

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

As his first half-term comes to an end we have a great deal to celebrate here at school. Our Reception and Year 7 pupils have had a brilliant start to their SMA journey both inside the classroom and out. We have had sporting success, auditions for our school musical High School Musical Jr, retreats, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, field trips, and that is just a small snapshot of our busy and exciting first half-term. We will finish on Friday with our whole school Cultural Day, a celebration of our school community, featuring food, clothing and dance. We look forward to sharing photos and stories from the day in our next edition of SMA News.

We thank all those families across the school who have donated to our Harvest appeal for Lewisham Food bank. We know that this continues to be a difficult time for households across the country and we really appreciate the support which is shown to others in our community. Integrity, courage and service are at the heart of our mission statement here at SMA.

We have spent a huge amount of time in this first 7 weeks promoting the pleasure of reading with our pupils and our staff. As we break up for the half-term break, I very much hope that everyone will make the time to sit down over the course of the week and enjoy at least one good book. Don't forget to discuss your reading choices over a meal with your family. Who is their favourite character in their latest novel? What are they most enjoying about the story? They might tell you that they would prefer to watch the film on Netflix but do tell them that they can only do that if they read the book first! There are very few film adaptations that live up to the original book, The Hunger Games is probably the only one, in my opinion. The Highway Rat coming in a close second. So find a book, get comfortable and enjoy!

We hope that all of our families will remain safe and well over the half-term break.

Mrs S Guest
Deputy Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated annually on 17th October. This year the theme is 'Putting dignity in practice for all'

Loving God,

Open our ears to hear the cries

Of our sisters and brothers

And of the earth, our common home.

Open our eye to the scandal

of poverty and injustice

in the world.

Open our hearts to feel

the pain, the hurt,

the hunger of one another.

Open our mouths to speak

of the dignity of each person,

Precious is our sight.

Open our arms wide

To reach our with compassion

So that all distance vanishes

Open our hearts to share your love

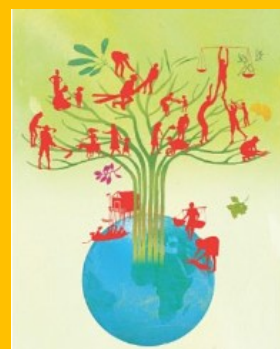
And our hope of a world

Where no one is beyond reach.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord

Amen

Catherine Gorman/CAFOD



Primary News

Year 4

The children have started the year well, showing willingness to learn and remembering lots of things from year 3. We have made a good start in our maths, understanding the concept of decimals and we already have 6 children who have managed to get 25 out of 25 for their MTC Practice so far. Through our class novel, *The Girl who stole an Elephant*, we have looked at narrative writing, focusing on the describing characters and settings. We are currently in the process of creating a non-chronological report into elephants as a double page spread.



Through role play in RE, we have looked at the Old Testament; in particular, at the stories of Abraham, Joseph and Moses and their covenants with God. In science, we have been eager to experiment (safely!) with electricity – figuring out how to fix faulty circuits, and which materials are conductor and which are insulators. They have also shown enthusiasm in learning about Ancient Egypt, finding out where and when in history it and why we know so much about pharaohs that lived 3000 years ago. This year, we have also been lucky enough to have secondary school teachers for Spanish and PE (and we get to use the big PE hall in secondary!) It has been a very positive start to the year; Miss Pollydore and I would like to say well done to the children for a good start and thank you to their parents for supporting them at home. We hope they all have a lovely half term.



Cooking Club

Pupils have been getting stuck in making some delicious rock cakes.



Secondary News

Dance

St Matthew Academy's talented young dancers have been working extremely hard in a series of exciting dance activities designed to strengthen dance across the school.

Amongst the many dance opportunities available at St Matthew Academy is the Step Into Dance programme. Run in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Dance and the Jack Petchey Scheme, dancers from Key Stage 3 'let their lights shine' in their weekly Wednesday evening

dance workshops with the highly experienced choreographer Zoe Elliot. We are extremely proud of the dancers who have worked with great energy and professionalism throughout this half term. St Matthew Academy would like to thank Zoe and Step Into Dance for their hard work in organising such an inspiring and engaging scheme.

The Performing Arts Department would like to congratulate Havana Wright who auditioned and was accepted on the highly renowned Centre For Advanced Training scheme at Trinity Laban. Up against fierce competition, Havana is the third dancer in two years to be accepted on the scheme. She is joining Casandra Onica and Jamai Brown who are also training on the programme.

Looking Ahead:

Later this term, Gifted and Talented students from Year 7 and 8 will be invited to work alongside a leading dance artist from Trinity Laban to participate in an intensive performance project. The three day project will culminate in an exciting performance – the details of which will be shared nearer the time.



