

ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

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HELLOS & GOODBYES

While the arrival of the summer holidays is always welcomed by just about everyone in school, it also brings about the sadness of saying goodbye to colleagues who are moving on from St Matthew's.

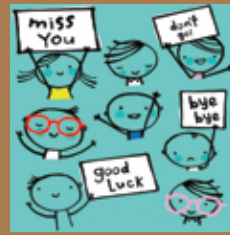


This term we are saying goodbye to **Jackie Liburd**, our long-serving kitchen manager who is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement after many years in the school catering industry.

Someone else who is retiring is **Carol O'Brien**, one of our senior mid-day supervisors, after many years working over the lunch breaks at St Matthew's.

It's a hat-trick of retirees with **Jackie Bartley** being the third finally reaching this milestone. Jackie was our full-time personnel manager and she tried to retire a few years ago when Amy Ingleby took over the role. But Jackie was persuaded to return to cover Amy's maternity leave and has since remained on a part-time basis, sharing the role with Amy.

We wish all three of our retirees the very best of luck for the future and we hope they all enjoy a long and happy retirement.



Other colleagues who are leaving for pastures new are class teachers **Nadira Begum** and **Adam Cole**; **Charlotte Glenister**, from our PE teaching team; two members of our administration support team, **Shahena Begum** and **Tamanna Jahan**; and **Debbie Changara**, our pupil health and welfare assistant. We wish them all well in their future endeavours.

Following the retirement of Yvonna Basina from her role as kitchen manager in the KS2 kitchen a few weeks ago, our catering partner, Relish School Food, have appointed a senior kitchen manager to oversee both of our kitchens. We have also recruited a new health and welfare assistant who will take over Mrs Changara's role. We look forward to welcoming both of these new colleagues in September, and we will introduce them to you in our next newsletter.

Finally, we have two colleagues from our class teaching team who will start their maternity leave at the end of this week. **Megan McBarron** is expecting her second child soon and **Tynisha Gardner** is looking forward to the birth of her first baby. We offer our very best wishes to them both and we will look forward to meeting them with their new babies when they are able to visit us in school in the new school year.



Back to School date

This is a reminder about the electrical lighting works that are happening in school over the summer holiday, which we were informed about only ten days before the start of the holiday. This means that the school building will be closed to all except the electrical contractors and our premises team. We have had to cancel our planned Summer Multi-Sports Scheme, which is most regrettable and, as you have already been notified, the new school year now starts one day later than originally planned.

All children in Years 1-6 return to school on
WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

New Starters in Year R - there is no change to the start dates already published. Part-time attendance begins on **Monday 9th September**.



Music Presentations

We recently held two music presentations to showcase the talents of our Year 3 and Year 5 children. The first concert featured recorder performances by Year 3, led by Mrs. Helen Ronald from Luton Music Service. Beech, Dolphin, Robin and Tulip classes performed ten short pieces which showed how they had started by learning to play a tune comprising just one note and ending with a rousing grand finale of "Mamma Mia" by ABBA.



Later in the day, it was the turn of our Year 5 classes to present a guitar and vocal performance. Kingfisher, Otter, Maple and Snapdragon classes have worked with Mr. Tom Green, also from Luton Music Service, throughout Year 5, learning to play the guitar.



They presented four classic songs: "Hall of Fame" by The Script, ; "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley and the Wailers; "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers and

"Stand By Me" by Ben E. King.

Additionally, both concerts included performances by Year 5 clarinet players who had started learning the recorder in Year 3 and had since progressed to the clarinet under the teaching of Mrs. Ronald. All three clarinet players



had passed Grade 1 and were working towards their Grade 2 exams. Each student performed a piece they were learning for their Grade 2 exam:



J a k e played "Waltz For Libby," James performed "Gavotte," and Meredith presented "Pieces of Eight."

We would like to thank Mrs Ronald and Mr Green for their hard work and dedication to the children's music education. We look forward to continuing to work with Mrs Ronald, but it's a sad but fond farewell to Mr Green who is leaving the Music Service and relocating to Scotland to explore new opportunities in music.

If you want to see videos of the Year 3 and Year 5 music presentations, they are published on our school website at the following addresses:

<https://stmatthewsluton.com/2024/07/14/year-3-music-presentation/>

<https://stmatthewsluton.com/2024/07/14/year-5-music-presentation/>

Visits &

We have been getting out and about into the local community again during the last half term. As a school, we strongly believe in the ethos of Learning Outside The Classroom. We also like to welcome visitors into the classroom who can bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to enhance the children's learning in a wide range of subjects.



The **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** visited our school earlier this half term. They brought vehicles and equipment to show our Year 2 classes how they work in dangerous situations to put out fires and help people whose lives may be at risk.

This was all part of Year 2's topic about Fire - in particular, the historical topic of The Great Fire of London.

