

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Holocaust Memorial Day should act as a springboard to promote understanding between diverse communities as a guard against intolerance. It should be a poignant time to learn from the past and build for a better, more inclusive future.

It underlines the importance of strengthening Holocaust education, celebrating diversity, and raising awareness to create a better understanding of how intolerance affects people and society as a whole. Holocaust survivor, author, and activist Elie Wiesel often spoke of the dangers of silence and indifference in the fight against injustice and atrocities against humanity. "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim," he said. "Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

While speaking out and taking action is not always comfortable, silence and indifference can be a form of injustice. Turning our backs or looking away whilst other groups of people suffer somewhat makes it easier to see them as less than human. One consequence is what happened during the Holocaust. Another is an ongoing tolerance of prejudice and discrimination that affects so many people in our local and wider community.

Christians believe that all humans are made in the image of God (imago dei). Therefore any action that devalues a person is an insult to God who created and loves each and everyone of us. At the centre of the Christian faith is the belief that Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross to atone for the sins of all people everywhere. The Bible reminds us 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). The Bible teaches that it is important how other people are treated. Showing a positive attitude towards people from a variety of different races and faith backgrounds presents a challenge in today's society. However, in the days and weeks that follow, let us take this time as an opportunity to follow the teaching and example of Jesus who respected, cared, loved and stood up for those that could not defend themselves. Jesus was far from silent and indifferent.

Mr R Wanza
Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

27th January each year is Holocaust Memorial Day and the Council of Christians and Jews have created this prayer so that we can dedicate time to remember the victims of genocides around the world.

The 'One Day' prayer

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands.

On this day, we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides.

May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives.

Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image.

One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil.

In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today.

Amen.

**NEVER FORGET
NEVER AGAIN**

Holocaust Memorial Day
27 January



Brilliant Club Launch 2022

The launch event for this year's Brilliant Club (Scholars Programme) took place on Tuesday 18 January in school. The programme aims to raise the aspirations of pupils from state schools and to consider applying for top universities in the UK.

The pupils were selected after a rigorous application process where they had to justify why they should be awarded a place on the programme; we were blown away with the quality of applications this year and it proved a challenge to decide on the final 12 pupils.

The launch event took place at SMA as current restrictions mean we were unable to go to Cambridge. It was hosted by the Brilliant Club and pupils also met graduates from Jesus College, Cambridge who gave a talk on what life is like at university as well as the different types of courses and universities there are in the UK today. The session was very interactive with the group invited to submit responses to the webinar on key questions about life in university such as what you can study, how many hours a week you attend lectures and how to manage living independently.

The pupils will work with their tutor over the next few weeks on a university style course; the tutor is Dr Yana Manyukhina, a PhD graduate from the Institute of Education, who will take them through the course entitled, 'What is it like to be a bat? The Mind-Body problem in Philosophy'. At the end of the tutorials the pupils will produce a 2,000-word assignment which will be marked by their tutor.

We are very excited about this programme and expect to build on the success of the last two years where all pupils who completed the final assignment passed with all being graded at least 2:1 with some pupils receiving a first.



Brilliant Club Scholars

Serena BURGESS 9T1

Virginluxmy EESVARAN 9T3

Hawa FOFANA 9M1

Tianna FOGARTY 9T2

Bess HUXTON 9T1

Aliyat LATEEF 9M1

Gracie MUIR 9R2

Sonia OBASOGIE 9M2

Ayomide ODUNOREN 9R1

Paapa OWUSU-DONKOR 9M2

Daksh PATEL 9T3

Rapolas VENCKUS 9T3

Secondary Phase

SMA Debate Club - Competition Winners! Wednesday 26th January

SMA's Debate Club had a victorious start to the debating competition season last night in the first round of the Urban Debate league. Three SMA teams won both rounds of the competition - all six debates!

Year 7's team: Aarav Nair, Adhyaa Haddouch, Annie Bradley, Lieselotte and Maurier Smalley.

Year 8's team: Alex England Salvijus Brazdzius, Sara Hussen and Aayush Pathak.

