

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we reach the end of another term, I am thrilled to share with you the numerous successes and achievements that our school has witnessed over the past several weeks. It's been an incredibly fulfilling time for our pupils, teachers, and staff alike, as we've seen remarkable growth and accomplishments across various areas. From academic achievements to personal development milestones, our school community has truly shined bright.

First and foremost, I want to commend our pupils for their dedication and hard work throughout the term. Whether it was excelling in their studies, participating in extracurricular activities, or demonstrating leadership qualities, our pupils have consistently impressed us with their commitment and enthusiasm. Their achievements not only reflect their individual efforts but also speak volumes about the supportive environment fostered within our school community.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff members who have played an integral role in guiding and nurturing our pupils' growth. Their unwavering support, innovative teaching methods, and passion for education have undoubtedly contributed to the success stories we've witnessed this term. Together, as a team, we have created an environment where every pupil feels valued, challenged, and empowered to reach their fullest potential.

Mr J Charlery
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Next year, 2025, the Church will celebrate a Jubilee year with the theme being Pilgrims of Hope. It will be a year where the Church will focus on a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and climate crisis. On Sunday 21st January, Pope Francis inaugurated a Year of Prayer, ahead of the jubilee. He is calling on us the faithful to "pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God." Pope Francis has asked us the faithful to rediscover the great value and absolute need for personal prayer, prayer in the world and the life of the Church.

There are many forms of prayer, which can range from a quick sign of the cross, which praises the Holy Trinity, to attending holy mass, to having deep contemplative time with God. Prayer is personal to each and every one of us as it is the manifestation of our relationship with God. Building a prayerful life is not always easy though, as we are often consumed by the everyday rigours of life. Jesus' disciples probably felt the same way. They were familiar with the repeated prayers of the Torah, but Jesus prayed with authority and power like they had never seen before, as though God was listening. They therefore asked him to teach them to pray and his response was the Lord's Prayer. For this year of prayer, if we are pressed and cannot do anything else, let us try to at least pray like Jesus taught his disciples, so that together our voices will be a symphony in heaven.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Primary News

Board Games Bonanza

On Tuesday 23rd January, SMA primary hosted an exciting and memorable Board Game Evening, bringing together pupils, families, and teachers for a night of friendly competition. The event was a great success, with a wide variety of board games on display. From classic favourites like Jenga and connect 4 to modern games like Uno, there was something to suit every taste and age group. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy as pupils showcased their skills and strategies, with many moments of collaboration and teamwork.



Reception—Ladybirds Class

This half term, we have continued our theme of “All About Me” and explored different cultures and their traditions. The children have made and tried new foods, learned about healthy and unhealthy food choices and shared their experiences of mealtimes and foods they enjoy with each other. For our class’s focus country, we looked at Great Britain and the different countries and capitals. Through this, we also looked at Scottish Dancing, Irish Dancing and traditional Morris Dancing.

In maths, the children are becoming more and more confident in working with numbers to 10, exploring the composition of numbers and comparing one number to another using concrete materials (cubes, sticks, straws etc.). They have also been looking at shapes and are now able to identify triangles, squares, rectangles and circles.

Through our continuous provisions, the children have developed their gross and fine motor skills which are crucial in enabling them to write and use various utensils and tools. They love when we get out the playdoh and do finger gym. They also love sand and digging through it to see what they can find.

We have been thoroughly impressed with the children’s musical abilities.

They learn songs really quickly and love performing to their friends and family, as shown in our nativity on the 12th and 13th of December. The children did a stellar job and we couldn't be prouder of them.



Secondary News

The Brilliant Club was launched with Scholars Programme with 14 of our year 9 pupils. They will be working with a PHD pupil from and University College London the theme of their studies is Understanding the Impact of Videogames on Psychological Wellbeing



Year 10 's talented artists were able to see their own work on show at the Courtauld as part of the Reworking Monet exhibition. Following their participation in a national competition when they were in year 9.