Duke of Edinburgh Trip

9 Year 11 pupils recently went to the New Forest to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifying Award, they had a fun and rewarding experience but also found it a challenge. Back at the Academy the new Bronze and Silver 2023-2024 groups have just been selected and enrolled ready to start the Duke of Edinburgh training syllabus.



Sports Results

The PE department has had a busy start to the year with many fixtures and clubs up and running from day 1 of the new academic year. One of our highlights of this half term has been the success of the Year 8 Netball team. The team came 2nd in a Lewisham wide tournament which is a fantastic achievement. A special mention to Isabelle and Neveah who were awarded player of the match awards for their performances throughout the tournament.



Year 7 boys storm into the next round of the cup after a 5-2 victory against Haberdashers Hatcham College.



Year 8 boys had a great 3-2 win against Thomas Tallis! Onto the next round of the inner London cup



Congratulations to our Y4 girls who came 2nd in the Lewisham tournament, against 9 other schools. They demonstrated exceptional teamwork and resilience as they battled through each game, rising to the challenge every time. Well done to all involved.



A great start for our Year 7 netballers, finishing 4th in the Lewisham tournament yesterday! Coming away with 3 wins and 2 losses. Player of the match awards went to Hadassah, Bethany & Sienna





LITERACY CORNER

Library News

Welcome to our new student librarians. Ozioma from year 7 and Dami, Faridat, Diana and Samiyah from year 9:



Celebrating Black History Month in the LRC:

Make sure you read our secondary book reviews this week which are two books from our large Equality and Diversity section.



Secondary Book Reviews

Welcome to Enkhlen, one of our new book reviewers from year 7. This week Enkhlen has reviewed 'Two Sisters, A Story about Freedom' by Keren Getten.

Two sisters, Anna and Ruth, are both going to London. Back at home, Anna is more cared for than her sister Ruth. This is because Anna's skin is lighter than Ruth's. They are inseparable until they reach Georgian London, which is when their differences force them apart. Anna is trying to find the courage to stand up for Ruth. Do you think she will find it?

I really like how this book is about equality and your skin colour doesn't matter. It is like saying 'beneath every skin colour, we bleed red'.

My rating 10 out of 10.





BOOK REVIEWS

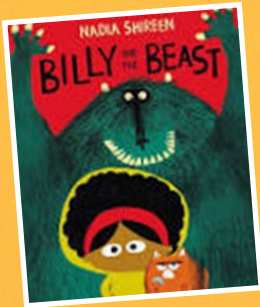
Primary Book Reviews

Welcome to our two new year 6 book reviewers Theophania and Matia who reviewed two picture books for KS1.



Billy and the Dragon by Nadia Sheeran reviewed by Theophania in year 6.

Billy is going to a party and a fierce dragon takes Fatcat. The dragon mistakes Fatcat for its babies. My favourite part of the book is when the dragon takes Fatcat away. Fatcat is so chill and he was very calm when the dragon took him away. My favourite sentence in the book is "Are there any pop tarts"! I gave this book 5 stars.



Billy and the Beast by Nadia Sheeran reviewed by Matia in year 6.

Billy and Fatcat go through the forest and are taken to be put into a beast's terrible soup. My favourite part of the story was when the beast jumped into the steaming pot of food. Fatcat was my favourite character because he was always hungry and he relates the most to me. My favourite quote of the book is "I know what your special ingredient is, it is a big sweaty toe of a beast". 5 stars.

Our wonderful book reviewers also read and reviewed two books for KS2.



Some Sunny Day by Adam Baron reviewed by Theophania.

This book is about a boy called Cymbeline Igloo whose house has been broken into but the unusual and peculiar thing is that the robber only tried to steal his toys. Igloo is stuck in lockdown where he is bored with online teaching. To make matters worse, his mum accidentally gives away his favourite football shirt. My favourite part of the story was when Cymbeline's mum was always social distancing and once they even climbed up a tree because too many people were walking by. Suddenly, Mrs Stebbings, the school cook, gets coronavirus. Cymbeline starts a project about her childhood. Mrs Stebbings is the funniest character in the story and the most liked by all the school children. 5 stars.



Posted by John David Anderson reviewed by Matia.

The story is about a small group of boys who soon realise that in middle school words aren't just words. Words can be gifts but they can also be weapons. The principle decides to ban mobile phones on the school premises, so the group of friends come up with a new way to communicate with each other by leaving sticky notes around the school. Wolf was my favourite character out of the group of friends as he was the funniest but some people also thought he was a little weird. 5 stars again!



House Points Update

Week beginning 16/10/23

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 4610
2nd – Mandela: 4090
3rd Romero: 3984

Attendance:

1st – Teresa 600 pts
2nd - Romero 300 pts
3rd – Mandela 300pts

Overall House Points

1st - Teresa: 1549
2nd - Romero: 1543
3rd - Mandela: 1426

Lets give a huge shout out to Mandela house who has left Romero in the second place with Teresa in third.

