

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

What a fabulous first half term we have had at SMA and how quickly it has flown by.

'We aspire to be more, not to have more' is a quote from Mother Teresa - one of our houses at SMA and is our focus this half term.

As a school community we are truly living out our virtue of 'Service' by raising over £355.00 by hosting our MacMillan Coffee Morning. I would like to thank everybody that contributed and our parents who gave up their time to sell cakes.

During this time of Harvest Festival, we are now focusing on supporting Lewisham Foodbank by bringing in donations. A group of pupil ambassadors will deliver the donations at the end of half term and they will be gratefully received. Thank you to all who have generously donated, particularly at the time of austerity.

The month of October holds great importance for our school and local community as it is Black History Month. This month is honoured and celebrated throughout the school through our widely diverse curriculum. Alongside this, we will be holding assemblies, enrichment activities and at the end of the month our extremely popular Cultural Day in primary. It is important to note that this month adds an extra layer to all of the work we do throughout the year celebrating black history and reflecting the diversity of the pupils we teach.

If you are available on Friday 18th November for Cultural Day and interested in running a workshop or an activity and being a real model for our children, please email info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk.

It would be lovely to have you celebrate with us as a school community.

Enjoy the half term break and hopefully some sunshine.

Ms Chick
Head of Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

In our gospel this coming Sunday we will hear the parable of the unjust judge and a needy widow. The widow constantly comes before the judge to ask for justice, but he keeps ignoring her. She persists until he is worn down by her. He eventually says to himself, "I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!" The widow gets the justice she was seeking. Jesus explains that if an uncaring, unfit, ungodly judge answers with justice in the end, how much more will a loving and holy Father give what is right to His children?

In our own lives we might be needy like the widow but we do not always get swift justice like her. This does not mean that God does not hear our prayers. He wants us to keep coming to him and to be perpetual in our prayer and faithfulness to him. He is simply asking us to trust Him with our whole selves and to build a relationship with him, because He knows what he wants for us. St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians reiterated this when he wrote "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." At the end of the Gospel reading Jesus asks "But when the Son of Man returns, how many will He find on the earth who have faith?" God wants us to be able to confidently put our hands up and say yes I am the Father's faithful warrior of prayer.

Father in heaven, help me to be like the persistent widow, trusting and giving you my entire self to shape me and use me as you see fit and to stand firm in love and faith. Amen

We Are SMA

Innovation Day

Pupils at St Matthew Academy participated in the first innovation day for the year. The theme set was “We are SMA”. Pupils discussed the term diversity and what it means to live in a diverse community. A pupil in year 9 reflected that “diversity is being different; not being the same. Diversity can be expressed through religion, race or culture. It means acknowledging and respecting different races”. Every pupil celebrated who they were by creating a collage illustration of themselves in the style of the artist Sinem Erkas.



Having the opportunity to go around to every classroom and view pupil’s work was a pleasure. The atmosphere in each room was wonderful to see. Year 7’s worked attentively, year 8’s showed engagement and excitement, Year 9’s had an edge of competitiveness and worked calmly to create their outcomes, whilst year 10 and 11 pupils proudly showed off their creative talents.

“I think that it was different and it was a way to express how we look” Dante Year 8

“I made my lips big because that’s my features. I added a bun because that’s how I look” Zahara Year 9

“I got the chance to showcase my art skills. I enjoyed expressing myself independently” Kingsley Year 9

“I made the coldest picture, I had a trim” Cameron Year 9

Alongside the pupils, teachers participated in the activity producing some fantastic illustrations of their own. Check out Mr Mahendiranathan and Mrs England’s.



All artwork produced by pupils in the secondary phase will be used collectively to produce a final piece of work. We are proud of our community and the diversity we share among us.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 30th of September we joined people across the nation by hosting a Macmillan coffee morning. Catching up over a cuppa/squash and a slice of something delicious all for a great cause!

There was an amazing display of baking talent, creative staff entered their bakes to be judged. Samples were consumed and the fluffiness, chocolatey goodness were all taken into consideration resulting in the judges giving their final verdict and pronouncing Mrs Day Head of Science as this year's star baker.

