



Message from the Senior Leadership Team



I am writing the final SLT Newsletter message of 2021 after an incredibly busy end of term—I have just eaten my 3rd Christmas dinner of the year (so far ...) with year 7 and 8 pupils! The food was first class, pupils appreciated being served their dinner by the Senior Team and the Christmas song sing-a-long was loved by all!

Our Christmas festivities have been wide ranging this year and enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Of course it would have been even better if our parents and families could have joined us too but I hope you enjoy the images throughout the newsletter and have time over the Christmas break to watch some of the videos we will be uploading to our You Tube channel. The traditional staff Christmas video is back after missing a year, along with our KS1 Nativity and amazing performances from the KS2 Carol Concert and the secondary phase showcase.

Reflecting on 2021 I think as a community we can all be very proud of the resilience, kindness and service we have all demonstrated in our everyday actions at school. The pupils have worked so hard both remotely and face to face in classrooms and it is great to see that they remain determined to always improve on present best. We really are privileged to teach such wonderful children that love their learning—this is something visitors to our school always comment on, along with being really impressed by their exemplary classroom behaviour. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work and commitment in ensuring that our children receive an amazing school experience every day.

Advent is a time of hope and on behalf of all the St Matthew Academy community I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and every best wish for the New Year.

Ms Baldwin, Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection



Guiding Star

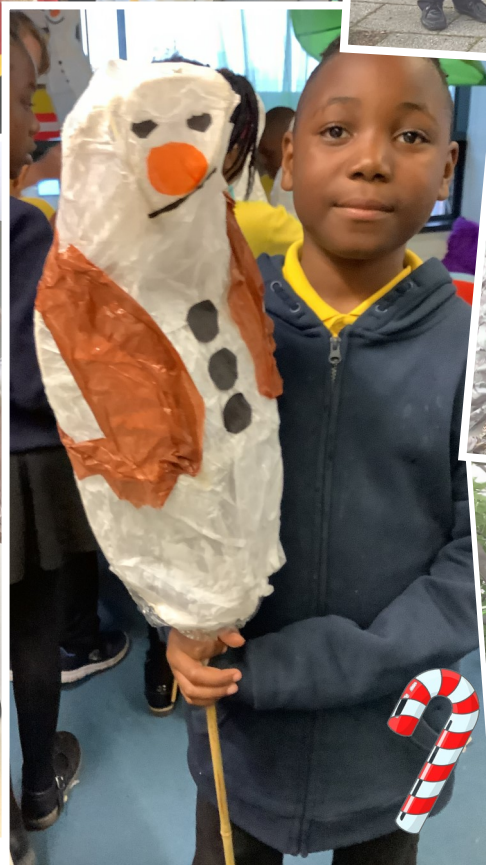
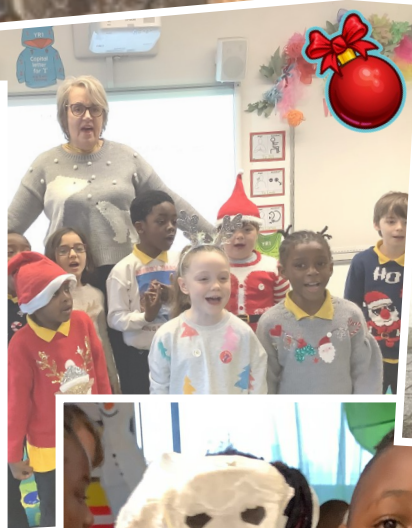
*Lord, the sight of the guiding star,
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.*

*When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
shine your light on our fears,
lift our hearts with your joy.*

*Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all. Amen*

CAFOD







Art Design and Technology

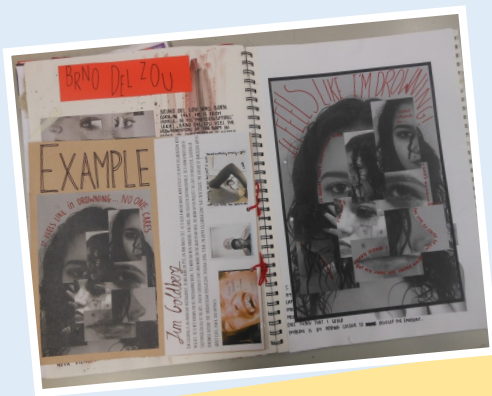
Art Design and Technology staff and pupils have completed their first rotation in the carousel. All pupils have been extremely excited about working in the practical work environments and have created some wonderful outcomes linked to our topic themes "Around the world"- Year 7 and "Protest and Cause"- Year 8. (Temilola in Year 8's tote bag and Year 8 students collaborative Art piece pictured). The majority of pupils in KS3 have shown good progress against the skills set and are on track.



Primary pupils have completed their second Art and Design project. This week Year 6 pupils had fun working in the secondary phase classrooms, using saws and glue guns to form their playground structures. Pupils developed ways to strengthen their structures using triangulation.

Year 11 pupils have recently sat their Art and Photography mock exam. Jessica, Einas, Omeyi, Beth and Poppy have all been working extremely hard in their sketchbooks demonstrating independence and high levels of creativity. They have been following the theme of "Decay" in Art and "Fragments" in Photography. (Pictures insert Omeyi and Poppy)

It has been a fabulous term for all creative subjects. The Art Design and Technology Department wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas.



Stage Combat

We have had lots of exciting things happening in Drama this half term. Year 10 spent a day learning stage combat with Squire Stage Combat, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The workshop was tailored to their learning of Macbeth, which they will be performing for their exam in the summer term. Two pupils were also selected to perform the final dramatic scene between Macbeth and Macduff, in the Christmas Showcase. In Easter, pupils from Year 7-9 will be performing the musical, Madagascar. They have been working tirelessly in rehearsals, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Year 7 have been working hard learning basic Drama skills, and have been creating Christmas themed mimes. Year 8 have created anti-knife crime performances and are well equipped to create theatre to educate an audience. Year 9 have finished exploring DNA by Dennis Kelly and are excited to perform excerpts of the script when we return in January.



Primary News

SMA Carol Singers

On Thursday some of the Primary children went to let their light shine by singing carols from their Nativity and Christmas Carol Concert in the local community. The children did a fantastic job, singing beautifully and our key stage one children even added actions and some dancing. Lots of people stopped to listen and we received many appreciative comments.



Year 4

Now that Year 4 assessment week is over we are busy preparing for Christmas, we have written our Advent prayers and our Advent wreath is on display. This week we have been learning about the Ascension and discussing how Mary must have felt when she was presented with such a daunting task. We are also preparing for our Christmas Carol Concert and so can often we can be heard singing our way through the afternoons.

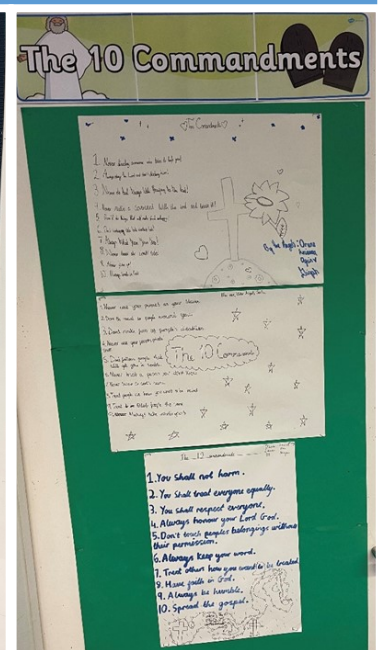
Continuing the Christmas theme in our writing we are working on the story of the Polar Express. We are



Year 5

In year 5 RE lessons our focus has been covenant. We have looked at the covenant that God made with Abraham and have been able to contribute to class discussions and apply our own life experiences. The children have really enjoyed learning about covenant and have a great in-depth understanding of what a covenant is. The children have made their own personal covenants with God which is part of our R.E class display. We have also been going over the 10 commandments. During our R.E lesson last week the children made their very own 10 commandments in small groups. The children had some lovely ideas and have thoroughly enjoyed R.E over the last term.

