

# St. Matthew's

## Church of England Infant School

### Weekly Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Dear Parents

This week we have been thinking about remembrance and peace-making, recalling that poppies are a symbol for the act of remembrance and thankfulness for peace. We learnt about a Christian soldier, William Coltman, who joined the North Staffordshire Regiment as a rifleman but who never fired a shot. He wanted to be a peace maker and try to save lives and, instead of fighting, he became a stretcher-bearer. He became well known for carrying the wounded off the battlefield. He did this for 3 years and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his continuous bravery. We learned about how Jesus talked about the importance of being a peace maker and how our world needs people to act in ways that bring peace. Our big question this week that we have focused on is 'How can we act in ways that bring peace?' Some of our ideas are:

- Say something nice to someone today**
- Let someone go in the line in front of you**
- Remember to say thank you today**
- Offer to help someone who needs it**
- Pray for peace in our world**

The children have all been very thoughtful, working together in their classes on reflective activities – writing postcards to God, creating amazing poppy artwork, and contributing ideas for a peaceful community. Charlie shared some thoughtful words: *'I don't think God was around in the war because he wouldn't want to kill anyone.'* Caitlin wrote a lovely prayer: *'Dear God, please bring harmony and keep my family safe.'*

Well done to the children who have been awarded a Responsibility certificate from home this week: to Libby for getting dressed without any help and for cleaning the bath; to Beau for making his bed every morning; to Rocco for making his bed every morning; to Leia for tidying up her toys after her friend's visit; and to Harrison for being respectful of others when visiting Painshill Park – waiting patiently and social distancing all day. Well done everyone!

Badgers Class are very excited this week, children and adults alike, as they returned after the half term break to find a new interactive smart board in place of the old one, which was most definitely on its last legs! Thank you to the PTA for funding this vital ICT equipment – it will enhance the learning experience in Badgers class greatly. I asked Badgers to tell me what they like about their new smart board: *'It's clear and not blurry... It's amazing....it's clever....it's fantastic.... It's better because we can see it... the pen works!!'* Generally, they love it!

With the latest government guidance for Education and Childcare Settings: New National Restrictions from 5<sup>th</sup> November, there are a couple of things to mention and remember. Face masks are still not recommended for primary schools and we do not ask parents to wear them for drop off or pick-up as they are outside. Please can I remind parents to socially distance when dropping off or collecting their child/ren and to stick to the times given to do this for each class. Please arrive at the right time and not before as that may be another class's time slot.

<b>Drop Off:</b>	<b>Badgers</b> 8:35 – 8:45	<b>Rabbits</b> 8:45 – 8:55	<b>Otters</b> 8:55 – 9:05
<b>Pick Up:</b>	<b>Badgers</b> 14:50 – 15:00	<b>Rabbits</b> 15:00 – 15:10	<b>Otters</b> 15:10 – 15:20

Sibling drop off is at the eldest sibling time / sibling pick up is at Rabbits pick up time.

There remains an emphasis on good ventilation and having windows and doors open, which is going to be trickier with the arrival of colder weather. We have sourced some lovely warm St Matthew's fleeces for those who wish to purchase them for their child, but these are an extra for those who wish to do that. Other ways to keep your child warm is to put thermal layers on underneath and girls may wear trousers if they prefer this winter. We will keep an eye on how the children are doing with windows and doors open – in very cold weather, the recommendation is to just have the windows open and give the rooms a regular fresh air blast with doors open during break times.

Thank you to Richard Bull for coordinating the school allotment for us and for making a super start to some clearing and purchasing some fruit trees and thank you to everyone who has contributed ideas also. The classes are looking forward to getting on with some allotmenting – perfect outdoor learning as currently recommended!

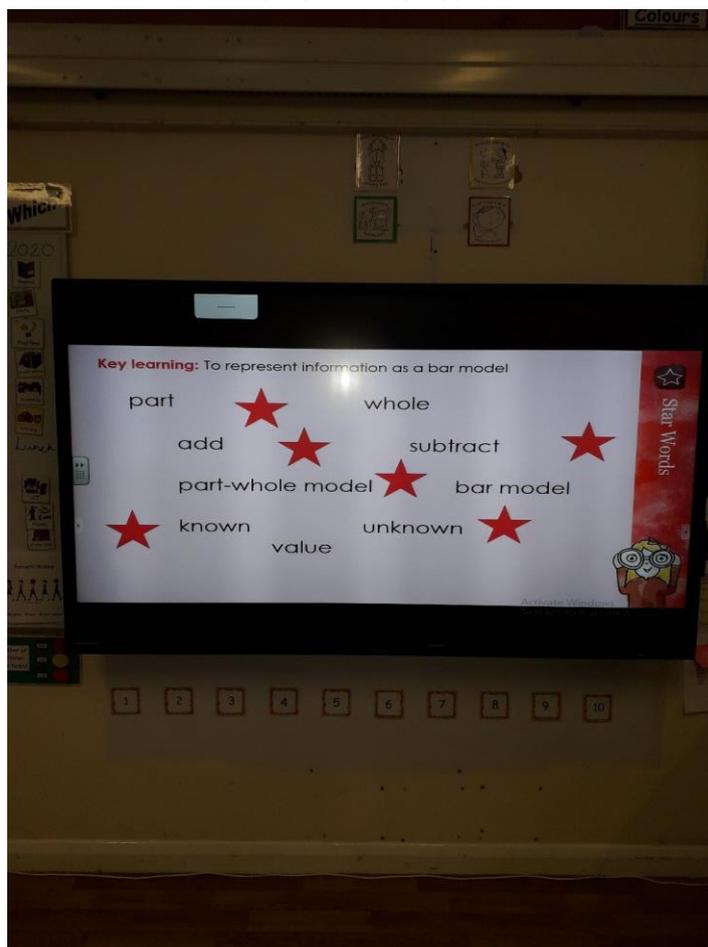
All Saints, Ockham are continuing their church services via zoom - these can be accessed via their website [www.ockhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.ockhamchurch.org.uk) This weekend is the Remembrance service at the memorial.

On **Tuesday evening, 10<sup>th</sup> November, at 7:45pm** Mrs Fish, our PSHE lead, and I would like to invite all parents to our RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) consultation as we are putting our RSE policy together in keeping with government guidelines for the RSE and Health Education curriculum which is compulsory by the summer 2021. I will send out a zoom link for this consultation.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Hutt

The New White Board!



## AWARDS OF THE WEEK



SUPERSTARS

<b>Rabbits:</b>	Joshua B for mastering a life skill
<b>Otters:</b>	Gracie for amazing dancing and creative ideas in PE
<b>Badgers:</b>	Sophie for an amazing contribution to our Remembrance Pause Day

<b>Wisdom Award:</b>	R – Charlotte Ta for looking after our classroom resources. O – Alexander for always working hard and trying to challenge yourself. B – Eva for showing great responsibility through her poppy painting.
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<b>Golden Tickets</b>	India awarded Tilly a Golden Ticket this week ☺
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### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	7.45pm RSE consultation meeting via zoom for all parents
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Otters Trip to Kew Gardens



### Cauliflower Card Orders

The mugs arrived earlier this week and the rest of the order has just arrived! I will sort through and send everything home on Monday.

#### FUNDRAISING

Two great ways to help fund raise for St Matthew's that are easy to set up and cost free to you....  
St Matthew's is registered with Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile. If you set them up on your browser, you will raise funds for St Matthews every time you shop! Please spread the word amongst friends and family too, thank you!



<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/117492-0>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>