15 more Year 11 pupils were awarded with gold lanyards for their amazing progress in their mock exams. Who will be next to be awarded a gold lanyard?



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during January

Year 7

Zion OLUREMI-ONOJOBI
Joshua AMASSE
Precious IRABOR
Jake SMITH-DUARTE
Marbelys AGUILERA MONTERO

Year 8

Chloe AKINMADE
Harry AWOYOMI
Temilolaoluwa ABIKINDA
Emmanuel EZEONU
Ian AUGUSTINE

Year 9

Jonathan BIOKO
Michael TRAORE
Abraham WILSON
Kaylah MCLARTY
Tyiana AGUTOR-WHYTE

Year 10

Crystal BOWLING
Shumsana NANTHAKUMAR
Yaroslav NENYCH
Kiara CASE-WALLACE
Maria NENYCH

Year 11

Rapolas VENCKUS
David OREKUNRIN
Paapa OWUSU-DONKOR

Elana YOUSEFI
Aishat AROWOLO

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars



Mr Nelson

"For always being an excellent team player."



Ms Lyambo

"For always celebrating other people's successes and being supportive."



Ms Dunne

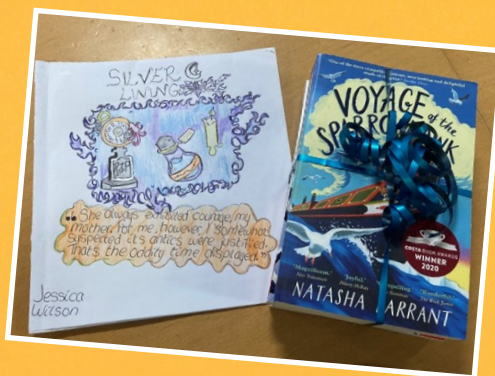
"For always being calm and polite with requests."



LITERACY CORNER

Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day.

Congratulations to Jessica Wilson in year 7 on her fantastic entry into the House Christmas Literacy Competition. Jessica was rewarded with a set of books for her entry.

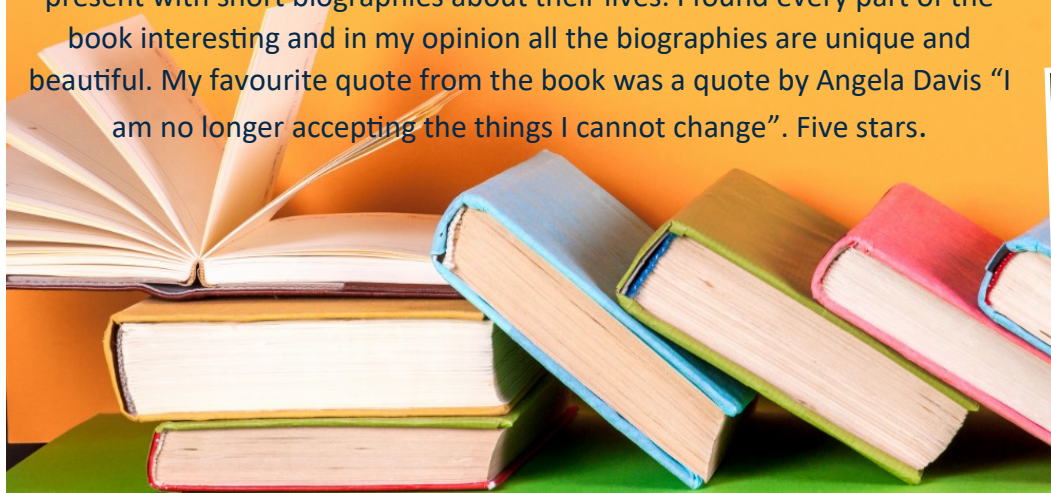


Primary Book Reviews

Theo in year 6 reviewed 'Go Home, Little One!' by Cate James for KS1.