In English we have been reading the book Wolves in the walls. We read up to a certain point of the story and then the children had to create their own imaginative narrative of what they think will happen next in the book. We explored; fronted adverbials, direct speech, rhyme and repetition. The features that we explored are some of the features that are explored in the book itself. The children have now finished their final drafts and also have amazing illustrations to go alongside their fantastic writing for our classroom display.



London Youth Rowing Regional Championships

Once again St Matthew Academy went to the University of East London to participate in the Rowing London Regional Championships. This year we had a smaller squad with only Year 7, 9 & 10 Boys and Year 10 Girls.

On arrival we headed straight into the races, with **Year 7 boys** up first. Well there were no disappointments here – they just took over and won ALL the medals!! Gold, Silver & Bronze to SMA.

Well Done to Ade Oyeleye –Gold, Ty Ogongo – Silver and Abdulq Oladejo – Bronze.

Up next were the **Year 9 boys** and the race time was longer and the field of competition fierce. Tejiri led from the start but headed out too hard and started to flag half way through – Could he hang on? Dropping into second place, could he pull it back? It all came down to the last few seconds of the race and a nervous wait for the officials to assimilate all the data and then the results were in. 2nd place by 4m and a very hard fought Silver to Tejiri Avwerono and with Kevin Nana-Ampaw only 1 m behind bringing in another Bronze medal in 3rd place.



On to the **Year 10 boys** and this brought out the old (sporting) rivalries against competitors from other schools, who were also in attendance today.

Well the Powerhouses kicked in from the start, D'Metri, Abdul and Vieric. Abdul leading with D'Metri taking over and then the burn started on the muscles and it was all to play for... 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places flashing between various students from 4 differing schools and a stressful watch for the Coach, Mr Simmons. A splendid 1st and 2nd place: Well Done to Abdul Oladejo - Gold and D'Metri Ramator – Silver.

Next up the **Year 10 Girls**, with all of them giving very valiant efforts. So a BIG Well Done to Princess coming out on top in our girls and narrowly missing out on a medal in 4th place.

Well Done to Vieric Angwe: Winner of the 50 Calorie Burn in a time of 2 minutes 19.1 – 25 seconds ahead of the nearest competitor- Boom!

To finish were the relays – these are the “**Blue Ribbon**” events for Indoor Rowing:

KS3 Boys were up first, with team made up from a mixture of Year 7 & Year 8's, SMA only had Year 7 Boys – so we were already at a disadvantage. This did NOT even phase our Boys! Their 1st competition relay and they drove in hard and gave an excellent performance to achieve 2nd place and silver medals. Excellent rowing by Ade Oroleye, Abdulq Oladejo, Tolu Alagbala-Adeyemi and Daniel Varma.



The final event was **KS4 Boys** and this was anyone's' guess as to which school would win. SMA went out flying from the starting gun and did not let up on their rivals for a second. Slick change-overs, total power rowing and a drive & determination to win at all costs, to take the title home and carry the bragging rights for a year. Finishing with a flourish and streets ahead of their rivals and therefore taking the title and Gold. Fantastically Well Done to: Tejiri Avwerono, Kevin Nana-Ampaw, Abdul Oladejo & D'Metri Ramator!!

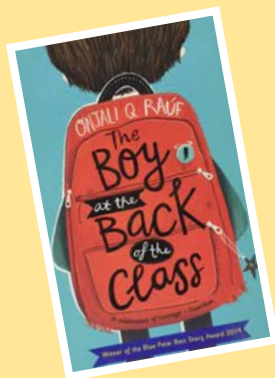
Bring on The National Championships @ The Copper Box Stadium in March 2022!



Literacy Corner



For this edition of the SMA newsletter, Caleb and Henry focussed on the author Onjali Q. Rauf for KS2 and they each read one of her best-selling books, 'The Boy at the back of the class' and 'The Night Bus Hero'.



gift and

This is what Henry thought of 'The Boy at the back of the class'. The story is about the new child in a class who is a 'refugee kid'. Every break time the refugee kid, Ahmet, disappears. After a while, they find out he isn't ready to be surrounded by others.

