

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016



Dear Parents / Carer,

Welcome back to a busy and exciting half-term as we lead up to Christmas. The children are settling well and we already have lots of fantastic entries for our T-shirt book review competition. We hope to get photos on the website soon so that you can read about some awesome books too!

### **Jeans for Genes**

Thank you for your kind donations. We raised £116.42 for the research this important group of charities carries out.

### **Operation Christmas Child Appeal**

This year our Ethos group are taking the lead in organising the Operation Christmas Child appeal. This is a charitable fundraiser organised by a Christian organisation 'The Samaritan's Purse' which reaches out to the children of countries in troubles – perhaps through war or natural disasters and provides a child with a Christmas gift box. We are asking each class to provide certain items which can be collected together by the Ethos group to make up the gift boxes (please see separate letter and leaflet). It would be lovely if you could discuss this with your child and how your donation as a family will make a difference to a child in another part of the world as St Matthew's sends our 'love in a box'. Inside the box will also be a photograph of some of our children and a prayer which some of the children will write.

### **Healthy Schools Week 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Beginning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we will be holding our Healthy Schools Week. Miss Harris has lots of exciting opportunities planned and we will be starting the week with high energy as Freddy Fit will be joining us on Monday. Please come to school by 8.45am ready to join in our before school exercise session on the Infant playground. We are going to challenge the children to get every parent to join in too!

So that they are prepared for a range of healthy lifestyle activities, children are invited to come to school in their sports gear Monday to Thursday (No football shirts or Jeans please). As it is Remembrance day on Friday, children are to wear school uniform or if your child is a member of an organisation such as scouts, they may wear their uniform.

### **Anti-Bullying Week 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November**

This year the theme is 'Power for Good'.



During this week we will be including activities and advice to support children's understanding of issues around bullying. This will include work on E-Safety. Years 5 & 6 will be working with a theatre group on cyber bullying.

### **Children in Need Day Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

As usual we will be supporting Children in Need and hope that families will be able to make a donation to this worthy cause. The theme is 'Raise lots with spots' and we invite children to come to school in 'spotified' outfits or dressed as a super hero to fit with our anti-bullying theme. We will be asking teachers to plan some spotacular activities for the day!

### **Maths Workshop for Parents – Year 3 & 4 - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 9am**

In school we are giving a particular focus to maths this year and this is the first in a series of parent workshops which we will be running for different age groups. We would like to invite Year 3 & 4 parents / grandparents into school to join their children to play some simple maths games and complete activities which will support their learning. We hope that you will leave the workshop having had some fun and armed with lots of ideas of activities you can do at home which will help to boost your child's confidence in maths.

Unfortunately, due to restricted space, we will be unable to accommodate younger siblings.

### **Parent's Evening – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Please make sure that you complete the reply slip (separate letter) so that you are given a time to meet with your child's teacher. This is your opportunity to find out how well your child is learning and to ask any questions that you may have.

### **Uniform**

Please make sure that every item of your child's uniform, including their coat and PE kit is named and check it regularly as the ink will fade in the wash. One or two children are still sneaking out their favourite T-shirt for PE. Please note PE kit is black shorts and a plain white T shirt with black pumps for indoor PE. Children may wear trainers or pumps for outdoor PE but I would recommend that you don't allow them to wear expensive ones as there is always the possibility that they could get damaged. Can I also remind you that black school shoes complete our school uniform. Trainers should not be worn except for PE.

### **Snacks**

We are still working towards the 'Healthy School' award. It is important that our children are aware of which snacks are healthy and that we support them to make the right choices. Therefore, we would ask that you stick to healthy snacks of fruit, breadsticks or plain crackers and unflavoured water at break time. Tuck shop is in line with our policy and

stocks similar items plus warm toast. Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will continue to receive free fruit and do not need to bring a snack from home.

## **Homework**

Please support your child in completing their homework on time. If it is not completed, your child's teacher will ask them to attend homework club during the lunch hour.

## **Reading Partnership**

Most children are working hard at their reading partnership homework and take great pride in the homework activities. This is important follow-up work to their guided reading session in school and consolidates on their learning with their reading group. Please support your child to complete this piece of homework which should also help you to know what their next steps are to develop their reading. Lots of talk about the task and the book they are reading will support them in making the very best progress. Some tips on how to approach the homework tasks are below and your class teacher will be happy to chat with you about this if you need any further information.

- Look in the reading partnership book to see what your child has been practising in this week's session and chat to them about it.
- Ask them about the book. What has happened so far in the story? What do they think will happen next? Why did the characters behave in the way that they did? If the book is non-fiction, what are they learning about? Which Chapter would they like to read?
- Chat to your child about the homework task and check that they know how to complete it to the best of their ability.
- Read the book or part of the book yourself so that you can talk about it together.
- Make sure that your child has the 15 or 20 minutes needed to complete the task in a quiet space where they can concentrate.
- Read their work – have they completed it well?
- Complete the parent's comment so that we know your thoughts on how well they tackled the homework – let us know if they struggled or if they did really well. Were they keen and enthusiastic? This information is important as we can praise your child for their efforts or help to support you if they are not cooperative at home!
- Please ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure about getting the best out of the reading partnership.

This is a really busy term with so much going on! Please see the full diary below and remember that more information is available on our website.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Jackie Band  
Principal

### **Dates for your Diary**

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Healthy Schools Week.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 & 4 trip to Treak Cliff Cavern.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service in school. Please note there will be no celebration assembly this day.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Parent Interviews only.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Parent Interviews only.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening 3.30pm to 6pm.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 St Johns Ambulance First Aid Training in school.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening 4.30pm to 7pm.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 6 Parents Evening only.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 & 4 Maths Workshop for Parents at 9am.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Non Uniform day. Chocolate donations for the tombola.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Stockport Carol Festival at St Georges Church. Details to follow.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Early Years Nativity at 2pm. Details to follow.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Non Uniform day. Cake donations for the school fair.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Early Years Nativity at 10am. Details to follow.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair from 3.30pm.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity Performances at 2pm and 6pm. Details to follow.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Early Years Party at the Academy. Details to follow.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Bubblegum Christmas in church at 1.30pm.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day. (school uniform but with a xmas jumper, tinsel, xmas hat etc).
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Party Day and Christmas Dinner in school. Children can come in party clothes.

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service in church at 9.30am.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carols around the tree at 1.30pm.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes for Christmas at 2pm.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	School reopens at 8.50am.