

# St. Matthew's

## Church of England Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Dear Parents

This week at St Matthew's has been a celebration of advent and waiting for Christmas – with a mixture of being thoughtful and learning about the true message of Christmas, as well as being excited to wear Christmas jumpers and to have fun in class parties. We enjoyed our outside Christmas celebration with Rev Hugh yesterday and sharing some of our favourite nativity songs with parents. Thank you for joining us and for making it a special end of year community event – while it wasn't quite the same as being together in All Saints, it enabled a shared moment that connected everyone together and celebrated the end of a great term.

Thank you to my assembly helpers this week – Mimi and Ellie for saying our special words and to Gracie for writing a thoughtful prayer that she shared with the school in today's celebration assembly: *Dear God, thank you for the world and each other. Amen.*

Well done to Charlie for his Responsibility at home certificate – for being very responsible when mummy had a cold and didn't feel well. He helped by being good in lots of ways.

Thank you again to Simon Atkinson who did such an amazing job of filming, editing, enhancing and producing the nativity DVDs and for his generosity in extending this to putting it on memory sticks for parents. He has raised an amazing £370 for the school, which is brilliant! The children have been enjoying watching it together in their classes today and I am sure that you will be enjoying it at home with them. Thank you to the teachers and TAs for working so hard on the acting and dances so that the children were confident and ready to be filmed – they all did a great job and looked super in their costumes as can be seen in today's Surrey Advertiser.

Next term's club dates are at the end of the newsletter – we have removed administration of extra-curricular clubs from our school office to club providers, so please book directly with them and not through the office. Club providers are responsible for liaising with parents and for their own organisation and waiting lists. We are ensuring that providers provide a rotation for classes over the year as we are still in a class 'bubble' situation, which makes it a bit trickier at present. The school office continues to organise our St Matthew's After School and Breakfast Child-Care clubs – if you would like your child to attend either of these, please liaise with Mrs Cousins or Miss Fenn.

We are delighted that, despite the rain, the sandpit has been put in place ready to receive sand once the new fence to extend the playground is in place. This should be happening in January, along with repair of the astroturf in the main playground. Once the fence is in place, we can continue with our planned playground development, creating new play areas for the children to enjoy at playtimes and lunchtimes. This is a great new year project and will be a good start to 2021.

Thank you from me, and on behalf of the rest of the staff, for all the generous and thoughtful gifts and cards with their lovely messages from parents and children – they are very much appreciated. It has been a challenging year at times but so much has been achieved and the children are all doing amazingly well. I have been looking through books and talking to children about their work and I have been really impressed with their enthusiasm for learning and the progress being made – it has been a very good autumn term for all classes.

Along with celebrating our learning in today's celebration assembly, we celebrated that Mrs Joyce has just received a **25 Years Long Service Award** by Surrey County Council for her 25 years here at St Matthew's. We are lucky to have such a

dedicated team member on board – congratulations and thank you Mrs Joyce! I have attached her citation that was sent to Surrey so that we can share with you - it sums up her commitment and achievements.

It hasn't been the easiest year in some ways, yet great things have been achieved – thinking of this reminds me of a favourite Christmas quote, which seems to sum things up: *Christmas is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future.* (Agnes Pahro) Appreciation of how things have been and learning from them, then finding the positives – there are many of those!

Well done to Primrose for finishing her sticker chart this week.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021!

Mrs Hutt

## AWARDS OF THE WEEK



**SUPERSTARS**

<b>Rabbits:</b>	Libby is star of the term because she always does the right thing and always looks out for others.
<b>Otters:</b>	Haris for always having a big smile on your face which cheers us all up.
<b>Badgers:</b>	Madeleine for being such a lovely, kind, caring, hardworking responsible (the list could go on...!) member of Badger Class.

<b>Wisdom Award:</b>	R – Wilfred for picking up the broom stick in the playground so nobody gets hurt. O – Michelle for taking more responsibility with starting your work more quickly. B – Dylan for being very responsible, helping Wilf to move around school and making sure he has everything he needs.
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<b>Golden Tickets</b>	Hayley and Primrose
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## DIARY DATES

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Spring Term 2021



### Club's Start Date:

#### Tennis

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January Year 2

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January Year 1

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January Reception

#### Football:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January Year 2

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January Year 1

**French:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January Year 1

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January Year 2

**Holly's Dance:**

Wednesday 6th January Year 2 (half term)



**Notice from All Saints Church**

Please note that the service on Christmas Day at All Saints' is Family Service only [no Holy Communion]

Thank you, Rev Elisabeth

**Admissions for 2021 – Note from Surrey Admissions Reminder Closing Date 15<sup>th</sup> January**

We strongly encourage online applications via <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>. If parents are unable to apply online, they will need to request a paper application form via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). The completed paper application form must be received by Admissions (to our Quadrant Court address) by 15 January, so parents must allow time for the post to reach us. If parents need to apply on paper, we recommend that they send applications by recorded post.

Full information is available on Surrey's website at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions). The Surrey Schools & Childcare Service can also provide impartial help in completing an application.

Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>  
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>