



ST MATTHEW  
ACADEMY

Let your light shine

16 September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back after the holidays to a new learning year. We have now been back for a week and classes are settling into their routines. You will have no doubt noticed that we have a number of new staff in the Primary phase. These will become more familiar to you as the year progresses. Attached is a table of names and roles for your reference.

This year, every child from Year 1 – 6 has been issued with an Academy Planner. The planner will be a key means for you to see what your child has been doing at school, the Independent Learning that has been set and, very importantly, for you to communicate with your child's teacher. Please check your child's bag daily, ensuring they always bring their planner to school. At the end of the week, on Friday, you should sign the planner so it is clear you are aware of any issues raised. Your child's teacher will sign the planner on Monday.

To improve communication the Academy has appointed a very experienced teacher, Mr Armitage, to liaise with you on learning matters. These are issues regarding supporting your child's progress at the Academy.

The Academy also has a Twitter account, a daily blog where details of menus for lunch, notices and news appear. The Academy Twitter is @StMattAcad. Simply follow to see pictures and notes on the day. This does not replace letters home or newsletters but, as more and more of us are using social media, we felt it important to use this communication tool.

As the year moves on, IT provision for Primary students and parents will be expanded to allow students and parents to access learning materials on the school system. As this progresses Mr Armitage and our new IT co-ordinator Ms Goldsmith will keep you informed both through meetings, letters and additions to the planner. This will include parent training workshops to make the best use of the Academy e-portal.

Finally, for your reference, please find attached a copy of the new school day and calendar. The new school day now means there is only one break where the whole primary phase plays together. This has been done to improve safety at break times and increase supervision, making for a calmer and more enjoyable playtime for all.

The new school day means assembly on Thursdays is now at 9:20am. Our assembly in the large school hall is a wonderful experience and, increasingly, teachers will be inviting parents to attend when their class is involved in an assembly performance.

Please feel free to contact me at the school through my email [dcr@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:dcr@stmatthewacademy.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Mr D Cregan**  
Vice Principal

<b>Foundation</b>	<b>KS1</b>	<b>KS2 Lower</b>	<b>KS2 Upper</b>
Nursery AM – Mrs Beckley	1E – Ms Reid	3E – Ms Goldsmith	5E – Mr Kirner
Nursery PM – Mr Hoeksma	1W – Ms Chick & Ms Zdarzil	3W – Ms Bennett	5W – Mrs Fairweather
Reception East – Ms Williams	2E – Ms Hooker	4E Mrs Race and Mrs Casey	6E – Ms Hatton
Reception West – Mrs Adjetey	2W – Ms Galvin	4W Mr Averis	6W Mr Armitage

Principal - Mrs Cross

Vice Principal for Primary - Mr Cregan

Parent Learning Liaison - Mr Armitage

Literacy - Ms Casey

Numeracy - Ms Zdarzil

International Primary Curriculum - Ms Chick