Hundreds of tasty treats and cakes were consumed by staff and students which enabled us to raise £355.36

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and contributed to the funds raised.



Secondary News

Computer Science

Year 9 were fortunate enough to have Eugene the creator and founder of Parkopdia visiting over two days. This was an amazing opportunity for pupils to see their subjects in the "real world" and they were so excited to meet an entrepreneur and tech wizard. This was a collaborative project with Business Studies and Computer Science. Eugene created an app called Parkpoedia which allows drivers to find the nearest car park to their destination. It is a smart app which tells the driver whether there is a space available, the route to the car park and the cost. This collaborative project also examined the entrepreneurial risks from a Business Studies point of view as well as from a Computer Science view point with development stages of a software.

Year 8 Pupils have been learning about Computer Systems, how they operate, looking inside the processing units and examining different parts of the computer. We are fortunate to have the old processing units that were removed from our classroom and upgraded, which pupils were able to take apart to see the inside of. They were all fascinated by this and asked many questions about building their own PCs.

Year 11 Pupils have settled in nicely after the summer break and have come back with a positive attitude to learning, they have completed an end of unit test. The following pupils did extremely well, Kavin, Joel, Micah, Moyin and Nivithan. We are currently studying Networks and how to communicate via them, Mr McKay our in-house IT technician has kindly agreed for the pupils to visit the different switch and server room we have on site.



Art Design & Technology

It's been a fabulous start to the year, both year 7 and year 8 pupils have fully engaged in the projects, demonstrating excellence in their creative carousel lessons. Year 7 pupils are looking at Art and Design around the world. They have already explored felt making and created their own fabrics from fibre, they have looked at culinary dishes in China and the Caribbean, explored the work of American abstract artists Lee Krasner and produced their own abstract designs. Year 8 pupils have been studying the topic 'Protest and Cause', they have made their own bioplastic in Design and Technology, looked at the work of street artist JR and pop artist Corita Kent. Developed their skills using the sewing machine through practising quilting in the style of artist NedRa Bonds and stencilling like Banksy. Pupils continue to show enthusiasm, whether through demonstrating different artistic skill or making their own homemade burgers and gyozas. It's been an absolute pleasure to see pupils flourish and demonstrate their talents.

This term year 9 pupils in Art and Textiles have been developing a range of mark making techniques. These skills will be used to produce a live piece of art work. Two of our year 9 classes have gained the opportunity to work alongside local artist Dryden Goodwin. The focus for this project is based on pollution and how this affects us and our community. Both classes have made a wonderful start to their art piece, which will be showcased later on this year.

As always the pupils in St Matthew Academy have made us very proud. The Art Design and Technology team would like to send out a special thank you to our chosen Department Ambassadors, for their support during open evening. Thank you to Tashawna Dunkley, Paris Hanson, Fanta Sheriff, Jade Niles and Jamelia Richards. Well done for actively demonstrating our academy values.



Primary News

Year 4 have settled in well to the new term, which has included some new children joining us over the past few weeks. Mr Bowen and Miss Pollydore have been very impressed by how the children are getting used to their routines, the expectations of year 4 and the maturity they are showing. The children have shown a positive attitude towards learning new and exciting things, so far they have enjoyed group work and showing their acting skills during PSHE.



In science, they have been eager to experiment (safely!) with electricity, figuring out how to fix faulty circuits. The children have also shown enthusiasm in learning about Ancient Egypt even though we haven't had the chance to mummify anything yet! Many adults around the Academy have commented on the generosity that year 4 has shown towards the Harvest collection, in fact we need a second collection box as the first is overflowing with donations!



Year 5 have been very busy making these amazing volcanos as part of their creative, independent task at home!



Year 6 have been drawing and decorating their hands with patterns and images that represent the themes of awareness, belonging and connection.



Last Friday, during our weekly golden time, the Year 3 children enjoyed making fruit salads. Not a kiwi, orange or strawberry was spared!