The story is about a squirrel and a hedgehog hibernating for winter but the squirrels want to play. The fox finds out about this and tries to eat them but the owl saves them. My favourite part of the story was when the squirrels get back home safely. Owl was my favourite character as he saved the squirrels from the fox. I gave this book 5 stars.

Theo also reviewed 'Little Leaders, Bold Women in Black History' by Vashti Harrison for KS2. This book is about a series of black women in the past and present with short biographies about their lives. I found every part of the book interesting and in my opinion all the biographies are unique and beautiful. My favourite quote from the book was a quote by Angela Davis "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change". Five stars.





BOOK REVIEWS



Matia in year 6 reviewed 'Bella Bright and the Ghost Game' by Carolyn Ward for KS2.

This is a very good book, I really enjoyed it and I highly recommend this book to others. The book is about a girl who goes to her new house but it is haunted and her family does not believe her at all so she tries different ways to prove to them that it is true. This is one of the best books that I have ever read. 5 stars!

Welcome to Helena, a new book reviewer from year 6!



Secondary

Enkhlen in year 7 reviewed 'Maria's Island' by Victoria Hislop.

The story is about a Greek girl, Rita, who lives in London and every summer she goes to the island of Crete to visit her Grandma. Her Grandma tells her about her life and none of it was how Rita imagined. Rita's grandmother, Maria, tells Rita about a virus in her town called Plaka leprosy. Everyone with leprosy had to move to an island called Spinalonga because there was no cure. This book is really good because it tells us about people having to isolate themselves to keep others and loved ones safe. Also I like the pictures in the book. I gave this book 8 out of 10 stars.



Malo in year 7 reviewed 'The Light in Everything' by Katya Balen.

Tom and Zofia are two worlds apart, one of them content by the sea, and the other stricken with fear, the kind that grips you but never lets go. After something terrible happens to Tom and his mum, they must find a new home and gradually the gloom starts to lift. However, Zofia has always been content with her life on the beach, even when her mum died and nothing has ever swayed that. Suddenly, their parents fall in love and everything changes. Tom and Zofia are forced to live together and in a wild attempt to get rid of them, Zofia does something that she will regret for ever after and then Tom finds out that it was no accident.

I would not even change one tiny thing about this brilliant book, if I could, because it is such an amazing example of the fact that even the most diverse of families can work if everyone tries to be compatible.

My rating 10 out of 10.



REPORT IT!



If you have some information that you feel should be reported, e.g. bullying, or you are feeling low, worrying about something or if you have any safeguarding concerns you can:

Tell a Teacher

Mr Magar

Deputy Headteacher



Ms Dryden

Child Protection Officer



Mr Gunningham

Senior Assistant Headteacher



Ms Chick

Head of Primary



Ms Dunne

Assistant Headteacher



Staff at St Matthew Academy are always here to help and listen to pupils, if you ever want to talk to someone or share a concern please don't feel worried about doing so.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

9TH FEBRUARY



MAIN

Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls
Vegetable Spring Rolls

SAUCES

Curry Sauce
Sweet & Sour
Soy & Garlic

SIDES

Egg Fried Rice
Wok Fried Soy & Ginger Greens
Prawn Crackers

DESSERT

Banana Fritters



CHINESE NEW YEAR

8TH FEBRUARY 2024

MAIN

Chicken Chow Mein

E, G, SO

Stir-Fried Chicken with Steamed Rice

or

Vegetable Chow Mein

CE*, E, G, MU*, SO

DESSERT

Pineapple and Coconut Cake

E, G, SU

Allergens:

CE = Celery, CR = Crustacean, E = Eggs,

F = Fish, G = Cereals Containing Gluten,

L = Lupin, MK = Milk, MO = Molluscs, MU

= Mustard, N = Nuts, P = Peanuts, SO =

Soya, SU = Sulphur, SE = Sesame Seeds

* = May Contain

Young People's Survey Lewisham Youth Offer

Complete our Young People's Survey and Enter a
Free Prize Draw for on-line High Street Vouchers



Scan ME

