

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, we have much to celebrate and share with you.

On Thursday 8th March, SMA celebrated World Book Day and it was lovely to see so many children in primary dressed as their favourite book characters. Not to be outdone, the primary staff dressed as animals from their much loved childhood books and fully immersed themselves in their characters. Children's author—Holly Webb, visited us to lead some workshops and speak about how animals have been her inspiration in writing over 140 children's books. She shared some stories from her most popular series—'Museum kittens'. The secondary pupils enjoyed a series of workshops on how to write a novel and took part in activities led by our amazing librarians. We continue at SMA to ensure that reading for pleasure is our key priority, as we know that reading is the key to success in life. Please continue to enjoy and share books with your children at home to further promote a love of reading.

This term, we have continued to enrich pupils' learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom.

Primary Science Week on Monday 11th March, started with a bang and was launched in an assembly where the children were able to take part in a range of interactive experiments. Our budding scientists demonstrated live experiments to the parents in our Science Showcase and were able to confidently articulate their findings and conclusions.

Secondary pupils took part in Careers Week and many opportunities were provided for pupils to take part in workshops led by professionals from a variety of career pathways. In addition, pupils visited local colleges and different work environments i.e. KPMG.

During this period of Lent, we are living out our school value of 'Service', by taking part in CAFOD's 'Being Lent Walk' to raise money for the charities that they are supporting to fight against global poverty. Every child across the Academy will be taking part in a sponsored walk during the last week of term. Please make a small donation to support the children via our go giving page on the website. All donations will be gratefully received and make such a difference to peoples' lives around the world.

As the Easter holiday approaches we wish everyone a peaceful and joyous break. Please spend time enjoying the many free Easter activities on offer across London and hopefully the weather allows for some outdoor fun.

Ms Chick - Head of Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

"During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and supplication, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him from death and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was the Son of God he learned obedience through suffering, and being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him" The book of Hebrews tells us that Christ shared every aspect of our humanity apart from sin and that we come to know him as both king and high priest. Jesus is therefore in solidarity with us and has sympathy towards us because of our human weakness. As we continue through our Lenten journey let us call on Jesus to help us in those moments when our human nature negatively rules our thoughts, words and hearts and let us allow him to work in our lives to bring healing and mercy.

Lord Jesus,

You opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, forgave the sinful woman, and after Peter's denial confirmed him in your love. Listen to my prayer: forgive all my sins, renew your love in my heart, help me to live in perfect unity with my fellow Christians that I may proclaim your saving power to all the world. Amen



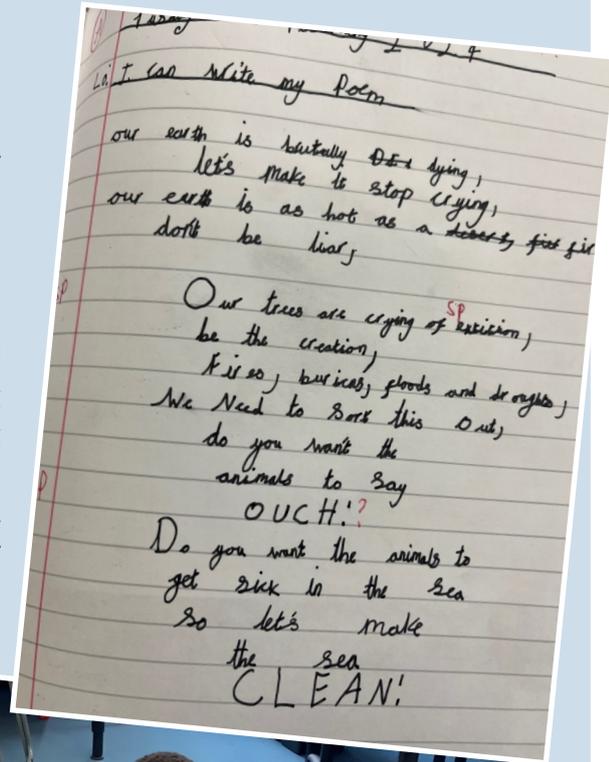
Primary News

CAFOD is a charity we partner with closely, they are dedicated to fighting poverty and injustice around the world and we are proud to support the work they do. A CAFOD representative came in during our period of lent to talk to the pupils about all the great work they do and how everyone can get involved and make a difference. The Academy is taking part in the Lent walk and has set up a [JustGiving](#) page for sponsorship. We will also be holding an Easter Raffle. Watch out for more opportunities to get involved and support a worthwhile cause.



Year 3

The children have been working hard on improving their grammar and creative writing skills throughout the academic year. Recently, they wrote poems about climate change and came up with some fantastic rhymes, as well as experimenting with figurative language including similes, metaphors and personification. The class also produced excellent results in their Spring assessments and showed great progress in their knowledge from Autumn term. Their reading in particular has come a long way, with one member of year 3 tripling their reading result from Autumn to Spring! Their love of reading was celebrated most recently during World Book Day when the class took part in a football quiz, made wooden spoons to represent their favourite character, and filmed a trailer for 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl.



Secondary News

Debate Mate Victory

On Wednesday 28th February, nine schools from across South East boroughs of Lewisham and Southwark competed in the Regionals of Urban Debate League for a place in the Nationals. Four teams from SMA - made up of Y7, 8, 9 and 10 - debated in two rounds and won every single debate. A total of eight in one evening! An amazing achievement - especially as for some, it their first or second debate at competition level and opposing teams made up of older and more experienced debaters. With this level of success, it puts us in a very good position to place in the top 15 of the national leader board which would secure a place in the Grand final in May. Watch this space!



Rewards Lunch Year 10

Last week 21 year 10 pupils were invited to a rewards lunch, pupils were nominated by their form tutors for displaying one of SMA's virtues, Courage, Integrity or Service. Ms Migon and Mr Charlery also joined pupils for a great opportunity to catch up over delicious chicken and chips, followed by some treats from Gregg's. They shared the latest gossip and talked about pupils plans regarding leadership applications and post-16.



World Book Day

Primary

On Thursday 8th March, the Primary Phase celebrated World Book Day! We were lucky enough to be joined by the fantastic author 'Holly Webb' who held a variety of workshops with all of the children! Throughout the day, we showed off our outfits, took part in creative competitions, joined a live quiz and even made some video trailers! We love World Book Day every year as it is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to showcase how much we really love reading and remind ourselves of the importance of reading.



Secondary

In the run up to World book day we launched our Reading Bingo challenge in the secondary phase. Pupils were challenged with reading and writing reviews on a row of three books on a bingo card. World book week saw the return of the ever popular 'Don't judge a book by it's cover' in the LRC. On World book day itself years 7 to 10 were all given a presentation by the author Catherine Johnson who spoke about her writing career and inspiration. She talked specifically about her book 'Sawbones' and how she went about researching the book. Her presentations were insightful and fascinating to learn about how Catherine goes about writing historical fiction. All tutor groups completed our 'World book day quiz' and 'Guess the book cover quiz' and all pupils received their World book day £1 book vouchers to exchange for a World book day book or to put towards another book. Pupils were encouraged to add to the blackboards around the academy to include their favourite book or quote or what reading means to them. Some secondary staff also dressed up as their favourite literary character. A fantastic day and week was had across the entire secondary phase!





BOOK REVIEWS



Theo in year 6 read 'Finding Bear' by Hannah Gold for KS2.

This book is about a girl called April who has previously visited the Arctic and has a very strong bond with a bear who has recently had a son called Peanut. My favourite part of the story was when April finally reunites with Bear because it is so touching and peaceful. My favourite character was Peanut as he is so cute and he has to eat every 4 hours. Four stars.



Theo also read and reviewed 'I won't eat that' by Christopher Silas Neal for KS1.

Cat does not like cat food so she is on an adventure to find something different to eat. My favourite part of the story is when Cat asks Mouse what he likes to eat but Cat has already figured it out. Cat was my favourite character because he was very picky when it comes to food. Five stars.

Matia in year 6 read 'Hike' by Pete Oswald

This is a very nice book. If I was a young child then I would absolutely love this book but sadly I am not. It is about a father and son who decide to go hiking. They pack their stuff and set off for a hike. They had a picnic when they got down from the mountain.

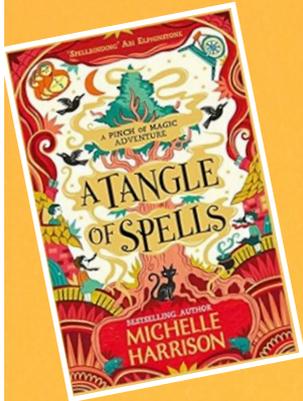
Matia also read and reviewed 'The Pawnshop of Stolen Dreams' by Victoria Williamson for KS2.