Year 9's team: Daksh Patel, Bess Huxton, Hawa Fofana, and Rapolas Vencus



The teams were up against a range of secondary schools from South London arguing for and against set motions including: *This House Believes politician's private lives should remain private.*

Huge congratulations to all the participants - with a special 'shout out' for those speakers who were debating for the first time competitively: Y7 team, Sara, Aayush and Rapolas. The results will be entered into the National Urban Debate League table and - depending on where we place in Round 2 in February - we could look forward to Debating against schools across the country in the semi-finals in the summer. What a great night for SMA and fingers crossed we will be bringing home the cup once again!



Media and Communication

This term, the Media and Communications scholars across years 7- 9 have been hard at work on a research based **Vlogging** project. During this time, they have investigated how Vlogging can be used as a powerful tool for learning and teaching. They've learnt how talking directly to a camera can be more difficult and technically more complicated than to speaking to a live audience! We're really proud of how they have effectively used the green screen when filming, and are currently learning to use Final Cut Pro X software to edit their material together. No mean feat! Their dedication and enthusiasm to keep on improving their final productions is really starting to pay off. They're already looking ahead to other opportunities to get creative and use these skills some





Literacy Corner



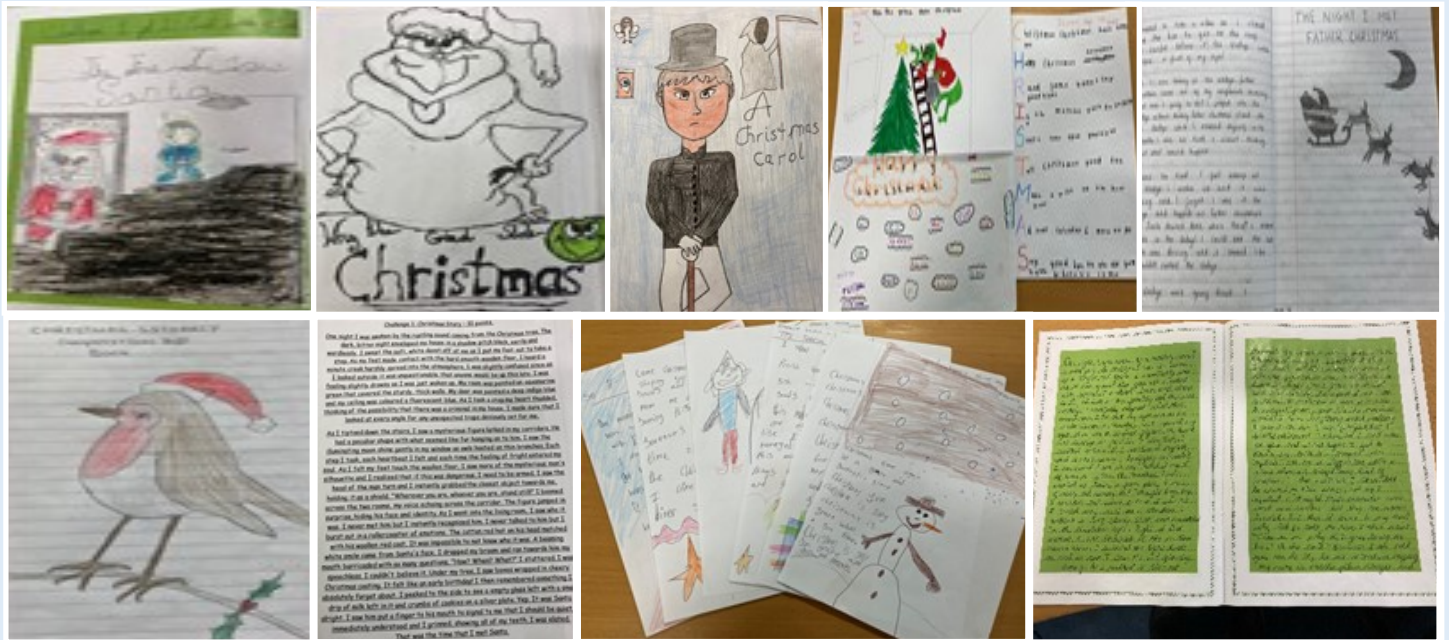
It has been a busy couple of weeks in the SMA Learning Resource Centre. The results of the House Christmas Literacy competition have been calculated and the results are:

1st place Teresa House

2nd place Mandela House

3rd place Romero House

Well done to **Teresa House** on an outstanding win! Also congratulations to all those pupils, both primary and secondary, who entered. Here are some pieces of work which received a special mention:



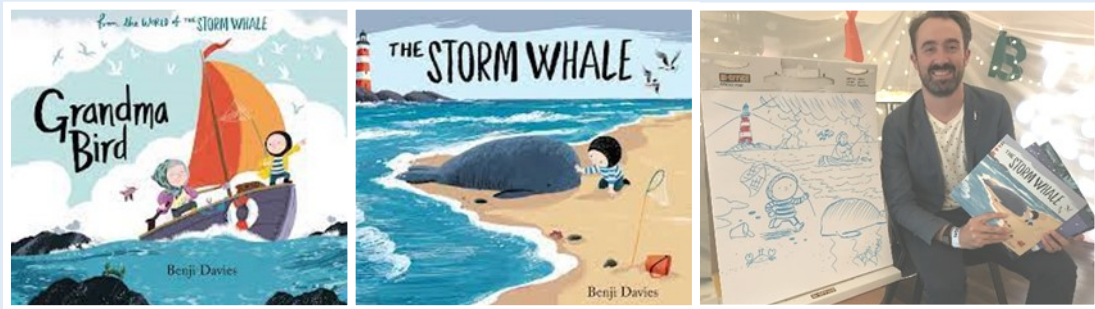
In other news in the LRC, pupils have been encouraged to look at our 'New year, New ideas' books to take up a new hobby or interest in 2022. We have also been celebrating Martin Luther King Jr day in the LRC. This week we are commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day.

New year, new ideas' Martin Luther King Jr day Holocaust Memorial Day



Book Reviews

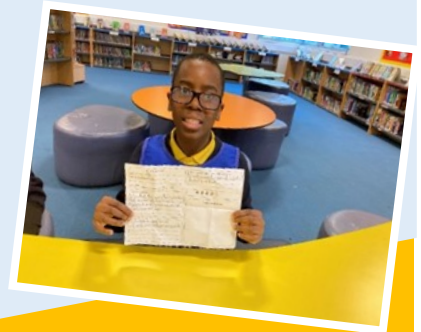
This month our Year 6 reviewers focused on picture books by the author Benji Davies. Henry reviewed 'The Storm Whale' and Caleb reviewed 'Grandma Bird'.



'The Storm Whale' is about a boy called Noi who feels lonely as his Dad is always busy. One day after a storm, a whale washes up on to the shore. Noi puts the whale onto a wagon and takes it home and puts it in the bath whilst his dad is asleep. Finally, Dad finds out about the whale and hugs Noi because he realises how lonely Noi has been. I would recommend this book to EYFS children and I would definitely read other books by the same author. I give this book 4.5 stars.



'Grandma Bird' is my favourite picture book so far. The story is about a little boy called Noi who went to visit his Grandma but he didn't really like it. Noi went exploring and found a bird to keep him company. This book would be suitable for EYFS children. I would recommend this book because it is fun and a good book to read if you are bored. Benji Davies is a very talented author. I give this book 6 stars out of 5 as it is amazing!



Our year 7 team reviewed 'Dreaming the Bear' by Mimi Thebo.

'Dreaming the Bear' was a really moving book because you could see how desperate this little girl was to help the wounded bear. When you are reading the book, it almost feels as if you are being transported into the scene because there is so much emotive language and rich description being used. The fact that this novel is being told in the first person makes it even better because it's as if she is telling you the story and the strong connection that she had with the bear. It's almost like a diary style conversation.



I like the way the story is written in the first person. I play a lot of video games and the way it is written is how I see myself when I play. It's not the type of book I would usually choose myself though.

I gave this book four stars because of all the reasons mentioned above. What could have made it even better, would be if this book was longer so that there would be more of this emotional and happy story-telling. I really enjoyed this book and I would like to read similar styled one's in the future.



Primary Phase

Year 5

On Friday 14th January, Lions class performed their class assembly to the primary phase including pupils' parents and carers. Through this assembly they were able to highlight their academic achievements as a class. The assembly focused on Religious Education and English and each child had a significant part to play.