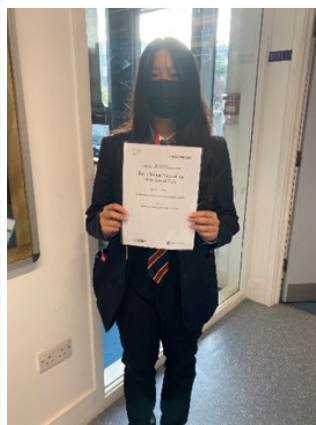


Literacy Corner



National Poetry Day was celebrated in the LRC on 6th October. Pupils in the secondary phase are encouraged to enter the 'Poems for the Planet' competition organised by Greenpeace in conjunction with National Poetry Day. The theme is the Environment. Please see Mrs Fields in the LRC for more information. Closing date is 30th November.

Congratulations to our 12 secondary phase pupils who entered the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2022 in conjunction with The Poetry Society. All pupils spent a lot of their own time and creative energy writing their original piece of poetry for this competition. Results will be known later this term, but in the meantime congratulations to Fatima, Adaeze, Javarn, Edibeth, Fanta, Cassandra, Nana, Sofia, and Seanna and also to those not pictured, Praise, Hillary and Ayomide for their fantastic entries.



A huge range of primary and secondary books continue to be available to borrow in celebration of Black History Month.

We also celebrated the European day of Languages in the LRC on 26th September with our vast range of books in French, Spanish, Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian, Portuguese and many other languages.



Book Reviews and Recommendations

This month, Mrs Fields, the Learning Resource Centre Manager reviewed 'When the sky falls' by Phil Earle for KS3.



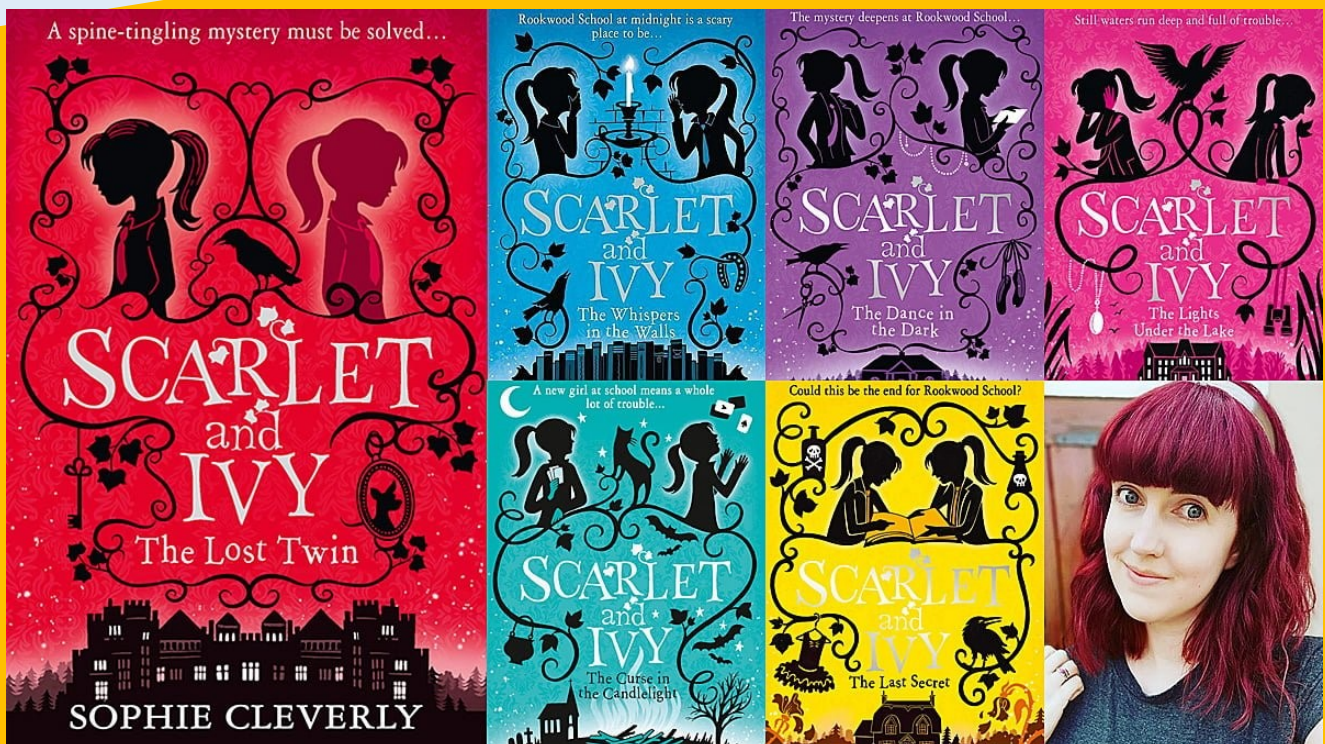
During the Second World War, 12-year-old Joseph is sent to stay with his Gran's friend, Mrs F, in the city. Joseph is a very angry boy and Mrs F is a very unfriendly woman. Joseph feels very alone and upset.

