both old and new. We even made our very own bus outside using cardboard and painted it – the children were incredibly creative! At the creative table, we loved labelling and drawing buses and other forms of transport. The children have been amazing with their sentence writing, and I am so proud of all their fantastic mark making. The nursery have been singing the Wheels on the Bus for write dance and have been using air ribbons to improve their gross motor skills. In Maths, we helped teach our new puppet friend, Numbers Ned, how to count and order numbers to 10 – the children did a brilliant job! In RE, we learned about another miracle of Jesus, and in PSHE we drew what we would like to be when we grow up and talked about the attributes we need to achieve our dreams.

What a wonderful week of learning! 🌟

**Year 1:**

Year 1 has had another busy week... In maths, the children have been securing their understanding of partitioning through lots of hands-on, collaborative work using concrete materials. In Writing, we have been focusing on letter writing skills and wrote our very first postcard. We also had the chance to apply the same skills in Humanities by writing a diary entry as Amy Johnson. In Science, we learnt lots of fun and interesting facts about fish, and loved role-playing a funny story about a little fish, Tiddler, who goes on a big adventure.

As we begin to wind down towards the end of Spring 1, it's good to see everyone still putting in a fantastic amount of effort. Well done, Year 1 – you are doing great! 😊

**Year 2:**

In Year two this week we have been building habitats for the Bog Baby so we can write a set of instructions. We continued our learning on multiplication by practicing our 5 and 10 times tables, We also looked at the story of Hanukkah and learned more about the life of Alice Kinloch.

**Year 3:**

This week in Year 3, we have been learning about the key features of an information leaflet in writing. They conducted research on rivers and waterfalls to support them in writing an informed paragraph, demonstrating excellent curiosity and engagement. In maths, we began learning column addition without regrouping. Year 3 have done an excellent job and have all mastered this technique – a fantastic achievement! In RE, we focused on the Ten Commandments, discussing which might be most important to Jewish people. They then

**Year 4:**

Year 4 have had another great week. We have been using technical vocabulary in order to write an information paragraph for a Monster Hunters guide. In maths we have been looking at the relationship between multiplication and division, as well as practising our times table facts. In RE we looked at why Hindus go on pilgrimage and what this includes. In science we learnt the difference between an insulator and a conductor and saw what materials allowed our circuit to work.

	extended their thinking by considering what additional commandments they would create to help improve society, leading to thoughtful and insightful discussions.		
<p><b>Year 5 Faith:</b> Year 5 Faith have been working extremely hard this week. Within Maths we finished up our topic of Area, they enjoyed a quiz that tested their knowledge! Within writing they have begun to plan their formal report based on a scene from our text, they have enjoyed engaging in roleplay alongside this! Within Humanities, year 5 had an amazing discussion about who was the worst king; John or Richard, looking at the evidence and presenting their ideas to each other. Well done this week year 5, I have seen some amazing work!</p>	<p><b>Year 5 Hope:</b> What a splendid week Class Hope have had! We attended a fantastic workshop at Cardinal pole School, and I'm pleased to say that the children were very well behaved and showed great maturity. In maths, we have completed the unit of area and finished with a 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' quiz, which demonstrated just how much the children have learnt! We have started planning our formal reports in writing, based on 'The Hound of Baskervilles' and will be writing our formal logs next week. Well done Class Hope!</p>	<p><b>Year 6:</b> It has been a busy and productive week in Year 6, with the children engaging enthusiastically in their learning across the curriculum and continuing to show a positive attitude towards their work.  In writing this week, the children began planning explanation texts about adaptation, linking closely with our science learning. In science, we have been exploring animals in their habitats and discussing how they have evolved over time to survive in different environments.  In history, the children explored I Have a Dream, developing their understanding of its historical significance and the powerful messages within the speech.  Well done to all the children who have been arriving promptly for targeted tutoring sessions in preparation for SATs. Your commitment and positive attitude have been fantastic—keep it up!</p>	

**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
Isaac	Archie	Kemal	Junior	Sharon	Kendrick	Nylah- Rose	Lionel

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

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 **kindness** are:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 Hope	Year 5 Faith	Year 6
Ariana	Marcus	Sadet	Sally	Crystal	Elsio	Mouhamed	Raheem

**REIMAGINING OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 2006**

**BADU**  
CLUBS & CAMPS

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

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR BADU CLASS

**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**