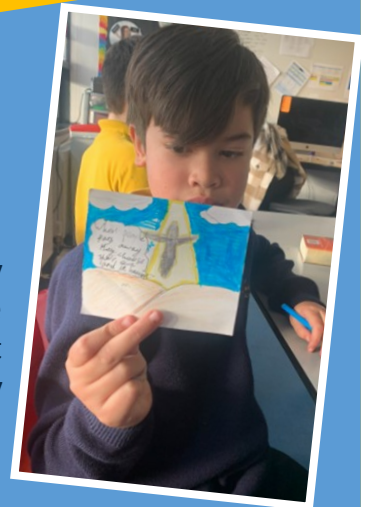
The focus for RE explored in the assembly was based on Covenant as this was our topic at end of the autumn term. Children were able to read contributions they had written including Abraham's perspective and advice to their peers in written letters from a Christian point of view.

The focus in English was instructional writing where the children were able to showcase their sandwich recipes. The children explored many features including: modal verbs, colons, bullet point, hyphens, repetition, fronted adverbials, rhyme and rhetorical questions. The children were independently able to identify each feature and confidently discuss them in lessons.

We then went onto discuss cultural day and Black Britons during Black History Month. Our black Briton that we chose was Stormzy and we ended with Lions' favourite song 'blinded by your grace'.



We were so lucky to be rewarded with a Pizza party after winning the attendance cup in the autumn term where we had the chance to watch the new Disney film Encanto, whilst eating a pizza.



Year 6

We have started a brand new topic in their RE learning this half-term – worship! They kick started their learning by attending a virtual mass and learning the order of the service. After that, they wrote their own offertory prayers. Last week, they looked at what scripture means to them and how it makes them feel in their daily lives – they used their bibles to find different passages and represented how it made them feel through art!

Writing - The quality of writing in Year 6 this academic year is absolutely outstanding. So far this half-term, Year 6 have written their own narratives that include dialogue – they have also been working on using a range of different sentence structures to make improvements to their writing. Year 6 are now writing their own persuasive letters, addressed to Miss Chick, to convince her to let them have a Year 6 prom. We can't wait to find out the answer!

Reading - Before Christmas, Year 6 read the book 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans and they were absolutely hooked! They laughed, cried and gasped. Since then, reading fever has hit Year 6 and we have children who have read all four books in the series! We were even lucky enough to receive a tweet from her! We are now starting our new class text – Holes – and we can't wait to see what that has in store for us! Alongside this, Year 6 are the reigning Read Theory champions in KS2. Each week, there is healthy competition between Leopards and Jaguars for who can achieve the most Read Theory knowledge points!



House Points Update

Week beginning 24/1/22

<u>Total Achievement Points</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Overall House Points</u>
1 st – Mandela: 11495	1 st – Mandela	1 st - Mandela: 401
2 nd – Teresa: 11456	2 nd – Romero	2 nd - Romero: 392
3 rd – Romero: 10938	3 rd – Teresa	3 rd - Teresa: 387

In the lead this week is Mandela but by only 9 points!

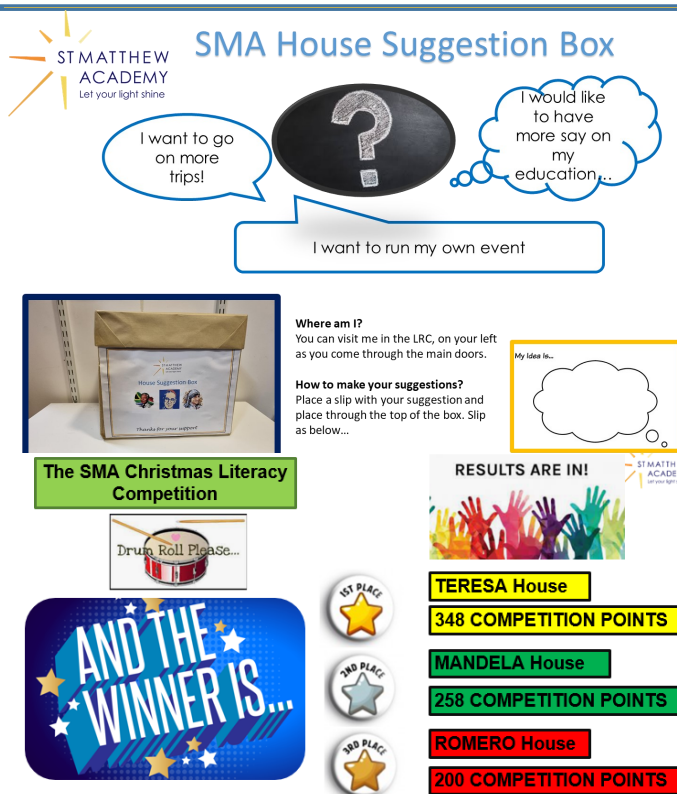
The SMA Clothes giving bank is filling up for both Romero and Mandela. Teresa house, have you got spare clothes to give for those in need?! Collection boxes are in the main hall.

Last Wednesday we had the incredibly successful house basket ball competition. Year 7 and 8 absolutely smashed it, and worked so well as a team. House leaders especially want to thank the Year 9 sports leaders for facilitating the event. They showed great leadership skills! Romero came first, Mandela second and Teresa third.

Year 9 & 10 have their basketball competition next Wednesday! Who will take the lead?

The Christmas Literacy Competition results are also in! Well done to Teresa earning 1st place, Mandela 2nd and Romero 3rd. There was a huge participation in this competition, with over 800 competition points earned.

The SMA House Suggestion box is still looking a little empty. We want to hear your voices! Please take some time to visit the LRC to voice any concerns or suggestions you may have.



SMA House Suggestion Box

I want to go on more trips!

I would like to have more say on my education...

I want to run my own event

Where am I?
You can visit me in the LRC, on your left as you come through the main doors.

How to make your suggestions?
Place a slip with your suggestion and place through the top of the box. Slip as below...

My idea is...

The SMA Christmas Literacy Competition

Drum Roll Please...

AND THE WINNER IS...

1st PLACE

2nd PLACE

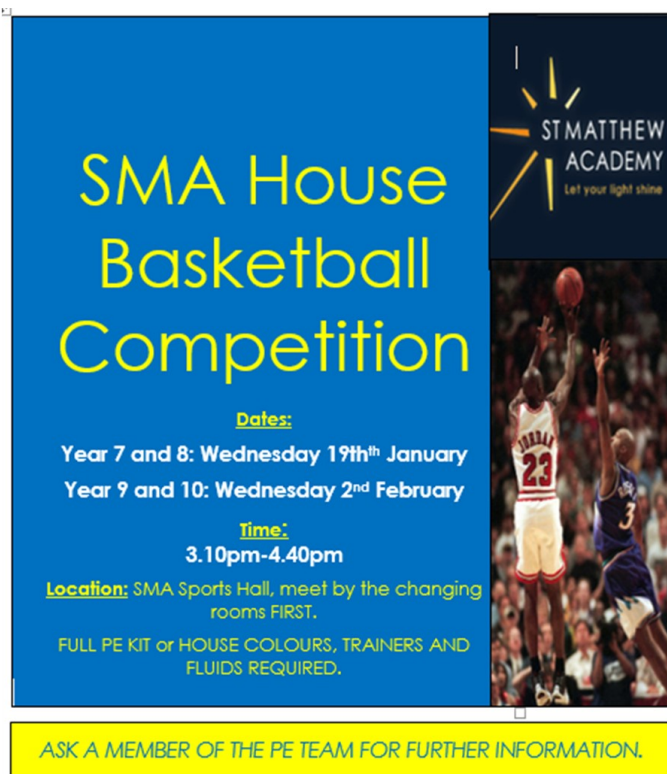
3rd PLACE

RESULTS ARE IN!

TERESA House
348 COMPETITION POINTS

MANDELA House
258 COMPETITION POINTS

ROMERO House
200 COMPETITION POINTS



SMA House Basketball Competition

Dates:
Year 7 and 8: Wednesday 19th January
Year 9 and 10: Wednesday 2nd February

Time:
3.10pm-4.40pm

Location: SMA Sports Hall, meet by the changing rooms FIRST.

