

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

The start of a new year is always exciting as it brings with it renewed energy and enthusiasm to achieve our dreams, goals and New Year's resolutions. At school it allows us a time to reflect on our achievements of the first term, and how we can build on our success for the rest of the year.

On January 1st Pope Francis gave a message of hope for peace, compassion and solidarity for 2023. We have been through dark times in recent years, and just as the spring flowers grow from cold dark ground, humanity can also be transformed and emerge anew as stronger and brighter than ever before. Pope Francis says, "the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realisation that we all need one another." The pandemic led us to a "renewed sense of solidarity that has made us more sensitive to the suffering of others and more responsive to their needs".

Here at St Matthew Academy we are empowering our pupils to let their light shine, and to help others near and far through their good works. Currently pupils are choosing which charities they would like to raise money and awareness for, and sharing fundraising ideas ready in time to action for Lent. We are leading the next generation to realise their power and strength as a collective, to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. Together we can work day by day to make this a great year.

Ms V Dunne
Assistant Headteacher



Prayer and Reflection

On Sunday's Gospel we heard of the baptism of Jesus by John. (Matthew 3:13-17) This is a remarkable event, through which we see all three persons of the Holy Trinity all at the same time, the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending and the Father speaking. It is a significant event because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. Jesus was already perfect in his existence because he was part of the Trinity yet he chose to have John baptise him to fulfil all righteousness and make himself ready to be sacrificed on the cross. Baptism in our Catholic faith is a Sacrament and it is part of our initiation into God's family where we are called to lead a life for Christ. It is the washing away of our original sin, the hereditary stain with which we are born, as a consequence of being a descendant of Adam. As we reflect on Christ's baptism we are reminded of our own baptism where we were welcomed into the Church and came into communion with Jesus who overcame death. Baptism enables us to become part of God's family and share in the eternal life with him beyond our death.

Dear Lord, We thank you for your love, that we have become sons and daughters of a heavenly Father. We pray for those who have been baptised today in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May they walk forward, cleansed of sin, embraced and loved by the Father. May they follow the leading of the Lord Jesus Christ, guiding their paths. And may they be full of the Holy Spirit, flowing with love and grace, drinking in the truth of God and pouring out your hope and redemption into a broken world.
Amen.



Primary News

Dragonfly Year 1

The children have had a tremendous autumn term filled with a wealth of experiences and learning.

In phonics, all of the children have improved in blending their words. This has given them a surge in confidence in reading which is wonderful to see. The children challenged themselves by writing their first independent piece about imaginary planet and aliens. The wealth of imagination in the classroom led to coco pop planets and slimy rainbow aliens.

In maths, pupils have been using mathematical symbols and applying these using a plethora of different concrete and pictorial aids to support their learning.

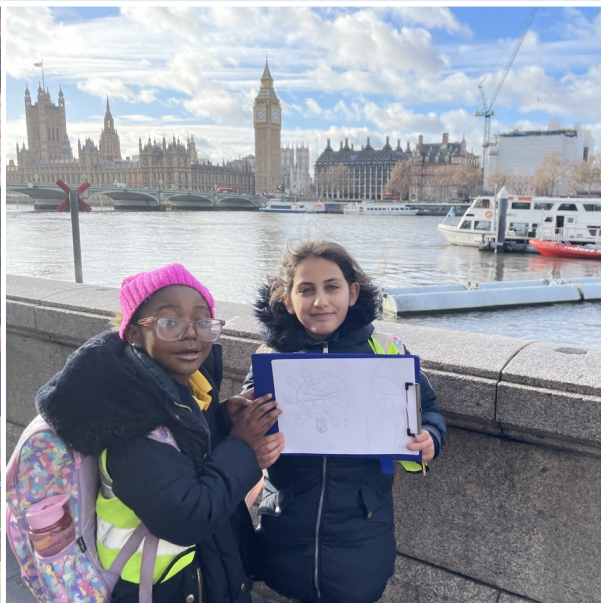
The children also investigated what materials would fix a broken umbrella in Science and they learnt about Emmeline Pankhurst and Queen Elizabeth II. The children most memorably learnt about Mary, Our Mother and the Nativity story.



This led onto one of our favourite events of the festive season, the Nativity performances!! Key Stage 1 had a wonderful time, they sang the songs beautifully, wowing parents with some Oscar worthy performances and their projection was so brilliant I am sure all of Secondary heard them.

Reflecting on the last few weeks of 2022 with the pupils, I think what stands out is how happy the children were. Some of them saw snow for the first time and they all got to speak to Santa in our school Library.

Already, we have had a great start to 2023 with a trip to Southbank with Year 5! Children walked along the Southbank drawing the landscapes, plotting the bridges and learning key facts about each bridge. The Children were in awe of the London Eye as we sat and ate our lunch surrounded by ravenous pigeons. We cannot wait to see what the rest of year has in store for Dragonfly class.





Literacy Corner



Primary Book Reviews

Alleyan, Deneise and Joyce from Year 6 reviewed 'Shadow Forest' by Matt Haig for KS2.



'Shadow Forest' is about a boy named Samuel Blink. He and his sister, Martha, are in the back of their parents car but something bad is about to happen..... a giant log is about to fall from the sky and everything is going to change. We recommend this book because it is interesting to read and if you like suspense, mystery and adventure you would like this book. We gave this book 5 stars.

Our three year 6 book reviewers read and reviewed three books by the author Julia Donaldson.



Alleyan read 'The Paper Dolls'. This book is about a little girl who had five paper dolls called Ticky and Tacky, Jackie the Backie, Jim with two noses and Jo with a bow. They go on an adventure through the house coming up against the jaws of a crocodile and the clutches of a toy dinosaur. Then a boy came and snipped the paper dolls..... This book is very cute and wholesome and I recommend this book to those over 6 years old. I gave this book 5 stars.

Deneise read 'Sharing a Shell'. This book is about a crab with no shell who is running along in the sea when he finds a new shiny shell but he doesn't want to share it. I would recommend this book because if a young child was reading it they would understand the meaning of sharing. This book is suitable for children over the age of 4 and I gave it 5 stars.

Joyce read 'What the Ladybird heard'. This book is about a ladybird who never speaks but when she does she exposes a thief's scheme. I would recommend this to children over the age of 3 who like rhymes and I gave the book 4 stars.

Secondary Book Reviews

Nana, Liesel and Sienna-Rose from Year 8 reviewed 'Fake' by Ele Fountain.



I've read quite a few books from Ele Fountain before and they were all very pleasant to read and engaging. Just like my previous experience with Fountain's books. 'Fake' was not an exception. This book was captivating, daring and fast-paced.

Jess has lived fourteen years of her life in a virtual world, with virtual learning, extra fast drone deliveries whenever you ordered something online and virtual friends. Apart from Finn, a boy that she has known her whole life, even though it was prohibited to socialise with other people outside your household ever since the antibiotics ran out. Anyway, Jess has never left her mum, dad and sick sister, Chloe, behind. Now that Jess has turned fourteen, she's allowed to go to a real school with real people and teachers and in an actual classroom! She knows that she'll miss her mum and dad and Finn, but especially Chloe.

Once at school, Jess makes friends, does well in lessons and even enters a music competition. Chaos strikes when it seems that Jess's family cannot afford the online currency used to buy medicine for their sick daughter and it is up to Jess and her hidden secret to help. But one night, Jess makes a mistake and leaves a trace in her hurry to get out of the website; a mistake that messes up everything for her family, especially for Chloe. Will Jess be able to undo what she's created?

This book was an amazing book to read and I loved how well written each character was. The premise of mostly all things being online, linking with the oppressive business that created this dystopian view on the world, even going further with hackers and people who don't agree with this new technological world, really wraps this story up nicely. This book really covers points on poverty, illness and trust, not knowing who people are due to the online persona that they mask themselves with.

Overall we gave this book 5 stars!

In Other News.....

Well done to Alex in Year 9 who was our Sora Superstar for November. Don't forget to check out the latest new ebooks and audio books on Sora each month.

New Year, New Ideas. Would you like to take up a new hobby? Take a look at this selection of books for some inspiration for our primary and secondary phases.



Secondary News

Year 8 Pizza and Cookie Lunch

Thursday 14th January was year 8's turn to be invited to a Pizza and Cookie reward lunch hosted by Mrs Guest and Ms Baldwin. Pupils were nominated by their form tutors for displaying one of SMA's values, integrity, courage or service. A selection of pizzas were served to the well deserving pupils finished off with a delicious cookie, a wonderful time was had by all.

MFL Theatre Production

Language Films and Theatre visited SMA to perform "La Maison Hantée" in French for our year 8 pupils. It was a very exciting afternoon, with the roars of laughter being heard from all around the Academy.



INTEGRITY



COURAGE



SERVICE



House Points Update

Week beginning 16/1/23

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 11868
2nd – Mandela: 10095
3rd – Romero: 10100

Attendance:

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

Overall House Points

1st – Teresa: 205
2nd – Mandela: 195
3rd – Romero: 180

It's the lead up to a very busy period in SMA and a crucial half term!

Head of Houses have been leading assemblies with the key theme of 'Peace' - ***"Your body and mind will work best and find fullest expression only when you are joyful and peaceful."***

The Heads of Houses have asked all pupils to donate their unwanted clothes throughout the months of January and February. Organise your wardrobes and drawers and find some items that you no longer wear that someone else can make use of.

House Table Tennis Tournaments are coming up, who will be the Key Stage 3 Champion?



SMA'S Charity

We are collecting clothes 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/Primary Hall for your House.
The House that collects the most clothes will get the most House Points.



Thanks for your support

Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during December

Reception - Ladybirds

Ambar MURILLO HERERRA

Jeremiah LEE

Wilfred REYES OTANO

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Brianna BOAMAH

Khaleb FRANCIS

Zoey HE

Year 2 Bumblebee

Aaron NAGERA GARCIA

Ianna WRIGHT

Alan DOAN

Year 2 - Butterfly

Hermione BLUNDEN-HARRY

Michael AKINNUSI

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Mila ONOBRAUCHE

Abiola SAMSON

Deborah OMASOMBO

Year 4 - Tigers

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Doyinsola FOLASIRE

Aiden THOMAS-SALBURG

Year 5 - Lions

Michaela SEKA

Helena GIANNONE

Etana LEE

Year 6 - Leopards

Renee GENAS-MCVYTIE

Abigail JACOME ASQUI

Id TAYLOR-BAILEY

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Introducing our staff stars nominated by their colleagues...



Mr Maia

Mr Maia was nominated for “keeping the Academy open and for all the hard work and effort he continuously puts in.”



Mr Simmons

Mr Simmons was nominated for being “professional, hardworking, kind, considerate, and a great communicator to our external business partnerships.”



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.

We are hiring!

REPROGRAPHICS ASSISTANT

PLEASE CONTACT MS JONES AT THE
ACADEMY FOR MORE INFORMATION

Our school motto is 'let your light shine' and we ensure that we live this vision every day

