

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

We've had a fantastic start to 2023 and are really excited for a new half term of learning in the primary phase. We had lots of great events that took place in Spring 1, with many opportunities for parents to come into the school and experience learning with their child. We are very much looking forward to another half term full of parental engagement opportunities, which include Maths and Early Reading workshops.

Class assemblies will be taking place for Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6, where the children will be showcasing their fantastic learning. Class assemblies really enable the children to develop their confidence when presenting their learning to a large audience and enable children across the school to benefit from hearing great examples of learning to aspire towards. Please refer to the Spring 2 Events Calendar to find out when your child's assembly will be.

At SMA, we believe that learning takes place beyond just the classroom and teachers and staff work hard to ensure that our curriculum is packed with enrichment opportunities, where children can take part in educational visits to support their learning or have visitors, such as authors for World Book Day, engage with the school to enhance the learning experience. Speak to your primary child's class teacher to find out more about this half term's learning.

To celebrate Easter, we will be hosting a number of events in the Primary phase, including an Easter Bonnet parade. If you would like to volunteer for any of our events, please email your child's class teacher.

We look forward to another fantastic half term of learning with you.

Mrs Vyas
Deputy Head of Primary Phase

Prayer and Reflection

In Pope Francis' 2023 Lenten Message he brings our attention to the Transfiguration of Jesus as he writes: "The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. During Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *ascesis* – as God's holy people. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light." We reflect on these words and ask the Lord to guide us during this holy season.

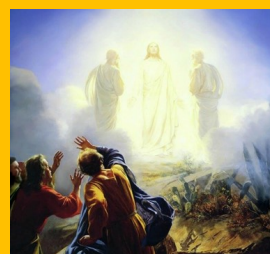
*Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your
Lent.*

*May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in
those we often ignore.*

*Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity,
and encounter.*

*Give us hearts that are hungry to serve you
and to serve those who need what we have to give.*

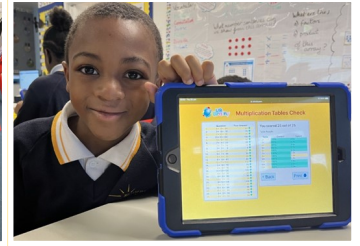
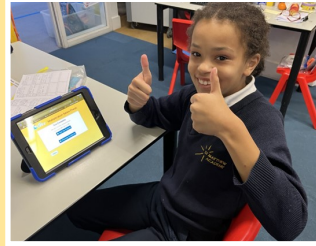
Amen.



Primary News

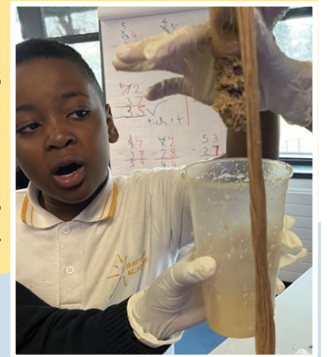
Year 4

The children have returned to school ready to learn! In Maths the children have been working hard on their MTC practice, there are currently 6 children who have scored 25/25 in their last attempt.



Inspired by the short animation “Embarked”, year 4 have been looking at how to write internal monologues and how to create their own short stories – we hope to animate some of these after half term. The children have also been studying the history and geography of Fair Trade, with many children showing a Christian attitude towards how profit should be shared equally between workers and retailers.

In science the children have examined food chains, explored the effects of sugary drinks on teeth (well, hard-boiled eggs that represented teeth) and have just conducted a particularly disgusting digestion investigation! They have also enjoyed visitors for World Religion Day and the police for Safer Internet Day. Once again, Mr Bowen and Miss Pollydore would like to thank the children for their efforts and the parents for their continuing to support their children at home.



Year 3

The children came back with a bang and a fantastic enthusiasm for learning! In humanities we are continuing to learn about the Tudors and King Henry VII. The class held a debate as Henry VII opposers or supporters, they argued with great passion as to whether he could be considered a just King.



Last term in literacy the children wrote a narrative about a climate change protest and a speech about climate change. Their work was really impressive and they used a range of punctuation, a mixture of compound and complex sentences for effect, a variety of adjectives and adverbs, and some great similes in order to create wonderfully expressive pieces of writing.

Towards the end of last term, during Children's Mental Health Week, the year 3 class joined with the reception class to design their own original sports activity. They had so much fun working with the younger children and loved being able to take on a leadership role during the activity.



Secondary News

Work Experience

The maturity of year 10 has shone once again!

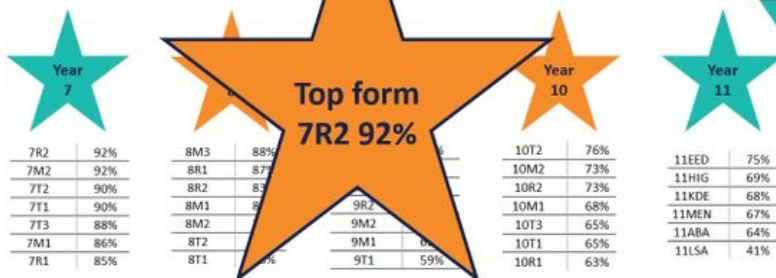
Pupils have been impeccable with handling their rank examinations and are very excited to see the results. On the last week of Spring 1, Y10 completed their work experience placements and the feedback from visiting staff, placement providers has really shown what a credit they all are! A massive thank you to all staff who managed to visit and make the week extra-special.



Achievement

Form groups

The percentages below are based on how much homework your form has completed on time since half term:



Sparx Maths

Top year group – Year 7 with an overall completion rate of 89%

Top house –Romero 80%, Mandela 77.7%, Theresa 76.3%

Maths

So proud to be in the top 10% of all Sparx schools for completion rates last week. Our pupils love completing their personalised homework and seeing their progress increase.

Big Hair Day 2023

SMA celebrates Big Hair Day! After the success of last year, Big Hair Day returns on Thursday 30th March - to celebrate the crowns of our pupils. This year we are honoured to be joined by a qualified trichologist who will be teaching us about how to take care of all hair types. We hope to see you at the end of the day where we will continue to celebrate, take photos and give you the opportunity to purchase Hair and beauty products.



Secondary News

Ash Wednesday Liturgy



Exciting Post 16 Destinations

Year 11 have reached the point in their academic journey where they begin to plan for their futures. It is a time for reflection and goal setting. As an academy we will support and direct pupils to ensure they reach their full potential.

This year 8 Year 11 pupils were selected to apply for an educational scholarship at two prestigious sixth forms in London, Colfes and St Dunstons. With the support from their parents our pupils rose to the challenge and sat the entry exam, 4 of those pupils got through to the interview stage. Out of this exceptionally talented cohort Kavin Premkumar has been offered a 100% scholarship at Colfes and Nivithan Nageswaran has been offered an 80% scholarship at St Dunstons.

CONGRATULATIONS



Kavin has always stretched himself and applied all his efforts and aspirations into his education. Congratulations Kavin, we have always been proud to have you as one of our pupils and we think Colfes is lucky to have such a driven, highly respectful student.



Nivithan has such a wonderful character and has always complimented our Year 11 cohort with his witty but driven persona. St Dunstons will find themselves gifted with a resilient, independent and versatile student

Shrove Tuesday—Pancake Day

Wednesday 22nd February marked the start of Lent, a time when we remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ. The festival began with Shrove Tuesday, also known as pancake day where the tradition of making pancakes is carried out for families to use up all the ingredients in their cupboard so they can start lent. Pupils across the school have learnt about the Festival and had the chance to make pancakes in school, having a go at flipping them and decorating them with toppings before eating them. It was enjoyed by all and the pupils discussed what they will give up for lent this year.



Sports News



Year 8 Football

Big result and great performance today in the Blackheath Cup. 4-0 Winners and into Round 4.



Year 7 Football

The boys edged a thrilling game vs St Thomas More on Friday afternoon. The final result was 6-5 to SMA



Year 10 Football

The boys had a hard fight with 3-3 draw against Ark Greenwich on Wednesday!



Year 7 Netball

Our 2 netball teams played two very competitive games against Sydenham School, Team A took an 11-8 win, Team B narrowly lost 2-4.