FULL PE KIT or HOUSE COLOURS, TRAINERS AND FLUIDS REQUIRED.

ASK A MEMBER OF THE PE TEAM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Mandela Page

Mandela house came together in assembly on Monday for Holocaust Memorial Day. We spent time reflecting and praying for those who sadly died and those who were affected by the Holocaust. Students leading the assembly spoke about Genocides happening today in the world and we took a moment to reflect on what we can do to avoid giving space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different to us.



For Charity this term we have the SMA clothing donation collection. As a Catholic Academy we are mindful of our calling to support those in need. This is an opportunity for us to share with others who are less fortunate and live out our Christian values. The donations all go to the Society of St Vincent De Paul. We have made this a house competition, where pupils can earn house points for the most amount donated.

The first house sporting competition was launched on Wednesday, with KS3 basketball. There was a great turn out of Mandela students from Year 7 and 8 and it really was wonderful to see our pupils come together to be competitive and supportive all at once. Mandela came close second to Romero. Next Wednesday we are lucky enough to have the opportunity again with Year 9 & 10 basketball competition.



Well done to Nana in Mandela house for winning the Christmas literacy challenge. Nana is a great house member, he is keen to get involved in all events and he is also a form representative for student voice.

Keep up the good work Mandela House!

Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during January

Reception - Ladybirds

Kieran NDIBWAMI

Leyla DOUMBIA

Ameen KARGBO

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Evie SALKELD

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Daniella AGBAROLI CLARK

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Ibrahim OUATTARA

Ire CAMERON-COLE

Year 2 - Butterfly

Fatoumata BAH

Abiola SAMSON

Azaria CAMPBELL-JONES

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Chelsea ABEKOUA

Doyinsola FOLASIRE

Erima DOE

Year 4 - Tigers

Bella CODREA

Washington UJU

Valentine CHAZA

Year 5 - Lions

Olivia XU

Orane ALLEN

Id TAYLOR-BAILEY

Year 6 - Jaguars

Ashani ANTOINE-JAMES

Kaamil GOLDING-EDWARDS

Chardonnay BECKFORD

Year 6 - Leopards

Caleb AROGUNDADE

Ebenezer WILSON

Glory OMOROGIEVA

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

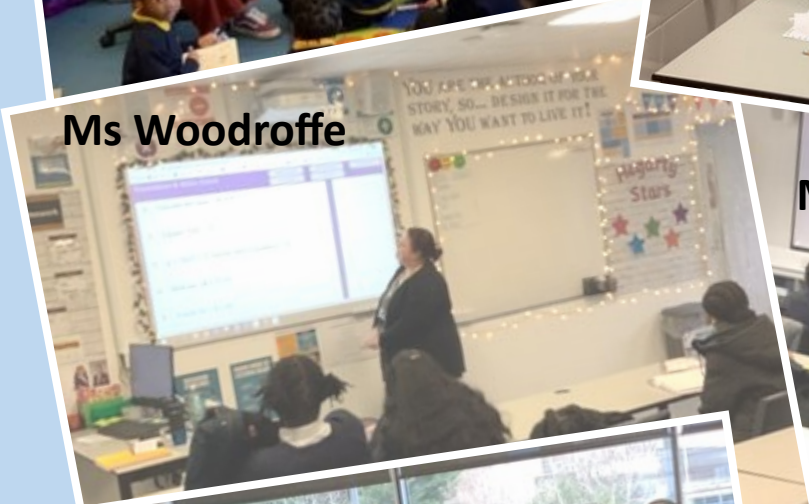
Ms Norman-Mercer



Ms Day



Ms Woodroffe



Ms Wickliffe



Ms Lyambo



Ms Walker



Staff Stars



ARCHDIOCESE *of*
SOUTHWARK

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY ONE IN CHRIST



**SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2022
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL SOUTHWARK**

MASS 10AM PLEASE BE SEATED BY 9.45AM

CELEBRANT: ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON

**COME AND CELEBRATE RACIAL JUSTICE
SUNDAY WITH THE DIOCESE**



**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER
MASS IN THE AMIGO HALL**

racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk

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.