

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

The first half term flashed past and there were so many events which showed our pupils' lights shining brightly. For example, our Open Season gave our pupils the opportunity to show their school off to more prospective families than have ever visited us in September. The half term finished with such a generous donation to the Lewisham Food Bank, made on behalf of our Community by pupils from across the school – much needed support at a time of real crisis for so many.

Now we are into the second half of the Autumn term; the evenings have drawn in and there is a noticeable chill in the air but it is important to know that there is a great deal to look forward to for the whole SMA community. This half term the Academy remembered all those who have fallen in conflicts around the world – including pupils who attended St Joseph's - on Remembrance Day, 11th November.

Advent begins on Sunday, 27th November and St Matthew Academy will be marking this important part of the liturgical calendar, with a school wide charity collection. Year 7 will also be celebrating Mass with the new Episcopal Vicar for Education, Father Victor Darlington, when he visits SMA later this half term. The primary phase will follow this up with Key Stage 1 Nativity performances on Tuesday and Wednesday, 6th and 7th December and the KS2 Carol Concert on 8th December. Key Stage 2 and 3 Parent Coffee Morning will take place on 9th December and our Christmas Giving Tree will also be in place from 12th December. The tree is very much the focal point of our Christmas charity collection.

As the Autumn term draws to a close, I hear that there will be a special visitor to our Forest School – Santa Clause is scheduled to visit Key Stage 1 pupils there! Finally, there will be Christmas lunch for the pupils in the closing week of term.

So the usual busy calendar of learning and extracurricular events at school will be augmented by preparations for Christmas. We look forward to welcoming many of you at the various events being held here over the course of the next few weeks.

Mr I Gunningham
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins."—2 Maccabees 12:46

Within our Catholic church community, the month of November is traditionally a time that is dedicated to those who have died. It is sometimes called the month of the Holy Souls and begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. We remember our dearly departed by visiting their graves, lighting candles, and praying for them in dedicated masses around the world. The end of November marks the end of the Liturgical year, with a new year beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, the four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The Church has used this period to allow us to focus on the end of all things but to also remind us that we should have hope in the new. The practice of praying for the dead is rooted in Christian belief in the everlasting life promised in Jesus' teachings and foreshadowed by his disciples' experience that God had raised him from the dead. As we go through this month of remembrance, let us pray not only for our dearly departed but for all the souls in purgatory as our prayers express hope that they are freed from any burden of sin and that a place is prepared for them in heaven where we hope to join them one day.

*Into your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest. Amen*



Secondary News

Geography

It's been great to get back into field-trips. Year 11's thoroughly enjoyed their residential to Juniper Hall Dorking, despite the very late nights, which gave them a great opportunity to continue to learn about the theory behind Component 3 and put some fieldwork and data collection strategies to great use. Whether it was strolling through glamorous Guildford or wading in the River Tillingbourne, Year 11 were very excited to be out and about. They've since followed this up with a write-up and exam question practice, so hopefully we'll see this reflected in the upcoming December PPE's!



Year 7 also had the opportunity a while back to explore their local area; visits to Greenwich Park whilst the weather was warm (remember that?!) enabled our younger geographers to get out and about and hone their recently acquired map skills in a real world setting. This was also great prep for their mid-term assessments and Ranking exams.



Grammar+

A big congratulations to our Year 7 Grammar+ cohort! As you can see they were delighted to receive their badges and have been wearing them with pride!



Basketball

St Matthew Academy Year 9 boys beat Prendergast Ladywell 17-2, Deptford Green 18-3 & Forest Hill 18-6 to be crowned Lewisham u14 champions the team will now go forward to represent Lewisham at the London Youth Games

Primary News

Year 3

The children have really enjoyed coming back to school after the half term break, in Science they have been learning about rocks, using sweets to create their own rock cycles, luckily there were enough sweets for them to snack on after! Now they are learning about how rocks can turn into soil.



In Literacy the class have written their own explanation texts about being eco-friendly and how to recycle. After coming up with various DIY hacks for paper and cardboard, they performed their own Oscar-worthy TV interviews about how to save the planet.



At the end of last term, they particularly enjoyed going on their RE retreat to St Andrew's Convent Belmont Hill, during the retreat they discussed their place in God's world and how they are all unique and special. The children were really inspired by the Sisters they met at the convent and wrote some beautiful prayers to bring back to school.



