

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

New hopes, refined dreams, a new pair of shoes or a dusted off gym kit. The new year brings fresh starts for all of us and returning to school is often seen as yet further opportunity to start afresh and attack what is left of the academic year with a renewed vigor and determination.

The Bible reminds us that we should 'be transformed by the renewal of your mind' (John, 4:18) and while resolutions and a commitment to new habits can feel entirely like starting afresh, this time of year is also a time to look back, perhaps only briefly as we move relentlessly onto the next stage. But, pausing for a moment to consider the importance of renewal to this process is important. To me, this time of year is about renewing energy and focus to continue on a path rather than setting out on an altogether new one. Take a moment to reflect on how we reached this point, everything we have achieved so far and what those next steps might be. But, don't see the last year as inadequate or inferior to the aims and dreams we had at the start of it. See it as a crucial element of the journey that has lead you to this point and to your renewed self.

So, in the days and weeks that follow, take time to be proud of what you have achieved in the last year and how, without those achievements, your aims for the coming year would never have grown into being.

Mr A Kohlbeck
Acting Primary Deputy Headteacher



Prayer and Reflection

*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.

The period of Christmas is now over, ending on Sunday 9th January with the Baptism of our Lord but this prayer which we shared for the Feast of the Epiphany still resonates with us.



Latest Tweets

Follow @stmattacad on Twitter.



There was already so much to celebrate today after only 3 days back! Well done to all of our winners today! [#LettingPupilsLightShine](#) [#Lewisham](#) [#Winners](#) [#Celebrate](#)



Year 3 started their new DT project today - Seasonal Eating - and enjoyed (mostly) trying different fruits and vegetables! Next week they'll be making Japanese fruit kebabs! [#LettingPupilsLightShine](#) [#Lewisham](#) [#Cooking](#)

Year 9 were superb this morning when getting ready for their first exam of Assessment Week. They have a busy day ahead of them with [#English](#) [#Spanish](#) and [#Maths](#). With excellent preparation they will take it in their stride!



Testing our knowledge of multiplication and decimals today in Year 8! They were keen to show they knew the right answer. [#Lewisham](#) [#Maths](#)

Business Department

Pupils have recently been exploring entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. For Year 9's, this was an opportunity to research a black British entrepreneur, then present their findings to their peers, as well as design a poster to be displayed in our business suite. This tied in with Black history – which SMA celebrates throughout the school year and not just during the month of October.

We were able to compliment this by offering all of our Year 9 business and Computer Science pupils the opportunity to meet one of the top 25 British entrepreneurs, Stephannie Ijeoma. This joint venture with the Computer Science department gave our pupils the wonderful experience of interviewing and hearing how a “local” girl was able to fight discrimination not only in race but also in gender to become a prominent and influential entrepreneur in the gaming industry. Stephannie spent an afternoon with the year group, inspiring and explaining her journey, challenges and successes to the eager Business and Computer Science pupils.



Year 10 have the excitement of the upcoming Mosaic Enterprise challenge. The Enterprise Challenge is a competition designed to develop young people's understanding of business concepts and how they can apply them. Interaction with mentors helps build the students' confidence, employability and raise their aspirations. It is delivered by the Princes Trust and they collaborate with local entrepreneurs to work with pupils in groups, mentoring them in all areas of the competition, starting with the online business that will compete with other schools in running. Keep an eye out for our progress and hopefully the graduation to the next stage of the competition to regional and then national stage.



Year 4

We are all back and excited about our new term.

In our maths work we are continuing to develop our skills in multiplication before moving on to division. Our times tables skills are improving as well as our ability to multiply larger numbers.

In writing we are looking at the story of The Snow Queen, perfect for this weather. We are writing the story together from the point of view of Kai the main characters friend, including some great descriptions of the Snow Queen and the cold, with regard to both the weather and the characters personalities. We will then write our own version of the story from the perspective of Gerda, the main character.

In our Topic work we are looking at the idea of Fair Trade and have started to explore the discrepancies in pay between the various farmers, owners, export and import companies and retailers involved in providing our food and clothing.