Mrs F runs a rundown zoo in the city. However, the city is at the centre of the Blitz where bombs rain down every night. The story is about an unusual friendship which develops between Joseph and a huge silverback gorilla in the zoo, called Adonis.

Alongside this, Joseph has other battles at school, including being bullied and trouble with his reading.

This is a fascinating story about the Second World War from an entirely different perspective, focusing on what happened to these animals in captivity during war time and of course Joseph's journey of self-discovery.

For KS2, the 'Scarlet and Ivy' series of books by Sophie Cleverly is highly recommended.



When troublemaker Scarlet goes missing from Rookwood School her twin sister, Ivy, is invited to 'take her place' in more ways than one. It's not long before Ivy discovers that secrets are rife and the truth has been concealed.

Ivy is determined to solve the mystery of her sister's disappearance, even if that means going up against the terrifying Miss Fox. Even if that means pretending to be Scarlet for as long as it takes.

House Points Update

Week beginning 10-10-22

Weekly Achievement Points

Teresa: 1251

Mandela: 984

Romero: 1018

Attendance:

Teresa: 15pts

Mandela: 10pts

Romero: 5pts

Overall House Points

1st - **Teresa:** 120

2nd – **Romero:** 100

3rd – **Mandela:** 80

Welcome back SMA houses!

What a fantastic start to the year.

We have already had the Year 11 Pupil Leadership Team get stuck into their new roles; helping with the new Year 7's, Open Evening and doing a fantastic job at lunch time duties.

House council is well under way and our new form reps have enjoyed sharing pupils voices.

Harvest festival collection is starting to build up in the main hall. Which house will donate the most to Lewisham Foodbank?

Planning for the house competitions this year is well under way – keep your eyes peeled and keep letting your light shine!



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during September

Reception - Ladybirds

All Reception children for settling in so well!

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Maya MARGAI

Azziah LYNCH

Ian FARINTO MARTINEZ

Year 2 Bumblebee

Maisie HAMILTON

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Daniella AGBAROLI CLARKE

Year 2 - Butterfly

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

Reuben JARZABEK

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Abiola SAMSON

Deborah OMASOMBO

Samuel BA

Year 4 - Tigers

Elijah JAMES

Chelsea ABEKOUA

Doyinsola FOLASIRE

Year 5 - Lions

Etana LEE

Michaela SEKA

Bella CODREA

Year 6 - Leopards

Abigail JACOME ASQUI

Orane ALLEN

Tristan DANIELS

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...

Ms Walker



Ms Norman-Mercer



Ms Eliot



Staff Stars



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 Laker
Child Protection



Mr Gunningham
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.

GOOD AS NEW

UNIFORM SALE

In this current climate it would be nice to save some money and
at the same time help save the planet!

Before you buy new uniform please email
info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk
we will let you know if we have what you need.

DONATE ITEMS

Blazers, skirts, trousers,
ties, jumpers and PE kits
can be dropped off at the
main reception during
academy open hours

GET INVOLVED

All funds raised will benefit our pupils