My favourite part of the book was when the main character couldn't speak to Ahmet so she gave him an orange with a smile drawn on it. This book will make you feel the emotions of all the characters. I also liked it when everyone gave Ahmet a gift and he said 'thank you friend.'



I give this book 5 stars.



Caleb reviewed 'The Night Bus Hero'. The book is about a bully, Hector, who was being rude to an old homeless man, Thomas, and pushed his trolley with all his possessions into a lake. He then accuses Hector of committing crimes but in the end Thomas realises Hector is innocent and there is a race against time to stop the real bad guys.

I would recommend the book because Hector goes from being a bully to being a hero. It is a book that lets your creativity go wild.

I would recommend this books to readers aged 10 plus.



Our secondary team read and reviewed Boy 87 by Ele Fountain.



'Looking at the Stars' is a very good and inspirational book. It is a book about a boy named Lewis Hine and his mental, neurological and physical disabilities. Lewis has many seizures every day and that really affects his life.

At times it can be hard to continue reading because it's so emotional and touching, but then again, I want to keep on reading because this book has shown me what the real daily struggles are in life.

I loved reading this book very much and I found his story very inspiring. In my opinion, everyone should read this story and get a better understanding of what a disability actually is and help people like Lewis. What I found incredibly inspiring was the fact that at the early age of three, Lewis began doing charity work and when he was older he created a charity called Friend Finder that gives disabled children the opportunities that they were unable to have before.

SMA Christmas Literacy and Reading Competition

Every pupil can take part in the St Matthew Academy Christmas Literacy Competition. Every primary pupil will be bringing a booklet home and every secondary pupil can collect a booklet from the LRC.

Primary pupils need to read any three of the recommended Christmas books (or their own Christmas books). For every book they read, cut out a bauble from the booklet and stick it on the Christmas tree. If they read a fourth book, cut the star out and pop it on the top of the tree! KS2 pupils also need to write book reviews for all the books they read. Every pupil who hands in a completed booklet will be entered into a prize draw. The deadline is Friday 7th January 2022.

For Secondary pupils, read or listen to a Christmas themed book on Sora and write a book review between 250-500 words. Your name will be entered into a prize draw. The first three pupil's names picked out of a hat will win prizes. The more books you read and the more book reviews you write, the more chance you will have of winning a prize! Deadline is 7th January 2022.



House Points Update

Week beginning 6/12/21

Total Achievement Points

1st - Teresa: 4888
2nd - Mandela: 4454
3rd - Romero: 4359

Attendance:

1st – Romero (15pts)
2nd – Teresa (20pts)
3rd – Mandela (5pts)

Overall House Points

1st - **Mandela: 361**
2nd - **Teresa: 292**
3rd - **Romero: 262**

It's the week before Christmas and Mandela have taken the lead back with house points.

Teresa and Romero still have time to catch up before the end of the week with the Christmas giving tree competition

Miss Barallon is still waiting for the first form to send a photo of them all with a reusable water bottle for a prize, all in our effort to become more environmentally friendly!

Well done to our three Christmas Card competition winners. These cards are available to buy on ParentPay and outside school this week!

Keep an eye out the first week back for some exciting sport house competitions and more.

Well done to the following forms for earning the most achievement points for their house!