How do you bring the story of the Great Fire of London to life without setting the school on fire? Our friends from **History Off The Page** visited and delivered a fascinating and exciting workshop about life in seventeenth century London and how what started off as a small fire completely devastated a huge section of the city at the time.

The children started their day by becoming apprentices on the streets of London, learning skills common for workers of the era: leather working, metal working, sewing, etc.

As the children learned their trades, the fire spread. With the flames drawing closer, the children had to take action to stop it, including forming fire lines and tearing down local buildings.

Later, the children excavated what was left of the charred city, looking for personal belongings and important legal documents that could help the city start the process of rebuilding.



Visitors



Our Year 5 classes had a two-part introduction to university life recently, firstly with a visit to the **University of Bedfordshire**.

They spent a day with undergraduate students engaged in a range of activities aimed at promoting the idea of studying at university as a realistic option for anyone on their journey to a fulfilling career.

They learned about how students learn and thought about the different activities that they do in class that involve different learning styles. They imagined what their dream job might be when they leave school and enter the world of work. They learned about what life is like living away from home and studying at a university that would be much bigger than St Matthew's and even the high schools they might transfer to in just over a year's time.

The second part of the project involved the university students visiting St Matthew's and finding out what the children had learned about university life. The children dressed up in academic gowns and were presented with certificates for their achievements in the project in a mini-graduation ceremony.

Year 5 and Year 6 had their chance to visit **The Chellington Centre** again in June. Our pupils visit this delightful place in Year 4, 5 and 6. Each visit is different from the previous one with different activities to engage them during their stay. They have to prepare their own meals: this year, Year 5 pupils learned to make a delicious pasta dish, while Year 6 learned to make their own pizza dough and cover it with their favourite toppings.

The big difference between the Year 5 and 6 visits to Chellington is the sleeping arrangements. In Year 5, the children sleep indoors in the cosy bunk bed rooms with two or three of their friends. In Year 6, there's no room for them in the dorms, so they camp out overnight in large tents, again with two or three of their friends.

This year, when Orchid Class were there, the children had to contend with "a spider in my tent that's bigger than me!!!" (Well, that's what Ashaeya was heard to exclaim, so it must have been true.)

Gorgeous summer weather (a rare phenomenon this year!) made it a brilliant experience for everyone who went on this amazing visit.



ST MATT'S IS GROWING (PART ONE)

Children in Year 5 have been growing potatoes, with the help of Konni Deppe from Edible High Town.

The children had planted the potatoes from seed during the spring term, and they have been checking on them regularly, giving them water if necessary – although with the amount of rain we had in the spring the plants didn't need much more!

Towards the end of June, Konni returned to school to harvest the crop that had grown.

There was much excitement as no one knew quite how well the potatoes had grown. The plants all seemed healthy from the look of the leaves growing above the soil, but you don't know if you have a good crop of produce until you come to actually dig them up.



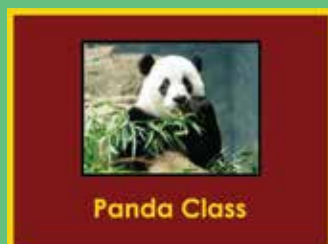
ST MATT'S IS GROWING (PART TWO)

At the beginning of June we welcomed a whole new class to Year 2, having been asked to create a new class to help to overcome the shortage of school places in the town.

During our transition process, Rose Class were mixed up with all the other classes, and a new Year 3 class has been created, which will be called **PANDA CLASS**. You might be reading this and already know that your child will be in Panda Class with Mrs Morris as their teacher.

A similar process has happened with our new Year R. We are taking 150 new children this year which means there will be FIVE classes in Year R. Duckling, Hedgehog, Poppy and Willow will be joined by . . . **SUNFLOWER CLASS** with Mrs Matthew's as their teacher.

Can you work out how many pupils St Matthew's will have if all classes have 30 children?





We offer free school uniform and emotional and practical support to all Luton families through the Uniform Exchange



We provide coats and learning resources for children and young people.



We supply primary and secondary students with branded/non-branded uniforms and PE kits



In collaboration with schools, we provide free shoe vouchers for primary and secondary students.

**For further information contact us on:
admin@level.trust.org**

www.leveltrust.org

**You can also order free uniform at:
www.uniform.exchange**

Opening Hours:
Monday - Thursday & Saturday
10AM - 2PM



Reading Awards

Our Accelerated Reading (AR) programme continues to have a great impact in all of our classes. Our results in reading, as measured by the Year 6 SATs results have improved on last year's results. Children read books, and then take an online comprehension quiz. If they pass that quiz, their AR word count increases by the number of words in that book.

In the year before the Covid pandemic when all pupils were in school all year, our whole school word count reached the magnificent total of 92 million words! This year is the closest we have come to beating that record. At the time of publication of this newsletter our school word count stands at 89,091,217. A shortfall of three million seems a lot; if you have been following our AR page on the school website, you'll have seen that we can sometimes increase our word count by that much in just one week! If we haven't beaten our record by the end of the day on Friday, it gives us a great target to aim for next year.

Of course, some children can add their own count of one million words to our school total. We call these readers **WORD MILLIONAIRES**. Again on our school website we display our word millionaire **HALL OF FAME**, with some of these becoming double, or triple word millionaires!

This year we have presented our word millionaires with a special plaque to commemorate this achievement.

- During 2023/24, our word millionaires were: **Katy** (Y4), **Shaurya** (Y5), **Lemar** (Y5), **Ethan** (Y4), **Jacob** (Y5), **Daniel** (Y5), **Ridhu** (Y6), **Bernice** (Y6), **Rosa** (Y4), **Zach** (Y6), **Serena** (Y6), **Maja** (Y6), **Vishnu** (Y6) and **Meredith** (Y5).
- Double word millionaires were: **Anirudh** (Y5) and **Maxim** (Y5) .
- Triple word millionaires: **Adam** (Y5), **Brian** (Y5) and **Praise** (Y6).
- No quadruple millionaires, but we do have one QUINTUPLE millionaire: **James** (Y5).

WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!

**READING
GIVES YOU SUPERPOWERS!**

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers



Join FREE at your local library

Get rewards for reading!

Join FREE and swim for £1
at any Active Luton pool this summer

End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) performance table

119 pupils	2024 St Matthew's at expected standard	2024 National at expected standard	2024 at a higher standard
Reading (Test)	66%	74%	24%
Writing (Teacher assessment, moderated in 2024)	61%	72%	1%
Maths (Test)	71%	73%	23%
Reading, writing, maths combined	56%	61%	1%
English grammar, punctuation & spelling (Test)	73%	72%	29%

Full details of our performance data, including Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check will be available to view on our school website in the next few weeks.



Our **Pre-Loved Uniform Store** will be open again from the start of the new school year. Come and find out what we have in stock - it might be the perfect fit for your child. Parents of children in Year 6 who no longer need St Matthew's clothing, please consider donating items to our Pre-Loved Uniform Store.

We are desperately short of shoes and trainers - children grow out of these far quicker than the items are worn out, so again, please consider donating items.

Please refresh your memories and remind yourself of our school uniform policy and ensure your child is dressed correctly for the start of the new year and throughout. Our uniform guidelines can be seen on our website here:

<https://stmatthewsluton.com/uniform/>

Goodbye to Year 6

July to September is always a time of transition in schools, with children moving from one class to another, maybe from one key stage to another. For some it's a move from one school to another. Our Year 6 pupils have come to the end of their primary education and after the holiday will join one of the high schools around the town. This week we have given them the traditional send-off celebratory events and activities.

The week started off with our Yearbook Assembly. Every child in Year 6 was presented with a professionally printed brochure containing their photos and their own comments about their memories of St Matthew's, alongside farewell messages from their class teachers and others who have worked in Year 6 this year. Parents contributed to pages of baby photos and photos of their children's first day at school. There are blank pages to enable the children to collect messages and autographs from their friends. We know that these Yearbooks remain a family treasure for many years



Wednesday evening was the social event of the year with all the children dressed up in their finery to attend the Year 6 Leavers' Prom. DJ Parker provided the sounds for some great dancing; the PE team were great cocktail mocktail barmen, mixing cool and refreshing drinks to keep everyone going for the evening; if that wasn't enough there was ice-cream with wafers, sprinkles and sauces; the traditional photobooth with a range of hats, masks, wigs and other adornments to create that glamorous party look; and the children voted for their Prom King and Prom Queen . . . this year won by **Obiora** from Orchid and **Aishah** from Oak.

On Thursday we held our annual Year 6 Graduation ceremony. For the first time, we relocated to the grandly-named Lecture Theatre G101 at the University of Bedfordshire for this prestigious event. A change from the hall at High Town Community Centre made all the more welcome by the presence of air-conditioning on a day when warm temperatures returned. A multitude of awards was presented to the children in all four classes. Each class performed a rousing song that summed up their emotions as they approach the transition from primary school to high school. More photo-calls in the foyers after the event with the children donning academic gowns and mortar boards to pose with their parents.



The week will end with the traditional Annual Year 6 / Staff football match on the field. Good luck to all the players.

Thank you

to all of our families for your continuing support for the school. We are lucky to have such marvellous parents and carers working together with us . . . always for the best of the children.

We wish you all a wonderful and restful holiday. May this summer holiday season bring joy, relaxation, and precious moments with your loved ones. Enjoy the well-deserved break!

**See you back in school on
Wednesday 4th September.**