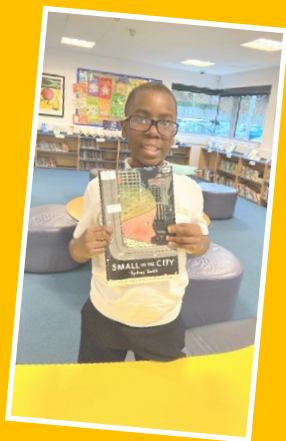
Literacy Corner



Welcome to the first edition of Literacy Corner for 2022!

Book Reviews

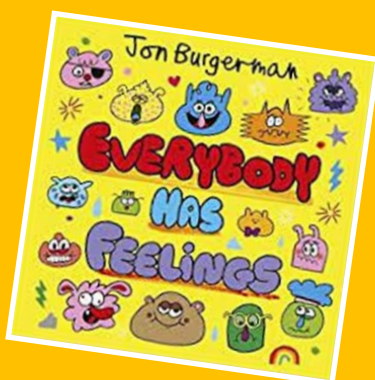
Key Stage 1



Caleb reviewed **'Small in the City'** by Sydney Smith and Henry reviewed **'Everybody has feelings'** by Jon Burgerman.



'Small in the City' is about a child who wanders around their city and notices many different things. I would recommend this book because it tells us what it is like to be small. This book is suitable for readers age 5+ and children who are curious about the world.



'Everybody has feelings' is a picture book with characters like blobs who represent different feelings and emotions. The book is about how to overcome bad feelings and emotions. I recommend this book to children age 6-7+ and I think this book deserves 5 stars!



Key Stage 2



Our year 6 team, Henry and Caleb reviewed **'Eagle in the Snow'** by Michael Morpurgo.

In 1940, Barney and his mum are on a train and a stranger tells them a story about a soldier named Billy who has been in the First World War. Billy had many encounters with different people, including a chance to kill a young Adolf Hitler.

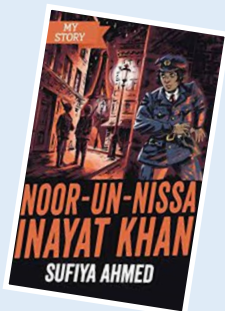


My favourite part of the book were the drawings especially the drawings of the hospital, the girl and the soldier coming out of the smoke with a gun.

I would recommend this book because it is very interesting and teaches me about the past of someone. It would be suitable for ages 10-12 and people who are interested in history. We give this book 4.5 stars.



Key Stage 3



Our year 7 team reviewed **'Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan'** by Sufiya Ahmed.

"This book is a very inspirational story, set during World War two, telling you about the real courageous adventure of an Indian girl joining the French resistance. The fact that this novel is a real story, makes it even harder to read, because Noor was in a Nazi occupied country working as a British agent and she was tortured by the Nazis.

This book makes you realise exactly what it was like to live in such a sad environment, for all of the rich description being used. It makes you also appreciate the past, thanking all of the brave agents and soldiers who fought for our country.

It is not the kind of book I would normally read but I liked it a lot and found it really gripping. The drama starts very quickly and the plot is full of action. The family is split apart and I can't imagine that happening to me. I also enjoyed this book as it is set during World War two which is a period of history I enjoy learning about. This is a first-hand witness account of the war with a very different perspective."



Christmas Competition Update

We were thrilled with all the entries we received to our Christmas Literacy competition. We are sifting through them now and calculating the house points. More in the next issue!



House Points Update

Week beginning 5/1/22

Total Achievement Points

1st – Mandela: 9479
2nd – Teresa: 9425
3rd – Romero: 8940

Attendance:

1st – Romero 10pts
2nd – Teresa 10pts
3rd – Mandela 5pts

Overall House Points

1st – **Mandela: 371**
2nd – **Teresa: 332**
3rd – **Romero: 327**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mandela are starting 2022 in the lead with house points.

We have plenty of exciting competitions and opportunities coming up to offer Teresa and Romero a chance to catch up and take the lead!

Our first house sports competition is BASKETBALL! Please see the next slides for more info.

We are also having our THIRD collection for charity! Collecting clothes for the Society of St Vincent De Paul.