- 7M3
- 7R2
- 7T2



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during November

Reception - Ladybirds

Korede CALFOS

Serena AGEBA

Daniel JARZABEK

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Daniella AGBAROLI CLARKE

Evie SALKELD

Maisie HAMILTON

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

Daniel WHYTE

Eline BELBLIDIA

Year 2 - Butterfly

Deborah OMASOMBO

Jennaya MIREKU

Destiny DAIRO

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Donovan ROCHA VEGAS

Elijah JAMES

Year 4 - Tigers

Bella CODREA

Adam NGUYEN

Aicha SHERIFF

Year 5 - Lions

Tristan DANIELS

Elijah MARGAI

Louise GILKES

Year 6 - Jaguars

Oluwakemi SAMSON

Zephan OGUDORO

Brianna BROWN REID

Year 6 - Leopards

Glory OMOROGIEVA

Ebenezer WILSON

Isabelle LOPES OLIVEIRA

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Wright



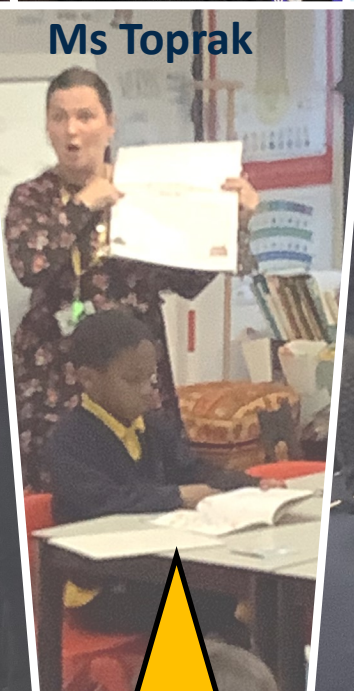
Ms Laker



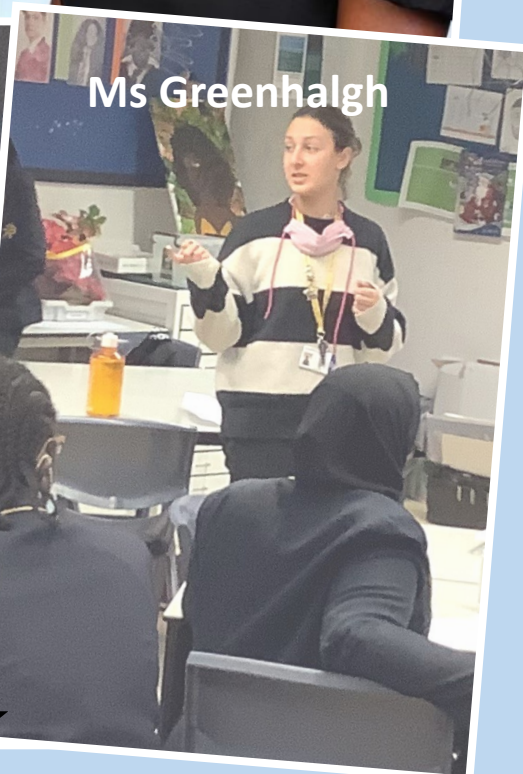
Ms Pollydore



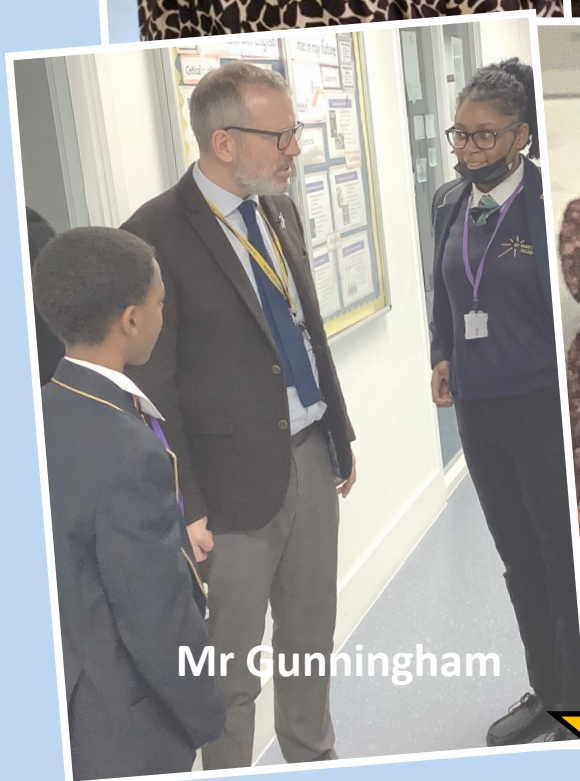
Ms Toprak



Ms Greenhalgh



Mr Gunningham



Staff Stars

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 Young
Deputy Headteacher

Ms Chick
Head of Primary



Ms Wickliffe
Assistant Headteacher

Ms Laker
Child Protection



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.