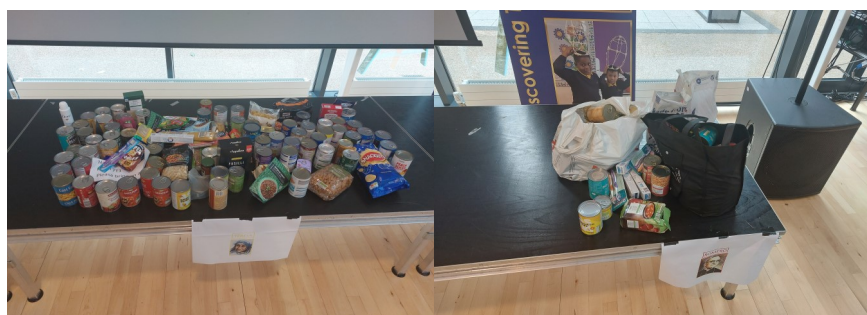
There was an update in the number of points awarded for the houses meaning that pupils could earn even more points with attendance and house events.

Wednesday 4th October was the first meeting with the Pupil Council, a group of enthusiastic young individuals whose mission is to serve as a voice for their peers and contribute ideas to enhance our school's extracurricular activities took place. Ideas were gathered which included contributions to the cultural day.

The first quiz competition ended last week and Mandela came first with 300 points. Thanks to the RE Department that planned it.

The donations for the harvest festival end tomorrow and we are proud to say that as a Catholic Academy the pupils and staff have demonstrated that they 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 to live out our Christian values. This year again the pupils of St Matthew Academy let their light shine in the local community by donating items to give to the Lewisham Food Bank.

Well done to all.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during the month of October

Reception - Ladybirds

Jerely AGUILERA RAMÍREZ

Mira AMOO-CAMPBELL

Qadhijah WHYTE

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Nylajai JORDAN-GRAHAM

Tay'Mari POYSER

Sebastian DE ORNELAS MEDINA

Year 2 - Butterfly

Leyla DOUMBIA

Maya MARGAI

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Fatoumata DIALLO DIALLO

Ibrahim OUATTARA

Maisie HAMILTON

Year 4 - Tigers

Abiola SAMSON

Deborah OMASOMBO

Kyla RAYMOND

Year 5 - Lions

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Daniel KANGA

Aiden THOMAS-SALBURG

Year 6 - Leopards

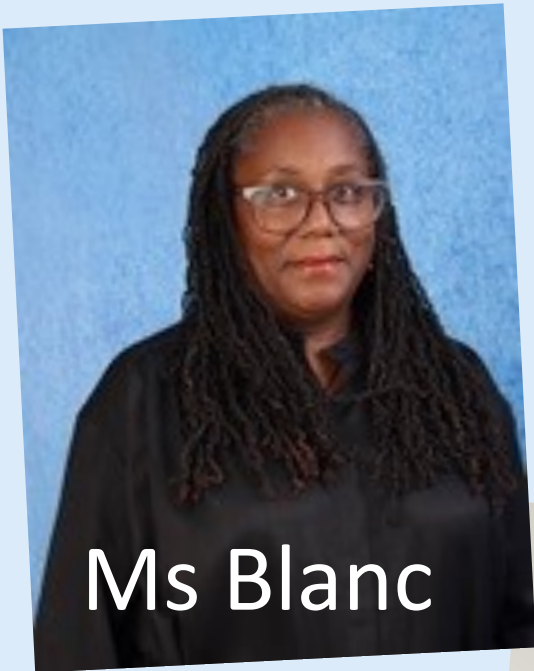
Bella CODREA

Matia DALEY

Salem LUVUADIOKUENO

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars



Ms Blanc

"For being kind and thoughtful and for being supportive to both children and staff."



Ms Smith

"For giving up her time, when she already had other commitments"



Ms Fields

"For encouraging the culture of reading with pupils."

Safeguarding our pupils at St Matthew Academy

At St Matthew Academy our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ms Chick supported by Mr Gunningham (secondary) and Mr Magar (secondary), and our Child Protection Officer is Ms Dryden. 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 23/24

Autumn Term Dates

Tuesday 5 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

Half Term: Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023

Monday 30 October 2023 to Wednesday 20 December 2023

Christmas Holiday: Thursday 21 December to Monday 8 January

Spring Term Dates

Tuesday 9 January 2024 to Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February

Monday 19 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024

Easter Holiday: Friday 29 March 2024 to Friday 12 April 2024

Summer Term Dates

Monday 15 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024

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

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Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk