

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

At lunchtime on Tuesday, yellowing leaves fell and carpeted the playground, reminding us all that autumn is upon us. The autumn term at school is always a busy one. There is much to do. The nights are getting longer and we all look forward to the approaching Christmas break.

However, this is a good time of year to pause and reflect. Autumn is my favourite time of year. Trees produce an explosion of colour. They shed their leaves as they get past their best and go into hibernation. Animals also prepare for the winter ahead. Living things prepare for growth and renewal in the spring, ready to burst back into life with the start of a new season. This is a great time to watch nature's cycles in action.

As we watch the leaves fluttering to the ground, we can be reminded that nature's cycles are reflected in our own lives. We all go through our own seasons. We let go of things in the past that we need to let fall like leaves in the autumn. And then we grow further. So as the leaves fall and the nights draw in, let's all get out to see this wonderful season and take this opportunity to reflect.

Mr M Bradley

Associate Assistant Headteacher



Prayer and Reflection

We have been focussing on our mission at St Matthew Academy this year and recognise the importance of our role as individuals and as a community to serve others and to have a positive impact on the lives of others. With this in mind we share the prayer of St John Henry Newman

God has created me to do him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.

I have my mission-I may never know in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good, I shall do his work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it-if I do but keep his commandments.

Therefore I will trust him.

Whatever, wherever I am.

Amen.

The Pope's Prayer intention for November

Pope Francis' prayer request for people who suffer from depression: We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



Lest We Forget

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We unite across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth, giving all communities the freedom to develop their own forms of remembrance which reflect their own histories and cultures.

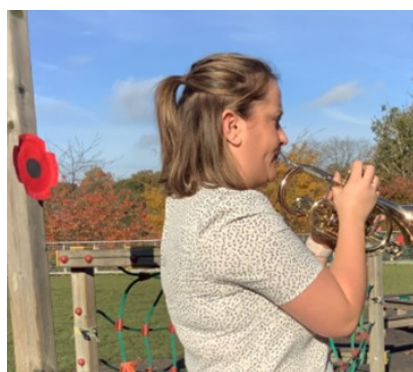
The National Service of Remembrance is held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday, which provides the nation with a physical reminder of all those that have served and sacrificed, with British and Commonwealth soldiers, sailors, airmen and women represented, together with members of the emergency services and civilians. 2021 marks 100 years since the nation's collective Remembrance traditions were first brought together, such as the poppy, two minutes silence, Armistice Day, the service for the Unknown Warrior and the march past the Cenotaph.

We held Remembrance Services in the primary playground and at the front of school, near our war memorial as we do every year last Thursday 11th November. Monsignor Rthon from St Mary's in Blackheath led our service of remembrance which was attended by a Year 6 and Year 7 class.



Our Primary Light Bearers Victor, Salem and Orane read poems, including 'In Flanders Field' beautifully and Mr Charlery and Miss Butterworth played 'The Last Post' to mark the start of our two minute silence followed by the 'Reveille'. Monsignor Rthon, Mr Saunders, our PE teachers and former member of the armed forces laid wreaths alongside Ms Baldwin and our Chair of Governors. The pupils who were unable to join us outside also marked the occasion with poetry, prayer and the 2 minutes of silence.

Monsignor Rthon and Mr Wanza helped us all to reflect on the importance of marking this occasion by reminding us about those who have lost their lives in the First World War and the Second World War, including old boys of St Joseph's and in conflicts which have taken place since. ***We will remember them.***



SMA Winners

On Saturday 13th November, Year 6 put in some fantastic performances on the football pitch to earn two wins out of two in the Blackheath league opening weekend. In the first match, the team were victorious by three goals to one. Having dominated the game and raced into a 2-0 lead courtesy of goals from Juan Sanchez, SMA paid for a momentary lapse in concentration to concede a goal which led to a nervy ending. The lead was preserved by an outstanding save from Luca and some goal saving tackles from Olek and Kaamil. With two minutes to go, Henry cleared one off the goal line to protect the lead before Ebaneezar scored the third and decisive goal after a magnificent through ball from Juan. The rest of the game was superbly marshaled by the midfield duo of Jai-Jai and Donzel whose strength and poise saw us through to victory.



In the second match of the morning, we faced Edmund Waller. In another game in which we dominated, Zephan and Luca terrorised the opponent's defense with silky skills and vision which allowed them to always be one step ahead. Once again, Juan Sanchez was our goal scorer when he slotted home after another fantastic move. Olek and Henry were once again solid at the back and Kymani Golding-Edwards was coolness personified in goal. Our dominance told when we added the second goal in the second half after threatening throughout the first. This time, it was Ebaneezar who made no mistake when put through on goal after the move of the morning involving Juan, Luca and Ebaneezar. Cheered on by a band of supporters, our team saw the match through with outstanding composure to seal a brilliant morning's work and top the league at the early stage of the season.

Special praise must go to Mr. S and Mr. Vandy who prepared the team meticulously and made the big decisions when they needed to be made to ensure two victories out of two. Our next fixture is on 4th December when we look to extend our winning start to the season.

Reception Ladybirds

The reception children have been really enjoying their experiences across the seven areas of EYFS learning. In Maths they have been subitising numbers up to 5 and comparing quantities of 'more' and 'fewer'. They have also been learning about simple patterns and sorting objects according to different attributes. In Phonics the pupils have been decoding cvc words and scribing their first captions. In Literacy our SMA children have been building their comprehension, attention and listening skills through stories, poems and songs. They have been learning some exciting new words, and role-playing the stories they listened to.

All our literacy sessions are supported by visuals, puppets and actions, which stimulates a kinaesthetic approach to learning, which is very important at this young age. The children have had the opportunity to experiment with rhyming in fiction and non-fiction stories and have even been experiencing a playful way of using personification to describe how the thunder in Elmer Story *roared, howled, and rumbled, until it exploded like fireworks.*

In RE the children have been learning the story of God's creation, the First Sin, Saints and Heaven. They are now beginning to understand the meaning of a prayer.

Finally, the children participated in a wonderful Cultural Day. We would like to give special thanks to Ian's, Lucas', Tove's, Nasia's and Temisan's parents for their amazing workshops and involvement. Also, a big 'thank you' to Ms Cruz and Donovan's mum for a brilliant Colombian experience, and to Mr Charlery for letting us use a fantastic selection of SMA instruments. The kids had a blast making music and dancing to the tunes of folklore music from around the world.



SMA Cultural Day 2021

Chelsea Football Stadium Visit

It has been a busy term in the Business department. For our Year 9's we collaborated with Computer Science to look at the gaming industry. On Monday 1st November, over 100 Yr 9 pupils were joined by the fabulous Miss Livingstone (part of the alumni of SMA) who explained to the pupils about the EA Sports gaming market. The pupils considered the different career opportunities and were delighted to hear how a teacher of theirs, was now writing a degree course in gaming. This area of study was further supported by a visit from Stephannie Ijeoma, who is listed as one of the top 25 Black British Entrepreneurs that is up and coming. Stephannie talked of her struggle as a black female entering a white male dominated industry. She spoke of how her company NNESAGA was started and is now firmly established as a leading diverse & inclusive platform for gaming. Pupils had lots of questions - Stephannie was asked what her proudest achievement, and she was said that recently she had worked alongside EE and was their face of 5G advertising- and then share the advert with the pupils, much to their delight.

Not to be left out Year 10 & 11 had a trip to Chelsea Football Club on Wednesday 10th November. 41 pupils, Ms Sims, Ms Alogba and I, jumped on a train from Blackheath and went to visit the impressive stadium in Fulham. The pupils attended the "Business of Football" workshop which included a hands-on tour around the facility, whilst discussing the revenue streams, costs and day to day running of an international football club as a business. We analysed the impact of covid on the industry and the discussed the promotional aspect of football. Pupils were able to walk through the tunnel onto the pitch and then sit in the dugouts whilst pretending to be Thomas Tuchel - we then had an after match meet in the changing rooms but I drew the line when they offered an ice bath. Finally we held a press conference in the media suite, where I was grilled by the pupil reporters on my match decisions ! At the end of the workshop we were able to spend some free time in the museum, where my goal skills brought much delight to the pupils. So proud to take such beautifully behaved pupils out for a trip that will provide endless discussion points in future Business lessons.





DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY



Our year 9 pupils and Ms Greenhalgh had a fantastic time exploring the print making process of Helen Frankenthaler. They had a tour of the exhibition, including time for discussion about the artist's work before engaging in a practical workshop, where they created their own pieces inspired by her work and process.





Primary Cultural Day



On Friday 5th November the Primary Phase celebrated our annual Cultural Day. The day is a celebration of the diversity of our school community and an opportunity for everyone to learn about each other's culture. Our children and staff arrived to school in their traditional dress and loved showcasing their outfits to their peers – they all looked amazing!

Every class were really lucky to participate in a wide range of workshops over the course of the day. Many of our parents gave up their time to come in and deliver talks, prepare food and presentations. We have everything from Nigerian dance sessions, Ugandan cooking and dancing, traditional jewellery making, Songkran cards, lantern making, Indian dancing, African drumming, Salsa dancing, storytelling from Ireland and the Caribbean and so much more! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed sampling a wide range of traditional dishes from Poland, Africa, Jamaica and Columbia.

The day was topped off by a spectacular showcase in which we were fortunate enough to have a performance of Indian dance and a concert from Matias' dad of Colombian music. It was a real carnival atmosphere in the hall as children, parents and staff joined in with the performances.

It was without a doubt the best Cultural Day we have had here at SMA and heart-warming to see our community really join together. We would like to give all our parent supporters once again a huge thank you. The children have not stopped talking about how much they enjoyed the day and are very much looking forward to our next community event.



SMA Sporting Stars

The PE department has seen a positive and successful start to the year so far for all year groups. Year 7 have completed their baseline assessments and fitness testing. Which gave them the opportunity to demonstrate their physical capabilities in a number of different sports and fitness components. From this we were able to increase the number of pupils on our Sporting Brilliance programme.

The Sporting Brilliance programme has had a fantastic start with pupils showing real dedication towards their training and leadership development. All pupils on the programme have taken part in an athletic workshop with a professional basketball player.

We have also seen the launch of the PE extra-curricular clubs programme which has proved to be very popular with pupils who have enjoyed the variety of activities on offer and school team fixtures are now in full flow.

Football Results

- **Year 10's** won against Woolwich Poly 8-3 in a double header to progress to the next round of the Blackheath and London cups
- **Year 9's** drew 4-4 in an entertaining game vs Deptford Green
- **Year 8's** won against Ark Putney 5-1 to progress to round 3 of the London Cup
- **Under 14 girls** beat St Thomas Moore 3-2 in a nail biting game that went down to the last minutes



Netball Results

- **Year 7** won against Sedgehill 4-2 where none of the girls from either team had played a netball match before
- **Year 8** won against Sedgehill 5-3 in a very evenly matched game.

“Girls Club Passport”

We have also introduced a “Girls Club Passport” to all girls in their PE lessons to increase the attendance at extra-curricular clubs. The commitment from the girls has been amazing which has seen clubs such as netball, football and girls fitness club go from strength to strength. The passport requires girl pupils to get a signature at every sports club they attend. These signatures enable them to access a rewards trip in the summer term.

With numbers at netball club increasing from 7 to 30+ on a weekly basis we were able to organise some friendly games for the girls to test out their skills against other schools. The Year 7 and 8 girls played their first games against Sedgehill school which saw both teams secure a win. The buzz from the girls after winning was amazing and we are looking forward to playing more fixtures in the future.





GROWING TOGETHER

St Matthew Academy is committed to the mental health of our young people. [Parenting Smart](#) have launched a new website for all UK parents and carers of 4 to 11 year olds. It is completely free to use and it is packed full of tips and advice on a range of different topics from supporting healthy gaming habits, to my child is anxious and everything in between! It is full of practical tips to support children's wellbeing and manage their behaviour.

**WE'RE TAKING PART IN
CHILDREN'S MENTAL
HEALTH WEEK**

childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk
#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during October

Reception—Ladybirds

Michael OMORIGIEVA

Maya MARGAI

Korede CALFOS

Year 1 - Bumblebee

Roland SZEKRENY

Maisie HAMILTON

Aaron NAGERA GARCIA

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Hermione BLUNDEN-HARR

Fatoumata DIALLO DIALLO

Reuben JARZABEK

Year 2 - Butterfly

Fatoumata BAH

Azaria CAMPBELL-JONES

Abiola SAMSON

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Chelsea ABEKOUA

Deborah KIMPA

Year 4 - Tigers

Michaela SEKA

Etana LEE

Bella CODREA

Year 5 - Lions

Elijah MARGAI

Olivia XU

Louise GILKES

Year 6 - Jaguars

Daquan LOTTRY

Beulah OMOTUNDE

Clara FERRO FERNANDES

Year 6 - Leopards

Deandrae DOLLIN

Caleb AROGUNDADE

Ebenezer WILSON

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

House Points Update

Week beginning 11/10/21

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 4595

2nd – Mandela: 4166

3rd – Romero: 4108

Attendance:

1st – Mandela: 15pts

2nd – Teresa: 10pts

3rd – Romero: 5pts

Overall House

Points

1st – **Mandela: 226**

2nd – **Teresa: 222**

3rd – **Romero: 167**

Mandela have taken the lead this week by 4 points!

We have seen the launch of the Christmas card competition – Deadline is on Friday 19th November. Make sure you have posted your card designs in the box in the main hall.

House council reps met again to discuss lots of issues and are already working hard behind the scenes on house prayers, making the school more eco-friendly, preparing to meet our local MP, Janet Daby and improving student voice.

This is all supported by Christ the King Sixth Form providing an online training on Pupil Leadership.

Keep an eye out for more exciting competitions coming up and the house assemblies next week will focus on COP26 and what we can do at SMA to be more eco-friendly!

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

7M3 – 624 Points

7R2 – 566 Points

7T1 – 733 Points



Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Ahima



Ms Chick



Ms Woodroffe



Mr S



Ms Skelton



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