

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



18th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now come to the end of another extremely successful academic year and it is wonderful to look back and reflect on everything we have done. The children have worked really hard this year and we are very proud of all they have achieved, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our Year 1 pupils achieved a fantastic set of results in the Phonics Screener, which will set them in good stead for Year 2. EYFS pupils have also done very well in meeting the expected standard for a Good Level of Development (GLD) and have made so much progress this academic year. This year our Year 6 SATs results have been exceptional – 93% of pupils achieved the Expected Standard or above in maths with the national average being 73%! To see the full set of Year 6 results, please view our website.

This term we have continued to ensure that our children have had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting activities; Careers Day, Windrush Day Celebration, Overnight Camping Weekend for Year 5 and 6 pupils, Music Recital, Sports Day, Summer Fayre and of course the Year 6 Prom and Production. I would like to thank you all for continuously contributing to and attending our events. It is a pleasure to see how our SMA community is growing from strength to strength.

Key dates to put in your diary:

- All children in Year 1 – 6 **return to school on Wednesday 4th September at 8.40am**
- New reception starters join us from **Wednesday 4th September** on a staggered start – please refer to the Reception Handbook for dates/times specific to your child. **All reception children will be in school all day from Monday 9th September**
- Meet the Teacher for EYFS – Year 6 parents on **Tuesday 10th September at 3.30 – 4.00pm**. The class teacher will be explaining the new curriculum for the academic year and sharing how best to support your child at home

New Primary Entrance

From September, primary children will have their own entrance to the school. Much work is being undertaken over the summer holidays to create a new walkway and entrance from the side of the vehicle gate down to the primary gate. The new entrance will mean that primary children have a safe passage to the primary building without having to go around the car park. Parents should walk their children via the walkway to the primary gate for drop off and collect children at the end of the day using the same route.

Drop Off

Please ensure that your child is dropped off at the primary gate **at 8.35am**. Children will be met by their class teachers and line up on the forecourt under the gazebo. All children **must be in class by 8.50am** ready to start their learning. If a child is late, every day, even by just 10 minutes, it really affects learning and by the end of the week, they would have missed out on an hour of learning. Early morning learning from 8.40 – 9.00am for pupils in KS2 is consolidating maths and for pupils in EYFS/KS1, consolidating phonics. Not being in school for these crucial sessions, has a detrimental impact on children's progress and attainment.

If your child is dropped off by a secondary sibling, they should remain with their primary sibling until 8.30am. **Any child left unattended by a secondary sibling before 8.30am will be placed in Breakfast Club.** If your child has been placed in Breakfast Club, you will be notified and charged £2.50 for that session.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will commence from Wednesday 4th September from 7.30am. If you require a place for your child please email dho@stmatthewacademy.co.uk.

Collection

All children unless they are attending a club or intervention should be collected at **3.20pm from the Primary gate. Please enter via the new primary entrance.**

Late Collection/Collection by secondary siblings

If your child is collected by a secondary sibling, alternative arrangements need to be made if that sibling is in a club or detention. We will be continuing to monitor late collections and ask parents to come to the primary gate to collect their child from the library. We appreciate that emergencies do occur and that sometimes parents cannot get to the Academy on time, but please endeavour to pick your child up at the correct time, so that after school clubs, interventions and training can be attended by staff.

Children in Year 5 and 6 that are going home on their own

Please inform the class teacher via email if your child is to go home on their own. If you have told them verbally, please also email the class teacher with written permission so we have a formal record. If we do not receive written confirmation your child will remain in school until collected by an adult.

Interventions

After school interventions will begin on **Monday 16th September**. The attendance of these interventions is crucial in supporting your child's academic progress. Children have been given their intervention letters for September, so please make a note of this. The slip needs to be returned to their class teacher when they come back to school in September.

After school clubs

Our fantastic range of after school clubs are proving to be hugely popular with our children and we are proud to be able such an extensive offer. Can I remind parents that after school clubs are to be paid for using the Evolve app. The after school clubs timetable will be sent out to parents on Monday 2nd September. All clubs need to be signed up for before Friday 13th September. If you are experiencing any difficulties with paying please contact finance@stmatthewacademy.co.uk. If you have any queries regarding clubs, please in the first instance, contact your child's teacher.

All clubs and interventions finish at 4.20pm and children must be picked up promptly. **Repeated late collection will result in the club being withdrawn. If your child is not in a club or intervention they must be collected at 3.20pm.**

Attendance

If your child is absent, please email the Attendance Officer at attendance@stmatthewacademy.co.uk or call the absence line, 0208 853 6250 - option 1.

Please state the reason for the absence and provide your child's name and class. It is vital, given the face to face learning our children have missed, that all pupils attend school regularly and have attendance at 97% or above.

Free School Meals

You will have all received the letter from the Mayor of London and a letter from myself informing you that all pupils will receive free school meals next academic year. Despite every child now receiving free school meals, parents must still check to find out whether they are eligible for Pupil Premium. Pupil Premium funding allows us to provide additional support for children in terms of targeted interventions and enrichment activities – trips to the beach, theatre companies visiting and charging £1.00 per session for after school clubs. We want to be able to continue to provide our children with an enriching learning experience and therefore need the Pupil Premium funding to do so. You can apply via <http://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt goodbye and good luck to Miss Roostan. Miss Roostan has worked at SMA for 5 years and has been a truly dedicated member of staff who has strived tirelessly to ensure that all children fulfil their potential. We wish her all the very best in her new role as an Assistant Head teacher. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Boileau who has decided to retire and we wish her a well-earned retirement and thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the children over the past 9 years. However, Miss Boileau will continue to support the school by running her sign language clubs in September. Both will be sorely missed along with their commitment, passion and care for the children.

I wish you all a lovely summer holiday and hope that you enjoy the sun and spending time with family and friends. Please continue to encourage children to keep on reading over the summer break. We look forward to seeing you all in September for another fabulous year.

Thank you all again, for your continued support, it is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Ms Chick
Head of Primary