

St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

13th November 2020



Dear Parents

This week is interfaith week – a celebration of diversity and that we can learn about different things that people believe. We focused on wisdom and where it might come from - and how there are many stories and teachings about wisdom in different faiths. At the end of this week, Hindu people all over the world will be celebrating Divali – a festival which marks the start of the Hindu new year and the celebration of good over evil, light over darkness. We heard an ancient Hindu Divali story about the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi and the wise washer woman who showed wisdom by asking for blessings in her life instead of accepting riches. Wisdom made her choose good health, good luck and happiness. We decided that she had made the right choice.

Thank you to my assembly helpers this week - especially for your thoughtful prayers that you wrote at home and brought in to share:

Dear God, Thank you for making everyone different and for creating such a beautiful world full of diversity. Amen (Alexander – thank you, and you wrote it so neatly in your best handwriting!)

Dear God, Please help us to make friends with other people even if they are different. Amen (Eva – thank you for the most amazing picture that accompanied this prayer, it is so neat, detailed and colourful!)

Well done to Gracie who made her own golden ticket to award to Hayley for being a good friend :)

Well done to Mollie for her super litter-picking around Downside - you continue to set a good example to us all!

Well done to the following children for their Responsibility Certificate from home: to Jessica for noticing and asking mum to turn back to help a homeless person – your response to someone in need was so responsible and caring; and to Wilfred C for helping his little brother learn how to play memory games and telling daddy that they needed to play some games to help him learn to count too. So responsible and amazing!

We were delighted to receive our Mini London Marathon medals this week - they were presented and celebrated in our Friday assembly today. The medals are quite amazing, and the children are all really proud to receive them – they are well-deserved and will be something special to keep as a reminder of their efforts. Thank you again to Lisa for setting the event up for us and to all the parent volunteers who helped on the common.

I had a walk over to the allotment this morning with Richard to talk about what the children can be planting in the next couple of weeks. I was really excited to see how well the allotment is looking, and I know that it would have been a very different story without the input of our parent community. Thanks to Richard and to everyone else who has had a hand in working on the allotment – I can't name everyone because I don't have a list and it would be awful to miss someone off – which is bound to happen, especially as a mystery person cleared the strawberry bed! So, a BIG thank you to all!! You know who you are :)

We have put a new event in the diary – a Rainbow Mufti Day on Wednesday 2nd December. This is to raise money for a local charity, the Rainbow Trust, who provide emotional and practical support for families who have a child with life-threatening or terminal illness. Children can come dressed in bright rainbow colours for the day with a donation for the charity. Next term we would like children to make suggestions for a charity to support and we will discuss them as a school - the children will vote for the one they would like to do some fund-raising for, and the fund raising activity that they would like to do.

Next week is anti-bullying week and we start off celebrating how we are all different by wearing odd socks (or tights) on Monday 16th. The children will be meeting Toby from the charity 'Just Different' via zoom later in the week and they will also be talking throughout the week about what bullying means, and what to do if someone is being mean to you or someone else.

On **Wednesday 18th November at 7:45 pm**, Michael Follett from OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is doing a zoom session for parents to explain about the OPAL vision we have for our playground space and playtimes. He is both knowledgeable and inspirational and will set the scene of an OPAL playground and how this will benefit our St Matthew's children. We have made a start with our mud kitchen, blocks, water trays and big storage shed and once planning permission is granted, we will be creating exciting new play spaces. Do join us for this meeting if you can – it is a very exciting project.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the OPAL letters sent to parents in February 2020 as a reminder for Otters and Badgers parents and an introduction for Rabbits parents.

Have a great weekend, Mrs Hutt



London Marathon Medals have arrived!



Picture by Eva

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	Leia for amazing independent work 😊
Otters:	Ayla for working so hard on your presentation and handwriting this week – well done.
Badgers:	Gathia for amazing work this week especially in history.

Wisdom Award:



R – Beau for being responsible for his learning while completing story sentences.
O – George for always looking after the classroom and for often taking down the chairs in the morning. Thank you!
B – Madeleine for always making the right choices and being so responsible all of the time.



DIARY DATES

Monday 16 th November	Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 18 th November	7.45pm OPAL Michael Follett zoom session for all aprents
Friday 20 th November	'Just Different' Charity workshop for the children 10.30am Open Morning Zoom for prospective parents



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>