

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

This morning my chain came off on the way to work. After spending a long time trying to fix it, I gave up in frustration and ended up pushing my bicycle to school. As I walked and my bad temper lifted, I became aware of just how beautiful the morning was. The sky was clear, there were snowdrops appearing in gardens and the birdsong was intense. Difficult to remain in a bad mood when surrounded by the beauty and the wonder of nature. Spring is in the air – everywhere there is an energy as nature wakes from a long winter sleep and new life is richly apparent. A new beginning.

On Monday, the Prime Minister made the announcement that pupils will return to school on the 8th March. Naturally, this milestone will have to be planned carefully and we must still observe all the advice we are given for a safe restart but at the same time, we should approach this new beginning with the same energy and optimism as the natural world in springtime. It is as if we are all waking from our winter sleep, with so much to look forward to and so much to be excited about. This is our chance to see our teachers and friends again – in real life! To pick up where we left off at Christmas with a renewed sense of purpose and to hopefully leave behind our frustrations and sadness.

Everyone here at SMA is looking forward to the safe return of all our pupils. We are all determined to make the restart momentous for everyone.

And now, to fix my bike.

Ian Gunningham

Assistant Headteacher

Prayer and Reflection

Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love

Pope Francis in his message for Lent 12.02.21 said

“Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us - as communities and as individuals - to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.”

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November 2020, the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours Francis

For Pope Francis’s full message click [here](#)



Whole Academy News

Celebrating the start of Lent

The season of Lent this year began in the February half-term and so we decided to mark the beginning with a special Liturgy. Our pupils in both the primary and secondary key worker provision led the liturgy which was recorded and shared with all pupils across the Academy during form time. Pupils in Year 2 and 3 sung the hymn 'Be Still and Know that I am God' beautifully at the beginning. Pupils had the opportunity to share their Lenten promises in a Mentimeter as we adapted our liturgy to take place remotely and we were all reminded that Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and showing kindness to others through our good work. During this time we grow in love of God and others.

As a school we will be raising money for CAFOD's Walk for Water Campaign and the Catholic Children's Society this Lent. For more details about this and how you can support our fundraising please see our House and Charity pages.



Appointment of new Attendance Officer

My name is Ann-Marie Dryden and I am the new Attendance Officer at St Matthew Academy. For the last 17 years I have been working in close partnership with parents and families in both Southwark and Westminster. I have worked as a Parent Support Worker in primary schools, a Secondary Transition Co-ordinator and in the Inclusion Education Service. I enjoy working with young people and their families and look forward to getting to know more of the pupils at St Matthew Academy as they return to school.

We have high expectations in terms of attendance and would like to see all children achieve at least 97% attendance. Any absence or lateness will affect your child's learning. However, if your child is unwell, please contact the school on the first day of absence.

Let's make a good start when return back to school on Monday 8th March 2021. I really look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone in the school community.

Thank you for your continued support

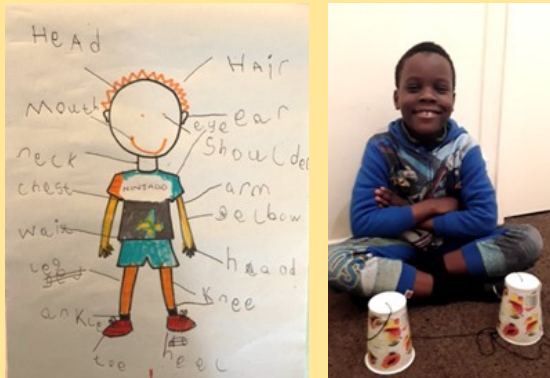
Ms Dryden



Spotlight on EYFS and Key Stage 1

Year 1 Carry out a Science Investigation

Year 1 pupils have recently been investigating the senses. They thoroughly enjoyed making telephones to investigate how sound travels. They have also been identifying and naming the parts of the human body.



Year 1 become Chefs!

On our exciting PSHE day Year 1 had lots of fun cooking



Engineering in Reception

The highlight of last term's learning in EYFS has been a special STEM project focused on creating houses for mice, inspired by a contemporary BAME story "Mouse in the House". The children began their projects by designing their own blueprints of 2D rooms and building around them 3D walls. Children had to measure the lengths and heights of the walls to fit in their mice. Having had a lot of fun, engineering their structures, the children had a go at telling and writing their own stories about their characters and their adventures in the new houses.



SNOW

In their free time children played in the snow!



Screen Free Day Fun!

EYFS and KS1 children enjoyed their Screen Free Day, engaging in some lovely activities from making pancakes, burgers and chicken stir-fries; power walking, tree climbing and exercising in the park; investigating lava lamps and the deepest layers of oceans; drawing, painting and creating art inspired by famous artists.



Spotlight on Key Stage 2

In year 2, the children have been practising their writing. Here are some of our amazing examples. They have taken inspiration from the book 'Lila and the Secret of Rain.

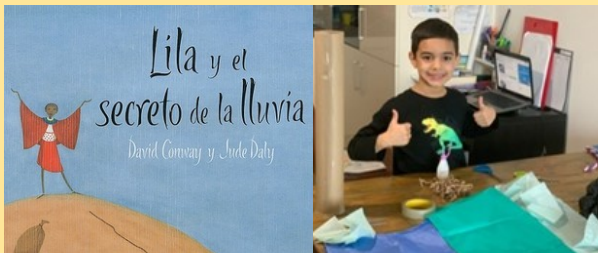
"Without warning, a zap of lightning furiously ripped across the sky and a booming crumble of thunder echoed around the mountain. Suddenly, Lila heard a soft pitter patter of rain, she so longed to see, came."

"Unexpectedly, a flash of lightning ripped up across the sky and an extremely loud roar of thunder ring around the mountain. It was then that Lila heard the silent drip drop of tender rain."

"Unexpectedly, a sizzling strike of lightning ripped across the sky and a very loud clap of thunder rattled down the mountain. It was then, Lila heard subtle drip, drop of soft rain tip top on the ground around and all over her."

They have also been making rain sticks to help Lila out.

Year 3 have also been enjoying their home learning and have produced some fantastic reading work lately. Children are really enjoying their weekly tests and seeing how well they have retained their knowledge and their progress, despite the lockdown has been superb. The key worker children from Year 3 have also been making lots of progress and have particularly enjoyed their recent art projects around portraits and collage.

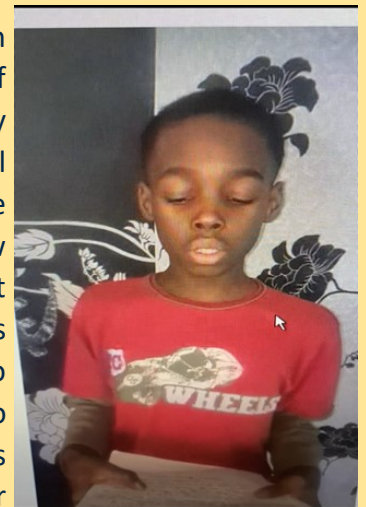


Primary pupils have been extremely busy, both in and out of school in the last three weeks. From surprise visitors at home to continued focused learning in the classroom and the odd snowball fight in-between, it has been an extremely busy period.

Louise, in Year 4 really excelled during our recent PSHE day, making her own healthy snack of homemade chips and sweetcorn. Children had to come up with their own healthy recipe to help their learning around healthy lifestyles! Children from across the academy came up with a whole range of ideas and shared them on our online learning platform so that others could copy their ideas. Staff even got involved to bring their own healthy recipes to life including Mr. Henson's famous pasta dish and Miss. Roostan's delicious looking home made garlic bread.



In Year 6, children concluded their RE unit of work with a special activity to understand penitential acts. Children had to write poems to reflect on how important it is to put right out mistakes and how this not only helps people who we may have upset to begin with, but also helps us to move on from our mistakes as well. These poems were collected and shared with residents of the local nursing home. We clearly have some very talented poets!



Screen Free Day Year 7

My thoughts after my meditation

- I am thankful for my family and how all 5 of us were close and still in contact, I wouldn't be able to go through lockdown without my family, we all have a great bond.
- I'm looking forward to going back to school and seeing all my friends and teachers face-to-face.
- I want to normalise seeing my grandma in Africa, in my 12 years, I have only seen my grandma twice.



1. Where did you grow up?
Richmond (now) Harare Zimbabwe.

2. What was your favourite thing about growing up there?
Being able to roam freely in the upland bush land.

3. Tell me about your secondary school.
It is a private, catholic school. There from 1979 to 1989.

4. Which were your favourite and least favourite teachers and why?
My favourite Mr. Ryan (English teacher) and Mrs. McCarty (Maths). My least favourite Mrs. Ryan (English teacher) and Mrs. McCarty (Maths).

5. What were your favourite subjects?
Maths, Geography and Biology.

6. What were your hobbies as a young person?
Stamp Collecting (Philately).

7. Tell me about your best friend when you were 12.
I did not have a best friend. I had lots of friends. I hung out with some of my friends and with most of the time I did things with my brother. We went to a different school where the other teachers were called for and encouraged.

8. If you could go back in time, how would you give yourself a message?
To increase in number of people and the speed of modern day times.

9. What has changed the most since you were 12?
The increase in number of people and the speed of modern day times.

10. What are you most proud of?
My children and grand children.

11. Would you, as a child, have liked lockdown?
No. Absolutely Not!!!

12. Did you get on with your teachers?
When we were young most of the time. Now we are adults all the time.

“What has changed since you were my age?”

Many things: I've learnt and studied a lot, I have to pay a lot more bills, I have children and I'm no longer young; though I still like to challenge myself.

“Tell me about your secondary school.”

It is located by my street (where I used to live), it was 1 story building that had very big fields. The uniform was blue and checkered with an optional shoe choice. It has a large library with over 500 books. If you came late your punishment was to cut the grass off the large field with a cutlass. There were also around 30 children in each class.



Interviewed by: Ngozi Maduka

Client: Beatrice Maduka – Ngozi Maduka

1. What's your job role? Auditing
2. What inspired you to do this? Figures, Math's, Numbers
3. If you would go back in time to tell your younger self something what would it be?
 Eat lots of Food
4. What are you most proud of? Daughter, Good and is loving and kind. Good in s
5. What's your style? Formal
6. How was secondary? Got A*s, didn't get in trouble
7. What are your hobbies? Cook and sleep
8. What's your favorite colour? Sky blue
9. What language do you want to learn? German
10. Which country do you want to visit? Germany
11. What countries have u gone? Nigeria, Germany, Italy, Netherlands.
12. How many siblings do you have? 10
13. What do you like to cook? Spicy food



MY Bucket list

- Go down every ramp at a skate park.
- Go on a rollercoaster with a loop on it.
- Persuade My parents to get a dog.
- Build a treehouse.
- Invent a new drink with a friend.
- Go paint-balling
- Learn different rope knots.
- Learn more Magic tricks
- Become a top 1,000 player in rocket league

The Moon news

A trip down memory lane special...

By Kobe Graham
 A trip down memory lane...
 Interviewing Amy Matthews

Today I am interviewing Amy Matthews about her school life when she was younger.

Tell me about your secondary school

I went to two secondary schools, the first one was "The Grove" located in Harare, East Sussex. Most of my friends from primary went there. It was a cool school and had lots of sporting opportunities. But in year 8 my Mum wanted to move closer to her Mum and Dad so I had to move school. It was called Hailsham Community College. She liked it there and made lots of friends. My Dad also went to that school too.

I enjoyed cross country running, gymnastics, swimming, horse-riding, athletics and netball. And hanging out with my friends!

Who was your best friend?

My best friend at my first school was a girl called Clare. After moving to my new school, we still kept in touch but I also made new friends. My best friend from HCC is still one of my best friends today, Kathy.

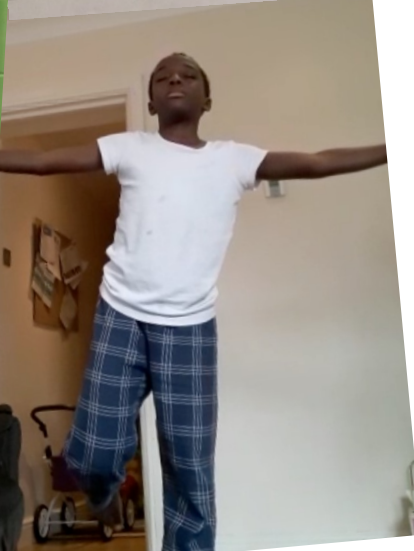
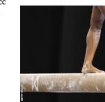
(Shout out to Clare and Kathy!)

If you could go back in time to when you were my age what advice would you give to yourself?

School is the best time in your life enjoy it, work hard and don't wish for it to be over. School years are honestly the best years of your life, especially secondary school!

What has changed the most since you were my age?

Freedom and technology. I used to spend my whole day out of the house



Spotlight on Key Stage 4

Year 11 study Medicine Through Time

Year 11 are currently looking at developments in health and medicine over time which is rather apt given the current pandemic we are living through; they have been able to use their own experiences to better understand how new ideas are often met with scepticism or opposition; this has helped them to better understand why disease spreads through human actions, why Edward Jenner was mocked when he first introduced vaccination or why there was little attempt to address public health until the start of the 20th century. We have ensured that we look at the diversity of those who have contributed to the development of medicine over time and they have showed an appreciation of medical heroes such as Louis Pasteur, Mary Seacole, the ideas we took from the Muslim world and the pioneering work of Marie Curie.

Year Study the Twentieth Century

Year 9 have been studying events of the 20th century; pupils have looked extensively at the experiences of the soldiers who fought in the trenches of World War One. As part of their work they were asked to research and tell the story of a soldier from the trenches; the pupils produced some very revealing and personal stories which are shown here. They also wrote letters as if they were soldiers who had been posted to the Western Front and showed great awareness of both the physical and psychological conditions the soldiers experienced.

Thomas Highgate

Casualty, coward or victim?

Private Thomas James Highgate was born on 13 May 1895, and was a British soldier during the early days of World War One. Born the only son of a farm labourer at Oxbourne Farm in the Kent village of Shoreham, Highgate was himself a farm labourer before enlisting as a regular soldier in 1st Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment on 4 February 1915, aged 17 years.

In the early hours of 6 September, as his battalion moved forward to take part in the First Battle of the Marne, Highgate was seized in a barn on the estate of Baron de Rothschild at Tournan-en-Brie by the gamekeeper. He reportedly informed the latter, 'I have had enough of it, I want to get out of it and this is how I am going to do it.' Highgate had changed into civilian clothes and his discarded uniform was found nearby. Highgate was tried by court martial (at Chateau Combreaux, near Tournan in northern France), convicted of desertion and the death sentence was confirmed on 6 September 1914.

Highgate was undefended and called no witnesses in his defence, but claimed that he was a 'straggler' trying to find his way back to rejoin his regiment, having got separated from his comrades.

He was caught, tried and shot 'as publicly as possible' within 48 hours, in the first few weeks of World War One. The 19-year-old soldier's grave is lost and his name is not on the war memorial in his birthplace. Terence Highgate, great-nephew of Thomas, has been campaigning for years to clear his name.



The Soldiers of World War One

Horace Illes



Horace Illes was born in 1900 and died in 1916. Horace was 14 when he volunteered to fight with Leeds Pals in World War One. This was because of a stranger presenting him with a white feather, when he was travelling on a tram in Leeds. As a consequence, he gave up his apprenticeship with a blacksmith and enrolled in the army.

After eighteen months of training he was then posted to a quiet region in France named the Somme. On the first day of the Battle of Somme, at the age of 16, his letter was dispatched, which was 5 weeks before he had died.

Horace Illes' sister was awfully concerned for Horace's safety and wrote a letter to Horace, urging him to admit his age and return home. Unfortunately, this letter was returned unopened with a stamp signifying that Horace had been killed.

Horace had been one of the nineteen thousand deaths on the first day of the Somme, which was the bloodiest day in the history of the British army.

Created By Noah Vigile

Studying Islamic Beliefs in Year 10

Pupils in Year 10 have been learning about Islamic beliefs and most recently practices. This is an interesting unit of work exploring a religion that is the fastest growing in the world.

Pupils were asked to research a particular pillar and present their findings in an online 'show and tell' lesson. It was great to see pupils engaging in the task and developing their knowledge of the religion focusing on key beliefs and actions of both Sunni and Shi'a Muslims.

Prayer (salah)



Prayer is important as it allows Muslims to communicate with Allah, listen to Allah and follow in the footsteps of the prophets.

It is the belief that Muslims should pray five times each day.

Salah helps bring communities together, it has spread through the streets of his adopted city to the wider world. Within the city's limits the salah appreciation of society grows by the day and night.



The principle of salah is to ensure Muslims maintain their faith and devotion to Allah and to remain conscious of the importance of faith and submission to their creator.

Regular movement involved in Salah will help to decrease the stiffness in joints and lower limb stretches prevent muscle injuries. It also increases the strength of the muscles, in order to improve physical fitness.

Well done to all pupils that applied themselves to the research and presentation task.

A snapshot of Janae's presentation on Salah (prayer).

SALAH

THE MUSLIM PRAYER

"O you who believe! When you prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles." (Al-Qur'an 5:6)

"The key to Paradise is the (stipulated) prayer. And key to prayer is cleanliness." (Ahmed)

"Purification is half of faith." (Muslim)

"Taking a bath on Friday is a must for every adult." (Bukhari)

"And establish regular prayer: for prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt." (Al-Qur'an 29:45)

"See you not that it is Allah Whose praises all beings in the heavens and on earth do celebrate, and the birds (of the air) with wings outspread? Each one knows its own (mode of) prayer and praise." (Al-Qur'an 24:41)

"Pray as you have seen me praying." (Bukhari)
(Our intention must always be to perform salah, to the best of our ability as exemplified by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).)

"One of the best deeds is to offer salah (prayer) in its early time." (Tirmidhi)

"A Prayer offered in congregation is twenty-seven degrees more excellent than the Prayer said by a single person." (Bukhari)

National Careers Week

National Careers Week 2021

1st-5th March

At St Matthew Academy we will be taking part in this year's National Careers Week. We will be sharing information with pupils about career opportunities in a range of fields from the NHS to working at the Royal Opera House. Pupils will be given opportunities to sign up for Q & A sessions throughout the week with people who work in a range of Creative Industries and on Tuesday and Friday each year group in the secondary phase will be engaging in activities to related to a number of careers.

The National Careers Week website has an excellent parent guide available for you to download. <https://nationalcareersweek.com/parentsguide/>



National Careers Week are also hosting their first Virtual Careers Fair which takes place all week. From Monday 1st March @ NDW2021.co.uk There is no registration required, just go to this website. There is a short video for you to see how the Virtual Careers Fair will be organised.



STEP INTO THE NHS KS3 COMPETITION

Key Stage 3 pupils are taking part in the Step into the NHS Competition this year. Pupils are required to write a job description for one of the 350 possible careers available in the NHS and produce an advertisement. We look forward to seeing their entries! There will be both regional and national winners.



We will be using a number of resources next week from [Discover Creative Careers](#). There is a wealth of information here for pupils and parents/carers, allowing you to think about what the creative industries actually are and what jobs are available in those industries. The list is enormous and you don't have to be good at Art to work in a creative industry.

GG
STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE. DO AND TRY THINGS YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD DO, IT MAY BE SCARY AT FIRST BUT IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT IN THE END, YOU COULD FIND OUT THAT SOMETHING YOU ONCE DISLIKED COULD ACTUALLY BE SOMETHING YOU LOVE!

KELLY YOUNG, APPRENTICE

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KELLY YOUNG, APPRENTICE



Praise Page



AMAZON-ING Remote Learners

In the secondary phase we have been rewarding the hard work of our pupils at the end of each week with a £10 Amazon voucher. Five pupils in Year 7-11 are selected by their Directors of Learning to win an Amazon voucher after nominations by their teachers. Here is the list of the winners for this week. We would like to congratulate them on their hard work and engagement. We hope they enjoy spending their vouchers and look forward to awarding many more.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Chelsey	Isabelle	Nicole	Serena	Awele
Abdul	Tianna	Naomi	Tiana	Eleazar
Aayush	Leah	Vieric	Zach	Rofiat
Crystal	Harry	Savannah	Elisabeth	Oprah
Arone	Mittsy	Kurt	Kristos	Brian



AWESOME Avocado!

Children who would usually be awarded the star of the week award in school have certainly not missed out in recent weeks thanks to their very special visits from none other than the Awesome Avocado! Accompanied (at a social distance) by Miss Chick and Miss Toprak, the avocado has been back on the road visiting children to award them their achievement certificates for the most outstanding work being done in each class every week. With one more week still to go, keep your eyes peeled for Mr Avocado arriving at your door!



AWESOME AVOCADO AWARD WINNERS		
Bumblebee	Maisie	Tayvon
Ladybird	Rachel	Amelia
Dragonfly	Jared	Emmanuel
Butterfly	Deborah	Daniella
Cheetahs	Harmony	Romario
Panthers	John	Alleyan
Tigers	Louise	Sophia
Lions	Ky-Mani	Roberto
Wolves	Angel	Eli
Leopards	Naylah	Jai
Jaguars	Glory	Summer

Our Lenten Charities

CAFOD

We are also supporting CAFOD's 'Walk for Water' Campaign. Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia - one of the hottest, driest and harshest places on earth. Temperatures here are regularly way over 40 degrees celsius. Life-threatening droughts are common, animals die and people suffer.

Access to safe drinking water is one of the biggest challenges the region faces, with 70 per cent of Afari children deprived of access to water. Drinking water shortages are common because there are few surface water sources like ponds or streams in Afar, with many people reliant on shallow, traditional wells that are unreliable and often dry up during frequent droughts. When these sources dry up, Afari women and girls are forced to walk long distances just to find water for their families. This can leave them vulnerable to violence.

Water shortages and unsafe water sources have contributed to cholera outbreaks, increases in malnutrition as well as decreases in livestock productivity and other livelihoods.

£20 can buy water containers for two families £40 can buy safe water for a school. We are encouraging all of our pupils to sign up to the 'Walk for Water' Challenge. Can we each walk 5000 steps a day? Please sponsor our staff and pupils here <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmatthewacademy>

Please watch out for more information on our fundraising during Lent on our Twitter Feed, website and in SMA News.



Our Lenten Charities

The Catholic Children's Society

Founded in 1859 the Catholic Children's Society (registered charity number 210920) is one of the oldest charities supporting disadvantaged children and families in the UK. They work with people of all faiths and none, drawing inspiration from Christian values derived from the Gospels and the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) supports disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the South East. The work with individuals of all faiths and none; their sole aim is to help those in greatest need. Their focus is to provide support as early as possible. They help vulnerable children overcome the challenges they face so they can achieve their full potential and have hope of a brighter future.

To achieve this they deliver a range of services including: ConnectED Mental Health Services, Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme, run St Mark's Stay and Play Programmes, St Francis Family Centre and have a Crisis Fund.

This Lent the Catholic Children's Society challenge is **"Will we bend down and help another to get up?"**

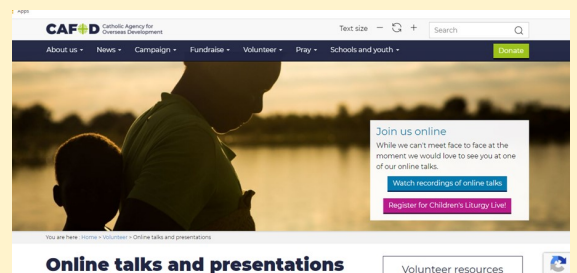
In his recent encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', Pope Francis sets us a challenge:

"Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders . . . Will we bend down and help another get up? This is today's challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it."

This Lent they are asking schools to take up Pope Francis' challenge and help local disadvantaged children and families in their time of need. We really want to support their work this Lent and would still be open to hearing new fundraising ideas.

Catholic World News

Did you know that CAFOD hosts an online Children's liturgy at 10am each Sunday morning? You can register for the Children's liturgy (you only need to do this once) by visiting this page <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>



CAFOD also run a series of online talks and presentations including a weekly Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 11am. Please take a look at their page. <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

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