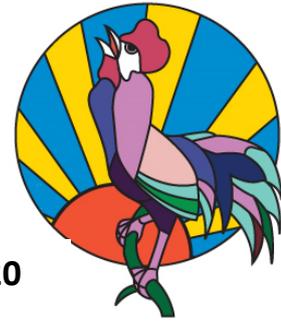


St. Matthew's

Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

4th December 2020



Dear Parents

This week Rev Hugh, Fiona and I acted out the beginning of the Christmas story, where the Angel tells Joseph that Mary will have a child called Jesus and they will raise him as their own. The story was mixture of good news and bad news – the bad news that they had to travel all the way to Bethlehem and that all of the inns were full; the good news that God was sending someone very special into the world – God's own son. We lit the first candle of Advent and thought about this time of waiting for the celebration of the birth of Jesus of Christmas day.

Thank you to Grace for her help in assembly today and for sharing her beautifully written and illustrated prayer:

'Hands together, Eyes closed. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.'

Well done to the following children for their Responsibility certificate from home: to Poppy for making her bed everyday and keeping her room tidy; to Elise D for getting dressed by herself in the morning for school; to Scarlett for making her own bed each day; and to Ralph for helping daddy put Polyfilla in the walls to fix the holes! Super everyone!

Well done to Mollie for her Young Climate Warrior certificate, showing that she continues to set an example to us all on how we can help to combat climate change. If anyone would like to take up the challenge and join Mollie in being a Young Climate Warrior, I will be including the weekly challenges in this newsletter – see below! We can celebrate any certificates earned in our Friday assembly.

All Saints Church have been thinking about how to capture the Christmas spirit while in Tier 2 and have put a community Christmas tree at St Michael's Chapel, Downside. Each child at St Matthew' is going to make a contribution towards decorating the tree and will go with their class to put their decoration message on – it will be in the form of a small prayer or Christmas thought or hope for someone. All Saints also have an Advent trail in their car park with boxes containing things to discover for both young and old, and there will be a Nativity tableau at the Pebbles Cabin in the car park from Sunday 20th December. Further information can be found in the attached note.

We have a new Sports Council and, until February, we have Arlo, Sophie, Mimi and Charlie leading the way - having been chosen by Mr Burchell for always putting in great effort with their PE. They are the proud wearers of our first St Matthew's blue Sports Council badges.

The children enjoyed wearing their rainbow mufti outfits on Wednesday and have raised £90 for our local charity, the Rainbow Trust. Otters and Badgers also had a great Art day, looking at, discussing and painting landscapes – they have been learning to mix their own colours and to add detail with watercolour pencils. Rabbits enjoyed making cards and drawing pictures of different feelings and how to be good friends – these are going to make a display in their role play corner.

Looking ahead, children may wear their St Matthew's Christmas sweatshirts for the last week of term with their uniform, and Wednesday 16th December is Christmas lunch day, when children may wear any Christmas jumper they like with their uniform. Thursday 17th is Christmas party day and children can come in their own party clothes.

We are hoping to do some outdoor singing with the children on the last day of term, weather allowing. If this does take place, we will aim to do a live zoom for parents. Rev Hugh is joining us for this, and I will let parents know what time it will be taking place when we have finalised our plans.

Well done to Libby for finishing her sticker chart this week. Have a great weekend, Mrs Hutt

Young Climate Warriors Challenge

This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to see how many products contain palm oil. It is not always easy to spot – so some clues are provided!

If you'd like to find out more about palm oil, this CBBC Newsround video is excellent.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/39514977> or take a look at this interactive page produced by WWF:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/which-everyday-products-contain-palm-oil>

Please remind children to 'HIT THE RED BUTTON' when they have completed the challenge.

This week's challenge!
4th Dec

Remember to Hit the RED BUTTON - CHALLENGE COMPLETED!

Shampoo, margarine, shower gel, oven chips, deodorant, bread and ice cream – what do they have in common?
Palm oil that is not sustainably managed is impacting on climate change.

Be a detective – which of your bathroom products contain palm oil? Check if they are RSPO certified (Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil)
Clue – hunt for 'PALM', 'STEAR', 'LAUR', or 'GLYC'

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Rabbits:	Achilles for remembering all the actions for our nativity and showing great enthusiasm!
Otters:	Primrose for always having a big smile on her face, and her enthusiasm and confidence when talking to adults.
Badgers:	Caitlin for being so hard working and making the right choices.

Wisdom Award:



R – Libby for always looking out for her friends and making sure that they are alright.
O – Jude for having such a responsible attitude to his reading – you have made great progress!
B – Arlo for being really responsible at lunchtimes.

Golden Tickets

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday 8 th December	Last day for DVD cover competition entries
Wednesday 9 th December	Nativity filming
Thursday 10 th December	Nativity filming
Friday 11 th December	Nativity Filming



Waitrose Window Display

Don't forget to keep an eye out for your drawings in Waitrose Window this week!



12 Days of Christmas Raffle

Reminder that the deadline for payments and return of ticket stubs is Monday 7th December, ahead of the grand draw on Friday 11th December!

Straw & Order DVD's for sale

This year our nativity is taking place with a difference - We are determined to not let the current situation stop us, so each class will be performing in their bubbles and Mr Atkinson (one of our parents) will be filming, editing and putting it altogether for us. We hope you get to watch and enjoy it 😊

I will send out a separate email about how to order a DVD. They will cost £5.00 each and all money raised will go towards the school (as Mr Atkinson is kindly offering his services for free!)

In the future we will be looking at possibly streaming it in another way, but for now it will be on DVD's.

Thank you, Sarah

Bring a Bauble!

Decorate the St Matthew's cherry tree in aid of Streetlytes Charity. Please see separate flyer with more details on this ...

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

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>