LITERACY CORNER

Library News

Congratulations to Churchill in year 8 and Gracie in year 10 who are our Sora Superstars for last month. Between them they read 9 books on Sora!



Primary Phase Book Reviews

Alleyan, Joyce and Deneise from Year 6 reviewed 'Frozen in time' by Ali Sparkes.

The story starts in 2009 with two siblings, Ben and Rachel. Ben is 13 and Rachel is 12. They are sure they are in for the longest summer ever, until they discover an underground vault at the bottom of their garden with two children from the 1950's inside who have been asleep for years.

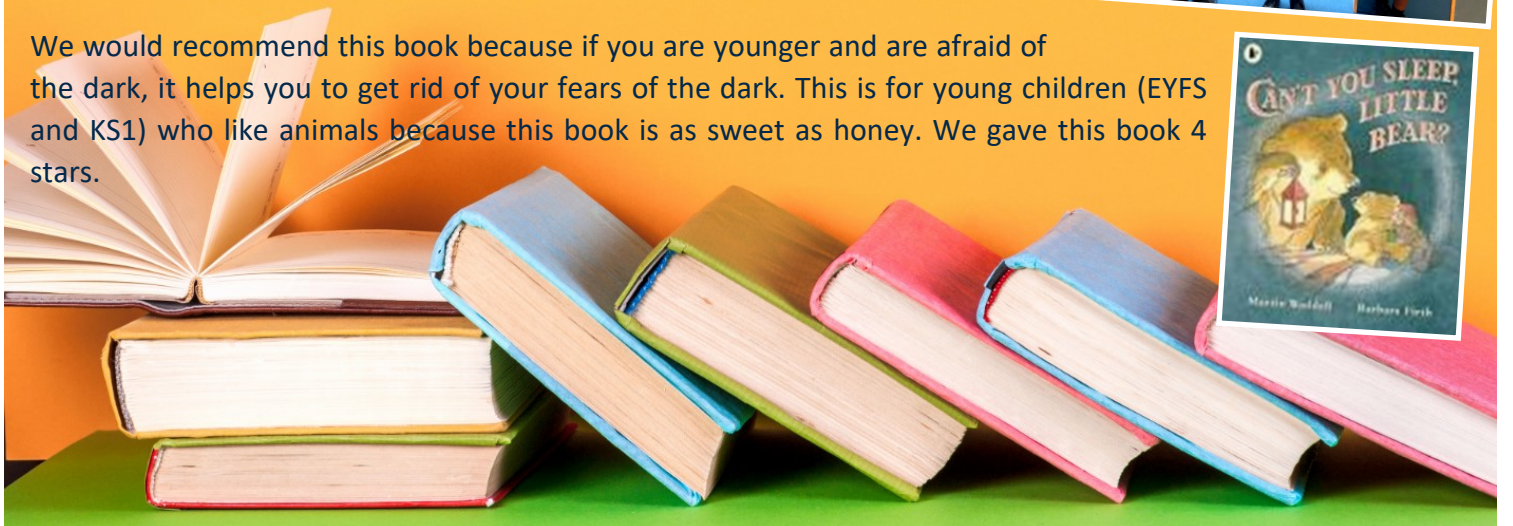
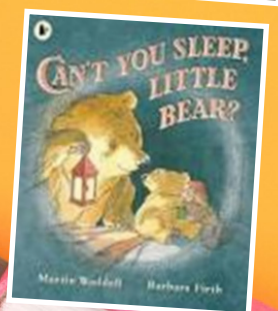
We recommend this book because it is fun to read and you will learn new things about the past. This book is suitable for those aged 9 and above and for children who like adventures.



Our Year 6 reviewers also reviewed 'Can't you sleep Little Bear?' by Martin Waddell and Barbara Frith

This book is about a lovely little bear who is scared of the dark and he finds it hard to sleep at night. Even when he has a lantern, he still gets a little bit scared but then he finds a solution. He lives with a big bear who would do anything to help him sleep.

We would recommend this book because if you are younger and are afraid of the dark, it helps you to get rid of your fears of the dark. This is for young children (EYFS and KS1) who like animals because this book is as sweet as honey. We gave this book 4 stars.





BOOK REVIEWS

Secondary

Nana, Liesel, Phoebe and Sienna-Rose from Year 8 reviewed 'The Climbers' by Keith Gray

The Climbers was a very simple book, told in a very short period of time; Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning.

This book focuses on a boy named Sully, who is the best tree climber in his village. He can climb the 'Twisted Sister' with ease and can clamber up 'Double Trouble' gracefully. When a new kid nick-named Nottingham arrives, Sully's status is challenged and there is a solution to see who is the best. The highest tree of the Big Five, which was unnamed because there was nobody to ever make it to the top, was the solution.



The way the author writes in the mind of Sully as well as the way he expertly creates and imagines his characters' personalities makes the book more interesting to read. The delayed information of the past and future of each character as well as the relationship between rivals forming, makes you wonder what would happen next. It is also interesting to see two similar people become rivals and start to hate each other. This book was an imaginative and interesting book to read, however it seemed slightly rushed due to its small amount of pages. For readers who prefer a slow, easy read, with a simple plot this book is perfect for them.



House Points Update

Week beginning 27/2/23

Total Achievement Points

1st – Teresa: 12093
2nd – Mandela: 10310
3rd – Romero: 10218

Attendance:

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

Overall House Points

1st - Teresa: 225
2nd - Mandela: 220
3rd - Romero: 215

Romero had high hopes of closing the gap, but Teresa has maintained their first position followed closely by Mandela .

A massive shout out to all of the Pupil Leadership Team who have been fantastic in assemblies, visiting tutor groups in their houses and performing their duties during lunch time. As they get closer to sitting their GCSE exams they will pass their responsibilities onto year 10. Applications are now open to year 10 pupils for the Pupil Leadership Team positions 2022-23 and continuing into next academic year. Closing date for applications is Thursday 2nd March 2023. Good luck to all the applicants.

At the first meeting of form representatives for our school council we were amazed with the creative and innovative ideas that were brought to the table, Well done. Keep an eye out for the next house event, the SMA big quiz is in the making.



Going Above and Beyond!

Primary phase

Pupils with the most achievement points during January & February

Reception - Ladybirds

Avery OTERI

Nicolo CAMMARASANA

Tay'Mari POYSER

Year 1 - Dragonfly

Maya MARGAI

Angel OLENGA

Khaleb FRANCIS

Year 2 Bumblebee

Tigerlily LEIGHTON

Evie SALKELD

Maisie HAMILTON

Year 2 - Butterfly

Eline BELBLIDIA

Daniel AGBAROLI CLARKE

Amaya WATSON-KHAN

Year 3 - Cheetahs

Yasmin GRIFFITH-WILLIAMS

Abiola SAMSON

Anne Marie France NTOUMBA

Year 4 - Tigers

Chike SAUNDERS

Cyril OIGBOCHIE

Thiago JACOME ASQUI

Year 5 - Lions

Bella CODREA

Michaela SEKA

Valentine CHAZA

Year 6 - Leopards

Louise GILKES

Abigail JACOME ASQUI

Zainab DIALLO

Well done to these pupils for all their hard work!

Staff Stars

Ms Ani



"For all the care and hard work she puts into the year 11's. They will never forget her and she has helped to change their lives forever."

Mr Charlery



"For continuing to work tirelessly to support Year 11 and being a fabulous Director of Learning."

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 Dryden
Child Protection
Officer

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.

STRUGGLING TO AFFORD FOOD?



LEWISHAM FOODBANK
IS HERE TO TO ENSURE
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
DON'T GO HUNGRY.

PLEASE TALK TO
MS DRYDEN IN
CONFIDENCE.



YOU WILL
BE GIVEN A
VOUCHER CODE
& CAN COLLECT FOOD
FROM ANY OF OUR 5 CENTRES
IN **CATFORD, DEPTFORD, DOWNHAM,
FOREST HILL & LEWISHAM.** YOU CAN
HAVE UP TO 6 FOOD PARCELS IN 6 MONTHS.

WWW.LEWISHAM.FOODBANK.ORG.UK