Go and check out our house suggestion box in the LRC and write down



SMA'S Clothes Bank

*We are collecting clothes for our charity -
Society of St Vincent De Paul during the
month of January & February*

Have you any unwanted clothes that you can donate to our charity clothing bank?

- This may be an item of clothing which is now too small for you or just something you won't wear again.
- All you need to do is bring them to school with you and put them in the box in the Main hall for your House.
- The House that collects the most clothes will get the most House Points.



Thanks for your support

House Points Update

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.



How do you get involved?

- You will need to organise and enter in House Teams.
- Entry sheets can be received from the PE office or printed from the next slide.
- Maximum players per team = 7 players
- Minimum = 5 players

What if I do not have a team, but still want to play?

- You are still welcome to attend and you will be placed into a team of your house.

ASK A MEMBER OF THE PE TEAM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



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



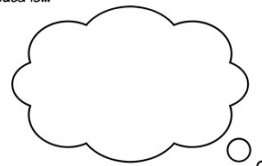
Where am I?

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...



Going Above and Beyond!

Secondary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during December

Year 7

Ademide OYELEYE 7M3
Phoebe MAURER-SMALLEY 7T2
Sienna Rose BENINCASA 7T2
Findlay HADDOW 7M2
Lieselotte MAURER-SMALLEY 7T1

Year 8

Sara HUSSEN 8R2
Jemimah AIKOROJE 8R2
Klajdi SELA 8M2
Allan GEORGE 8M1
Chidima OHAGI 8R2

Year 9

Mark KOUTCHEDI 9M1
Cassandra ONICA 9M2
Subhan DOMACH 9T1
Serena BURGESS 9T1
Hanako DENTON 9T1

Year 10

Ibrakhim IUSUPOV 10T2
Tashawna DUNKLEY 10R1
Kyson THOMAS 10M2
Nayely BURGA MALES 10M1
Dominic JASTAK 10T1

Year 11

Shayla ANTOINE-SMITH 11MA1
Andre KAKEETO 11MA1
Niruja RAVIKUMAR 11SCI

Aziz ALI-OBALOKUN 11EN2
Kristos LALAJ 11MA2

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

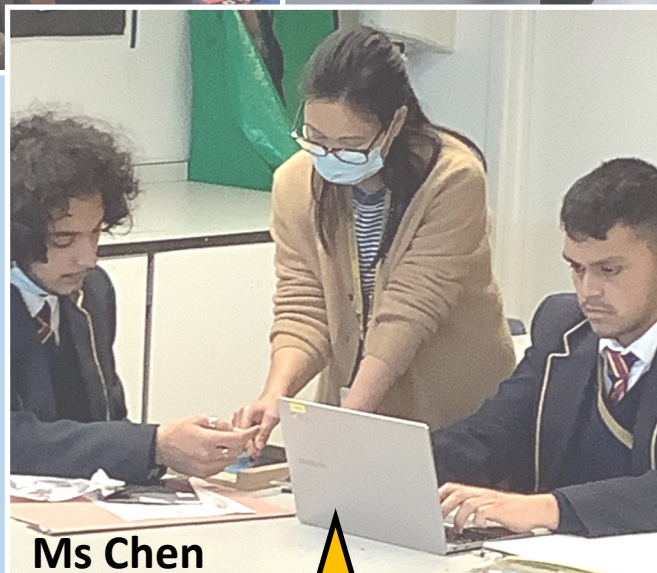
Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...



Ms Budzowska-Gawlak



Mr Szabo



Ms Chen

Staff Stars

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Young supported by Mrs Wickliffe (secondary) and Ms Chick (primary), and our Child Protection Officer is Mrs Laker. Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Lewisham MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) **020 8314 6660**
- Or call **999** or **101** if you believe a child is in immediate danger
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk

Term Dates

Autumn Term 21/22

Friday 3 September 2020 to Friday 22 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2020 to Friday 29 October 2021

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 21/22

Tuesday 4 January 2022 to Friday 11 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022

Summer Term 21/22

Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Monday 6 June 2022 to Thursday 21 July 2022

If you have any comments, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk