

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Digging out the school jumper or tie from under the bed. Preparing a pack lunch. Checking down the back of the sofa for the homework diary. Its back to school for most of us this week after a long, dark winter. It's only natural that our minds are going to be awash with different thoughts and feelings. Excitement. Trepidation. Relief. Every single person, be it a pupil, teacher or member of support staff, will be coming back into school with different experiences, stories and feelings about lockdown and their return to school. A return that, hopefully, marks the beginning of the road map out of a strange, unprecedented time, but also the start of a period of reflection, restoration and recovery.

One important thing to remember as we see faces of our friends, some for the first time since December, is that we never truly know what is going behind someone's eyes. Just like choosing that ideal selfie for a profile picture, we want to portray a happy, aspirational story to the world around us despite the feelings that are actually experiencing during uncertain times. A good motto as you enter back into the classroom again this week is to remember to **BE KIND**. An appreciation and understanding that we don't know what the difference between the real story and the one that someone is choosing to show us. Enter each social interaction (with pupils and staff) with an open heart and mind and show the school community that whilst we might not always know or understand but we can show empathy and kindness to support one another.

Perhaps even more importantly, be kind to yourselves. Don't push yourself or dwell on thoughts and circumstances that are out of your control. Ease yourself back into the routine of school and working life. Just like a footballer recovering from an injury, you can't expect to be at the same pace and skill that you were at the start of the season. Build up your muscle memory, hone those skills and give yourself a break (physically and emotionally) if you don't get it right first time.

Mr Henson

Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection



A prayer for International Women's Day which took place on Monday 8th March

Loving God, we pray for women and girls, especially those who struggle just to survive. Inspire us to speak and work for equality and justice, so that each person is able to fulfil their potential.

Amen.

A prayer from the CAFOD Lent Calendar

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March

Each month the Pope asks us to pray for a particular intention.

In March we pray with Pope Francis that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with respect and reverence, as an experience of the infinite mercy of God.

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

– Pope Francis

World Book Day at SMA

We went BOOK mad at SMA. We spent the first week of March celebrating World Book Day.

Primary Phase

Children in school and those working from home enjoyed a day of immersive activities designed to promote a love of stories and the themes within them. The day began with an improvised performance of Little Red Riding Wolf.



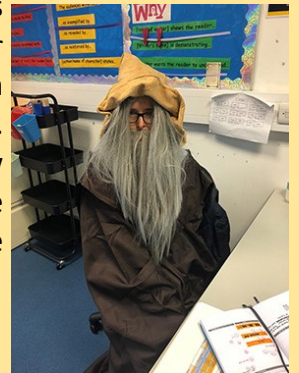
Children spent a large part of the morning creating chocolate boxes and sweets to tie in with the theme of Roald Dahl, focusing on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This was a great opportunity for children to really enjoy learning about the story. Children at home and in school were also treated to a performance of The Wizard of Oz by the Hobgoblin Theatre Company and a writing workshop from Gareth P. Jones. Another highlight of the day was the Zoom call we had with the author Samantha Baines. The day was topped off with Charlie's Golden Ticket Treasure Hunt! Children followed clues all around the building and playground to complete the hunt in the Main Hall where a coven of cackling witches were waiting to congratulate them!



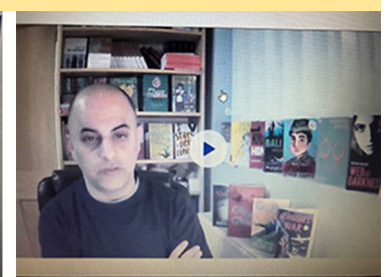
Secondary phase

All pupils took part in reading-related house competitions, to win points for their house. Activities including a daily 'Guess the Book' challenge in which tutor groups had to battle it out to work out the title of a book, just by seeing one quote. It was a tough battle with Romero and Mandela tying the week overall.

On World Book Day itself, pupils and staff (albeit from home!) were able to dress up as a character from their favourite book, with Ms Purslow unrecognisable in her costume as Gandalf from Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings'. There were definitely a few perplexed faces when she popped up on camera in her live lessons dressed like that!



Pupils all attended a virtual DEAR (drop everything and read) session with their tutors in the afternoon of World Book Day itself, and were lucky enough to get to hear from Bali Rai, acclaimed author, who is coming to SMA on 17th March to deliver some reading and writing workshops to pupils. He left us a personal message sharing his journey of how he became an author, why is he promoting more diversity in children's' fiction and why reading is so important for everyone's development. Pupils then got to read some excerpts from his best-selling novels, including the football series 'Dream On' and 'Game On.' We can't wait to meet him in person soon!



Spotlight on EYFS and Key Stage One

National Science Week

Early Years have really enjoyed their Science Week. We have been piercing water balloons without spilling anything.

Year One have been planting beans for science week. They have been thinking carefully about what plants need to grow and they will record how tall each bean grows in their own bean diaries.



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed Science Week. We have been innovative planning, designing and building our very own Robo-Bugs. We had to learn about different mini-beasts and how they have adapted to their environments. We then used what we had learnt to design our Search and Rescue Robo-Bugs, giving them strong legs to travel over uneven ground, infra-red eyesight to spot dangers and strong wings.

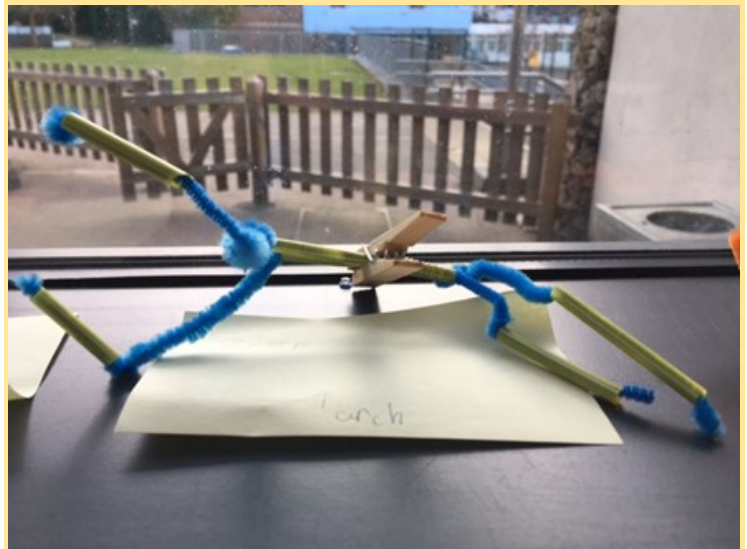


PSHE

As part of their PSHE learning pupils have been thinking carefully about what makes a good friend. They made friendship posters and included the different qualities they thought made a good friend including generosity and kindness. We also decided to create a recipe for a good friend.



We have also been thinking about Superheroes and how each of us has come back to school with superhero qualities.



Spotlight on Key Stage Two

National Science Week

Our Year 3 children have kick-started their Science Week with a series of investigations about plants. They have been examining different parts of flowers and planning an experiment to test what plants need to grow.



Our Year 5 children have participated in science week by creating spectroscopes and took part in a question and answer session with Mark Richards, an atmospheric physicist and a senior teaching fellow at Imperial College London.



International Women's Day

On Monday 8th March was International Women's Day and Year 6 wanted to really celebrate in style this year. Not only did they create their own inclusivity t-shirts to promote equal rights but the Year 5 and 6 girls were also treated to a special Q&A session with Headteacher, Ms Baldwin. Not wanting to be left out of the celebrations, the Y6 boys created their own homage to strong, independent women in their lives by creating a special music video to 'Independent Women – Part 1' by Destiny's Child.



Spotlight on Key Stage 3 & 4

Welcome back Year 7!

It has been a very long lockdown and we all miss not being able to see our pupils face to face. Luckily, it is about to change! I, for one, cannot wait until the 9th March, when I can finally say “welcome back” to our year 7 pupils.

The whole year group have been busy during the past two months. Writing poems, making cakes, designing castles and breaking records on Hegarty Maths.

We have discovered talent we never thought possible at this young age. We have - all fingers crossed - future Great British Bake Off winners, poetry Nobel Prize contenders and Golden medallists in an Olympic walking race. However, most of all, we have discovered that with each other's support and encouragement we can be the best versions of ourselves and do it all with big smiles on our faces. I am proud to say we let our light shine!



Year 7 English work on Identity & Belonging.

Year 7 pupils have recently started a new unit in their English lessons called ‘Identity and Belonging’. The English teachers have introduced this new unit and have planned lessons that reflect the work that staff at St Matthew Academy have been undertaking based around equality and diversity in our communities.

Pupils in Year 7 have enjoyed the unit so far and have had the opportunity to explore aspects of identity and belonging through history and real life experiences. In the first week, we looked at the journey of the Empire Windrush and the Windrush scandal, which took place a few years ago.

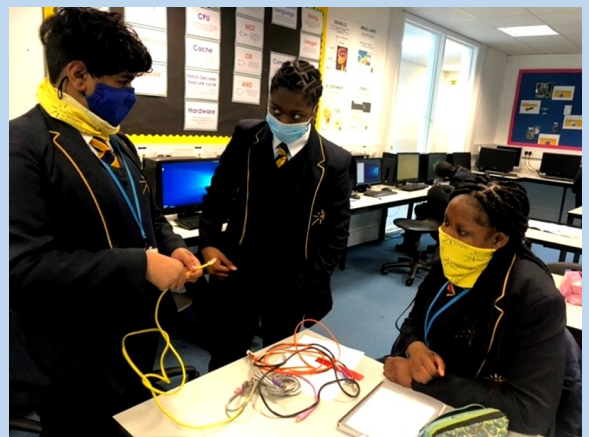
There has been some fantastic work produced by many pupils in the Year group, from written poetry to voice recordings and raps.