Year 5

This week was mental health week, the children had the opportunity to meditate and reflect on the positive things about themselves. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and loved hearing each other's thoughts and feelings. They were very respectful of one another and loved the calm atmosphere around the whole primary phase.

The children have also been creating their own volcanoes as part of their topic project of rivers and volcanoes. The children have shown a massive interest in the topic, and we have had the opportunity to see the children's creative ideas brought alive. The children are extremely excited to make their own volcano explosions towards the end of the autumn term with the volcanoes that they made at home.



In our Literacy lessons the children have been making their own diary entry's based on the book Wonder by R.J Palacio. The children have been able to use their imagination and put themselves in the main character's position by looking closely at some of his thoughts and feelings. The children have shown a positive attitude towards year 5 and are working very hard to meet the high expectations which we continue to encourage.



Charity News

Remembrance Day

At 11.00am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the first world war ended. The following year in 1919, King George the fifth declared that this would be the date to remember the fallen.

On Friday 11th November, the Academy commemorated Remembrance Day by holding Remembrance services at the front of the school, near our war memorial as we do every year. Monsignor Rothon from St Mary's in Blackheath led our service of remembrance which was attended by some of our primary and Year 8 pupils. Monsignor Rothon helped us all to reflect on the importance of marking this occasion by reminding us about those who have lost their lives in the First World War and the Second World War, including old boys of St Joseph's and in conflicts which have taken place since. Mr Charlery played 'The Last Post' to mark the start of our two-minute silence.



Food Bank Donations



St Matthew Academy KS2
@StMattAcadKS2

Orane and Washington took a trip to [@lewishamfood](#) to deliver all of the generous donations from KS1 and KS2! [#LettingPupilsLightShine](#) [#Lewisham](#) [#HarvestFestival](#)



Literacy Corner



We launched the Read for Good 'Readathon' this week. Pupils have been encouraged to read books, ebooks, newspapers, comic books, anything and to seek sponsorship so that we can raise money for Read for Good who provide books to children undergoing treatment in hospital.

We were delighted to receive our School Library Pack from The Book Trust to enhance our library collection.

We have lots of books on display to read and borrow in the run up to Remembrance Sunday.



Book Reviews and Recommendations

Welcome to our new book reviewers Alleyan, Deneise and Joyce in year 6 and Nana in year 8. Read on to find out which books they read....

Secondary Phase

Nana from Year 8 reviewed 'Look both ways' by Jason Reynolds for our secondary phase.

This book was extremely interesting and funny in some parts. It managed to portray short stories with action and scenes while also embedding problems people may have with poverty, death, grief, cancer, peer pressure and/or more. It is a very informative and generally interesting book and it sends a clear message of the phrase "look both ways" and a recurring theme of a bus falling from the skies. The book links the short stories effectively with recurrent themes/phrases. I would recommend this book to 11-15 year olds as it informs people about personal problems covered in short action packed stories. I rate this book 4 stars out of 5.



Primary Phase

Alleyan, Deneise and Joyce from Year 6 reviewed 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo for KS2.



'The Butterfly Lion' is a book about a boy who was always told to stay in the compound he lived in in South Africa. The main part of the story is about a white lion growing up with the young boy. The boy rescued the white lion from the African bush. The boy loses the lion but eventually finds him again.

We would definitely recommend this book. Children who read the book might find it interesting but also sad at the end. It is an easy read. The book is very gripping from start to finish and the bond between the lion and the boy was very wholesome.

Overall our rating for the book was 3.5 stars out of 5.



Our three year 6 book reviewers also reviewed three pictures books by Michael Rosen for EYFS and KS1.



Joyce read and reviewed 'Owww!'. The book is about a little piglet who loves to move as he sleeps but one day it causes a problem. I think this book would be suitable for younger children who enjoyed the book 'The Giant Turnip'. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone who doesn't like barn animals! 5 stars!

Deneise read and reviewed 'Wolf Man'. This book is about a wolf who is raiding a village but all he wants to actually do is to go into someone's house to use the toilet! I would definitely recommend this book as it has a funny ending. I give this book a 5 star rating.

Alleyan read 'Snore!'. The book is about a dog on a farm with some other animals, but the dog then starts to snore. Everybody tries to make him stop snoring. When he finally wakes up everybody is really tired. I would recommend this book to younger children because it is a bit funny and it might make little one's laugh. I gave it 3 stars out of 5.



House Points Update

Week beginning 14/11/22

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 10868
2nd – Mandela: 9027
3rd – Romero: 9526

Attendance:

1st – Mandela
2nd – Teresa
3rd – Romero

Overall House Points

1st - Teresa: 185
2nd - Mandela: 155
3rd - Romero: 140

It's the lead up to Christmas and we have some exciting competitions coming up.

It's time to get creative with the annual Christmas card competition.

The Heads of Houses would like to say thank you and well done for your donations to the Lewisham Foodbank! Mandela took the lead and earned house points for the most donations.

Teresa continues to take the lead with the most achievement points EVERY week since September – Mandela and Romero can you change this?!



St Matthew Academy Christmas Card House Competition

How to enter:

- * Create a design on a piece of A5 paper
- * Post it in the box in the main hall
- * DEADLINE - 19th November
- * VOTING - 22nd-26th November
- * ALL entries will be put in a lucky draw where 5 Amazon vouchers can be won
- * The winner will win points for their house and a Christmas gift!
- * Cards will be available to buy on ParentPay
- * All profits will go towards your house charity

STRUGGLING TO AFFORD FOOD?



LEWISHAM FOODBANK
IS HERE TO TO ENSURE
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
DON'T GO HUNGRY.

PLEASE TALK TO
MS LAKER IN
CONFIDENCE.



YOU WILL
BE GIVEN A
VOUCHER CODE
& CAN COLLECT FOOD
FROM ANY OF OUR 5 CENTRES
IN **CATFORD, DEPTFORD, DOWNHAM,
FOREST HILL & LEWISHAM.** YOU CAN
HAVE UP TO 6 FOOD PARCELS IN 6 MONTHS.

WWW.LEWISHAM.FOODBANK.ORG.UK

Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during September and October

Year 7

Temani WILKS-HAMID 7M1
Adam EL HARI 7M2
Yaw NYANTAKYI 7T1
Zephan OGUDORO 7M1
Wilfred NANA-AMPAW 7R1

Year 8

Michael TRAORE 8M3
Dante DAVIS 8R1
Sophie COOPER 8T2
Yoshua KOUADIO 8T2
Talia STUART-FORDE 8T1

Year 9

Jodelee OWUSU 9R1
Pablo SANTOS DO CARMO 9R1
Zion DALEY 9T2
Maria NENYCH 9R1
Rihanna CARRINGTON 9R1

Year 10

Kemahri TAYLOR-BAILEY 10R2
Nneoma OFFORMEZIE 10T3
Josephine PRELA 10T3
Subhan DOMACH 10T1
Eghosa ASEMOTA 10M1

Year 11

Joshua NELSON 11HIG
Stiven MATEO NOVAS 11MEN
Zainab LAWAL 11LSA

Ayomide MUSIBAU 11MEN

Arifa JAHAN 11MEN

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Pollydore



Ms Roostan



Ms Holding



Mr Baines



Ms Nelson



Staff Stars

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mr Gunningham (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates

Autumn Term 22/23

Monday 5 September 2022 to Friday 21 October 2022

Half Term: Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022

Monday 31 October to Friday 16 December 2022

Spring Term 22/23

Wednesday 4 January 2023 to Friday 10 February 2023

Half Term: Monday 13 February 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023

Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 31 April 2023

Summer Term 22/23

Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023

Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023

Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk



PATIENT AND CARER RACE EQUALITY

Lewisham CAMHS, Lewisham IAG and the PCREF Team invite you to our first PCREF online event!

We have been developing ideas to improve access to mental health services for Black communities with this with a community led campaign which will improve Lewisham staff's knowledge and awareness, thus ensuring by 2024 that Black people have the same opportunities to access services that they feel meets their needs.

At this event we would like to explore your views on what do you think staff need to know?

We hope by the end of this meeting to have a clear sense of how things are at the moment and what we need to do next. From the event we hope to build our steering group community to be part of this campaign and hope this event can be an opportunity for people to find out more information about joining



**This event will be taking place online via MS teams
24th November 2022 at 6:30pm - 8pm to secure your
place please use the QR code below or email
Daniel.Marcon@slam.nhs.uk**