This is like an olden days book but it is amazing. The character design is outstanding and the theme of the book just goes well with it. It is about a girl who is doing so well in school but since she is an orphan, the price to get her is going up so that no-one can afford her.





BOOK REVIEWS



Enkhlen in year 7 reviewed 'A Tangle of Spells' by Michelle Harrison.

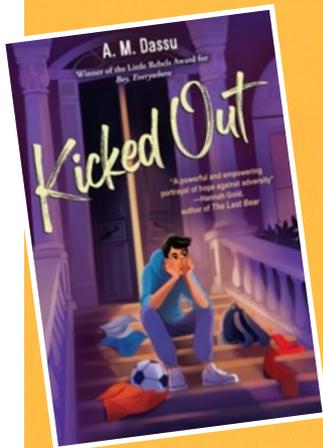
The Widdershins sisters, Fliss, Betty and Charlie find themselves caught up in magic. A dangerous spell cast over an unsuspecting village, an enchanted painting locked in a hidden room. A race has started against time in order to break the spell. This should have been a fresh start for the Widdershins. I was really hooked from the start. My rating: 9.5 out of 10.



Malo in year 7 reviewed 'Kicked Out' by AM Dassu.

This book is a great reminder that some people have to deal with hardships when they should just be enjoying their lives. Aadam is only 16 and having survived a war, he is seeking asylum in England but the government refuse his plea for help. Then whilst working at a rich lady's house he is accused of stealing a large sum of money by her cruel boyfriend. Sami and Ali, two boys also having survived violent conflict, and who were once refugees, decide to help their friend, Aadam.

I really loved this book, because it shows, really well, that unfortunately some people have to suffer in order to get what they need so dearly. If I could, I would have maybe added a couple more dangerous situations in order to really portray the 'pain' and 'suffering'. Other than that this book is amazing! My rating 9/10.



House Points Update

Week beginning 11/3/24

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: **30827**
2nd – Romero: **28537**
3rd – Mandela: **28443**

Attendance:

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

Overall House Points

1st - Romero: **2912**
2nd - Teresa: **2903**
3rd- Mandela: **2847**

The KS4 boys' football event was a thrilling spectacle! After five hard-fought matches, **10R2** settled the top spot, showcasing remarkable skills and determination. Following closely behind, **10R1** secured second place, while **9M2** displayed impressive teamwork to claim a well-deserved third-place finish. What an exciting competition!

All participants received 10 Achievement points.

It's that time of year again! Year 10 are preparing for the Pupil Leadership Team selection process. We're looking for Head of House, Assistant Head of House and Prefects.

Congratulations to our shortlisted candidates! Now, it's time for the next stage. From Monday 11th March to Friday 22nd March, they will embark on projects demonstrating our school virtues: courage, integrity, and service.

As the days get longer, get ready for some thrilling house activities in Term 5 and 6! From cooking clubs to repair sessions and more, exciting times await. Stay tuned for eye-catching posters headed your way soon.



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during February & March

Year 7	Marbelys AGUILERA MONTERO Abigail JACOME ASQUI Victoria OMOTOSHO Iona MCVEY Enkhlen ZOLBOO	Year 8	Roberto TOADER Temilolaoluwa ABIKINDA Great CELESTINE-EBENUWA Gohar REHMAN Olivia OBAFESE
Year 9	Michael KANGA Michael TRAORE Tyiana AGUTOR-WHYTE Rhea ABANGMA Sofia MAZIAR	Year 10	Maria NENYCH Evaluna HERNANDEZ MOLINA Crystal BOWLING Jodelee OWUSU Adreyn PARKER
Year 11	Gift OMOREGBEE Josephine PRELA Hillary OYENEYIN	Aishat AROWOLO Elana YOUSEFI	

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Ms Mraihy



“For providing an excellent environment for reception children.”

Mr Degueurce



“For always being kind and pleasant.”

Mr Howells



“For supporting the Maths department.”

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.

PLACE:ASTRO TIME:LUNCHTIME
MARCH 13 - 15

MIDDAY MIX: ASTRO SPORTS BLAST!

FOOTBALL

DODGEBALL

CRICKET

RACES



YEAR 7 - 8

FOR MORE INFO : MR SALIH