You can also listen to Manuella's poem and Sophia, Alex and Marin's rap on our Twitter page.

Computer Science Year 9

This half term years 9s will be looking at Networks and how we stay connected using Network. In this lesson, we looked at how Network cables are used to join individual nodes together to form LANs. Pupils examined practically the construction, advantages and disadvantages of ethernet cables, CAT-5 or CAT-6 and fibre optic cables.

Pupils in Year 9 exploring and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of Ethernet cables.



Year 10 RE

Pupils in Year 10 are currently learning about celebrations and commemorations in Islam. A particular commemoration is The Day of Ashura. Shi'a Muslims remember the death of Husayn, son of Imam Ali and grandson of Muhammad. In many Muslim countries like Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, a public holiday takes place to remember the event at Karbala. During the day Shi'a Muslims take part in a public expression of grief and mourning. Pupils in 10.3 found it fascinating that some Muslims go as far as to beat themselves on the back with chains, pound their head or cut themselves. They do this in an attempt to connect with Husayn's suffering and death. However some religious leaders/authorities have condemned these actions and have encouraged Muslims to donate blood instead. This new found learning certainly made the pupils sit up and take note!



House News

Step Competition

Well done to the students and staff who managed to do at least 5000 steps per day last week!

Topping the leader board, we have:

- Victor (Year 7)
- Sam (Year 7)
- Elijah (Year 7)
- Hanako (Year 8)
- Ricardo (Year 11)

Let's keep it up! Please make sure you've asked someone to sponsor you by donating to our just-giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmatthewacademy>

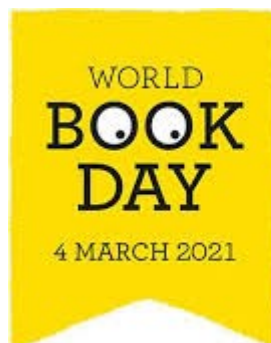
Overall

1. Teresa **841** pts
2. Romero **798** pts
3. Mandela **601** pts

Thank you to all of you who entered our World Book Day competitions. We are still reviewing entries into the competition and points will be awarded next week! We've seen some great entries so far.

Please do get involved with our International Women's Day activities this week and we are all looking forward to seeing you back in school!

10,000
steps a day
every day for 40 days



World Book Day:

We had a marvellous time celebrating World Book Day last week. Students got involved with a variety of activities, including:

Designing their own book covers, writing a rap or poem about their favourite book, drawing their favourite book characters and promoting their favourite books with posters, videos or trailers.

Here is an example from Carolina in Year 7, who redesigned the book cover for the book "Refugee"

#WorldBookDay



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Tips for Parents and Caregivers on the return to school

The Mental Health Foundation has some excellent tips, resources and links for parents and caregivers to use in supporting their children's mental health. The 'Time for Us' pack can be downloaded free from their website, just click on the image below.

The activities contained in the pack are designed to start some of those more difficult conversations and to help you:

- Understand more about how different people are feeling
- Understand how each individual copes best
- Think about how you can support each other in managing some of the stresses you may all be facing

The activities have been drawn from a pack called StressLESS, which was created by the Families, Children and Young People team in Scotland. The activities are intended to be led by an adult and have been tested for use with young people aged 11-17. You can still use these activities with younger children, you may just need to explain or change some of the activities slightly to make it easier for them to understand. The activities can be used with just one person, or as a bigger group.



Time for Us
Activities to get adults and children talking about their feelings

Individuali-tree

CHILLS ME OUT!
ENERGISES ME!
CHECK ME OUT!

STRESSÉS

Free, safe and anonymous online counselling and support

"I don't think I could've spoken to someone face-to-face."

Chat to our friendly counsellors

Read articles written by young people

Join live moderated forums

kooth
www.kooth.com

Maths: Hegarty Stars



St Matthew Academy Hegarty Maths Performance Monday 4th January - Sunday 7th March 2021



Top 5 Hegarty Users in SMA		
Name	Year	Number of hours on hegarty
Haneen ALDIBS	7	40.1
Karen BARON BECERRA	11	36.3
Isha HARRIS	7	34
Moyin SOLAJA	9	33.4
Mollie FORREST	11	32.5

Top 5 MEMRI Classes in SMA		
Name	Year	Number of hours on Memri
11.2/Ma	11	60.7
11.4/Ma	11	56
7.1/Ma	7	53.6
7.3/Ma	7	52.9
11.3/Ma	11	52.7

Top Hegarty User in Year 7 SMA	
Name	Number of hours on hegarty
Haneen ALDIBS	40.1

Top Hegarty User in Year 8 SMA	
Name	Number of hours on hegarty
Huray TESFAY	28.9

Top Hegarty User in Year 9 SMA	
Name	Number of hours on hegarty
Moyin SOLAJA	33.3

Top Hegarty User in Year 10 SMA	
Name	Number of hours on hegarty
Einas HOVEIZI	27.1

Top Hegarty User in Year 11 SMA	
Name	Number of hours on hegarty
Karen BARON BECERRA	36.3

Average hours per student during lockdown:
10.6

SMA - 1ST PLACE!

SMA is rank 1st across all hegarty schools - with the highest average hours per pupil during the whole of lockdown!! Well done SMA :)

Fundraising during Lent



Lent 40 Day Challenge
Wednesday 17th of February – Saturday 3rd of April

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Walk for Water is the only Lent challenge you need: 5,000 steps a day - done your way. Every day. For 40 days. Go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty.

We are challenging the SMA community to rise to the challenge, get outside and support CAFOD to bring clean water to communities around the world.

You don't have to get tied in a knot about how to do it: whether you hop it; skip it; slide it; run it; jump it; dance it; stamp it; stomp it. It doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it.



Weekly House Points

For all who reach the goal of 5,000 steps each day (50 CountIt Points)

40 Day Challenge

At the end of the challenge, we will also be rewarding the biggest steppers in each year group!

- 1st Place - 50 House points
- 2nd Place - 40 House points
- 3rd Place - 30 House points
- 4th Place - 20 House Points
- 5th Place - 10 House Points

Step 1



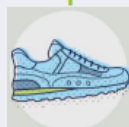
Ask your family and friends to sponsor you via the SMA JustGiving Page

Step 2



Get outside and share your progress on your House Google Classroom!

Step 3



Link your fitness tracker to your Year Group CountIt Leader board

Catholic World News

Vatican cardinal to Catholics: This year's Good Friday collection vital for Holy Land Christians



Christians will struggle to remain in the Holy Land without financial help from Catholics worldwide on Good Friday, a Vatican cardinal said on Thursday.

In a letter issued March 11, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri explained that this year's global collection was critical for Christians struggling to stay afloat amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"If this small gesture of solidarity and sharing ... fails, it will be even more difficult for many of them to resist the temptation to leave their country, more demanding to support the parishes in their pastoral and educational work, and harder to sustain the social commitment to the poor and suffering," he wrote.

"The sufferings of the many displaced people and refugees who have had to leave because of war call for an outstretched helping hand to pour the balm of consolation on their wounds."

"We must not give up on taking care of the Holy Places that are concrete proof of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God, and the offering of His life for us and for our salvation."

The letter was dated Good Friday 2021, which falls on April 2, and signed by Sandri and Archbishop Giorgio Demetrio Gallaro, respectively the prefect and secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

The Holy See has overseen the Church's annual collection for the Holy Land since 1974, when Pope Paul VI established Good Friday as the day for it to be taken up by parishes and bishops around the world.

The collection is traditionally split, with 65% going to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which has maintained the Holy Places of Christianity in the region for more than 800 years.

The remaining 35% is given to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches to support seminarians and priests, as well as educational and cultural activities.

Alongside the letter, the Vatican issued a detailed [breakdown](#) of how the proceeds of the annual collection helped Holy Land Christians in 2019-2020.

The Congregation received \$7.2 million from the Holy Land collection in 2019, funding educational institutions such as the Pontifical Oriental Institute and Bethlehem University, which has almost 3,300 students, as well as the schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Some \$2.5 million was paid in subsidies to the local Church in countries such as Syria and Lebanon, while \$567,000 financed 303 projects in 24 countries related to the coronavirus crisis.

Sandri described 2020 as "a year of trials" for the Christian minority in the Middle East.

"In 2020, the Christians of those lands suffered an isolation that made them feel even more distant, cut off from vital contact with the brethren from various countries of the world," he said.

"They suffered the loss of work, due to the absence of pilgrims, and the consequent difficulty in living with dignity and providing for their families and children. In many countries, the persistence of war and sanctions compounded the effects of the pandemic.

From the Catholic News Agency

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

Thursday 3 September 2020 to Friday 23 October 2020

Half Term: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020

Monday 2 November 2020 to Friday 18 December 2020

Spring Term

Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021

Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

Summer Term

Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021

Inset Days – Pupils do not attend school on these days.

Thursday 3 September 2020 , Friday 27 November 2020, Monday 4 January 2021

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

Tel: 020 8853 6250

Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk