



St Matthew's Primary School

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Head Teacher: Tony Davies

8.7.16

Dear Parents / Carers,

SPORTS UPDATE: JULY 2016

Sports Clubs at St. Matthew's

During this term we have offered **22 different Sports clubs (including dance)** for children across the school. Hopefully your child has attended one or more of our clubs.

Club End Dates: Summer term 2016

These clubs will end on these dates:

Change for Life Club	ends MONDAY 18th JULY 2016
Premier Sport Club	ends MONDAY 18th JULY 2016 (check with Premier)
Athletics Club	ends MONDAY 18th JULY 2016
KS1 Zumba Club	ends TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016
KS2 Zumba Club	ends TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016
Girls Football club	already ended
Invasion Games Club	ends TUESDAY 19th JULY 2016
Rounders Club	ends TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016
Glee Club	ends WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2016
KS2 Cheerleading	already ended
Y1/2 Multi sports	ends WEDNESDAY 20th JULY 2016
Y5/6 Netball Club	already ended
KS1 Pop Steps dance	ends THURSDAY 14th JULY 2016
KS2 Pop steps dance	ends THURSDAY 14th JULY 2016
Y5/6 Cricket Club	ends THURSDAY 14th JULY 2016
Y3/4 Mini Red Tennis club	ends THURSDAY 7th JULY 2016
Y5/6 Badminton	already ended
Sports Council activities	
In Golden time	ends FRIDAY 8th JULY 2016
Reception Multi skills	ends FRIDAY 15th JULY 2016
Kinnerz Girls Soccer	ends FRIDAY 15th JULY 2016 (check with Kinnerz)
Y2 Girls Netball club	already ended

AutumnTerm 2016 Sport and dance Clubs

I am currently finalising the timetable of clubs for next term. I will send out the timetable on e-comms before the end of term. Please look out for individual sign up letters from each club. In addition to the existing wide range of clubs and sports we offer during the year, **we will be adding new sports next year, including archery, fencing, tri-golf and Korfball.**

Sporting Competitions

It has been another highly successful year for all of our teams and competitors this year. We have entered a record number of teams in inter school competitions this year, and more children than ever before have had chance to represent the school in competitive activities against other schools.

In recent weeks, we have retained our Y5/6 boys football League title, finished 3rd in the Y5/6 Rounders competition, runners up in the boys football champions league finals, qualified for the county finals in both cricket and netball and finished as runners up in the Korfball tournament.

In the Parkside and Coleridge competitions, featuring ten local schools, we have the Overall title for points across seven different competitions this year, which is a fantastic achievement. Well done to everyone who has played in these teams and also to all of the other children who have participated in clubs this year.

All of our trophies and sporting awards that we have won this year will soon be on display in our new trophy cabinet, which will be situated next to our sports noticeboard, which is near our Sports hall.

Intra-class competitions

This year we have continued to have **termly intra-class competitions**, where the children in each year group have competitive matches/activities with the other classes in their year groups, at the end of a unit of PE. These have been very popular with the children and have given them a stepping stone into some of our clubs, teams and competitions against other schools.

Parkside Federation Sports Festivals

Each year group (Y1-5) has taken part in one or more **Sports Festivals** this year, competing in events with other local schools, organised by Parkside Federation Sports Leaders. This year we have sent 600 of our children to participate in these festivals out of a total number of 2155 pupils across 8 local primary schools. Thanks as always to the Parkside Federation for organising these fantastic events for our children.

Year 1 Parkside Federation Tennis Festival

Our three Year 1 classes (90 children) went to the Tennis club on Wilberforce road on Tuesday 28th June, to take part in the Parkside Federation Year 1 Tennis Festival. Pupils experienced the fundamentals of Tennis multi skills, rotating around a number of stations.



The children had a fantastic morning and learnt lots of tennis skills, expertly supported by Parkside Federation sports leaders. Thanks to Mr. Dixon, at Parkside Federation, for organising this event.

High Level Coaching at St. Matthew's

This year many of our children have benefitted from high level sports coaching from CSSP coaches: our **Year 1 classes** have received **Tennis coaching** from Rob Ellis in the Summer term; **Year 2** have had **Multi sports coaching** from Steve Taylor in the Summer term; **Year 3** classes have had **Tag Rugby coaching** from Neil O'Donohue in the Summer term ; **Year 4** classes have had Netball coaching from Lisa Woolfe in the Autumn term and Cricket coaching from Steve Taylor in the Spring

term : **Year 5** have had **Cricket coaching** from Steve Taylor next term and **Year 6** have had **Tag Rugby** coaching from Neil O'Donohue and Athletics coaching from the Coleridge Sports Leaders.

Community Club links

We have developed links with a number of outside school community sports clubs, across a range of sports, so if your child is interested in joining a club or team for a particular sport, please see Mr. Collard or Mr. Wellington or visit the **Cambridge School Sports Partnership Website**: <http://www.cambridgessp.com/clubs.php> which has a comprehensive list of local clubs, with contact details.

Balanceability Bikes and training

St. Matthew's have used some of our School sports Premium Grant (please see: http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/school_sports_premium_funding/80228) to purchase ten balanceability bikes, helmets and teaching resources to allow us to carry out Stage 1 and Stage 2 Balanceability training in our Foundation Stage. All of our Foundation Stage teaching and support staff are being trained by the School Sports Partnership Balanceability instructors next week, to allow them to begin using our new bikes to teach the children in Foundation stage essential skills needed for riding a bike.



Balanceability is linked to the Foundation Stage Curriculum and is a two level programme with each level being delivered in 6 sessions of around 45mins. Throughout the programme children will develop:

Dynamic and static balance – children will feel more confident on a balance bike due to the ability to place their feet on the floor and also due to the fact that their centre of gravity is lower than on a pedal bike

Spatial awareness – children will learn to ride safely, with control around others and around obstacles

Gross motor skills – such as hopping, running, jumping and leaping. These skills will help to build the foundations on which they can build more complex movement patterns in other areas

Sensory motor skills – movement is a key part of every child's development and forms a vital part in facilitating exploration and discovery. Children will respond to sight, sound, touch and develop a kinaesthetic awareness during the sessions.

"Learning to ride a bike is one of life's milestones providing children with their first taste of mobile independence."

Specific skills covered in the Level 1 course include: Manoeuvring the bike by themselves; Picking it up / putting it down safely; Mounting and dismounting the bike; Riding position; How to stop – using feet and brakes; Balancing; walking, running and jumping on the bike and Gliding

I am sure that you will agree that these skills, along with St. Matthew's extensive commitment to swimming lessons for all children in year 1-6, are essential life skills for your children. This investment is part of our long term strategy to allow us to sustain both Balanceability and Swimming in future years.

Parents of children in our Foundation Stage will receive more details about Balanceability from our Foundation team next year.

Swimming at Parkside Pools

This year we have once again been able to send **all of our children, in Years 1-6, for swimming lessons at Parkside Pools**, for a whole term. We have always shown a massive commitment into providing lessons for our children, above and beyond the minimum required. **We are the only school in the city who offer children below Year 3 swimming lessons on a regular basis.** We are also funding **three swimming teachers** at Parkside for every class lesson, to enable your children to be taught in small groups, suitable to their individual needs. By starting swimming lessons in Year 1 we are seeing a big increase in the number of our children who meet the National Curriculum target of being able to swim at least 25m by the end of Year 6. Our commitment to swimming is really providing our children with the best possible opportunity to learn to swim, develop different strokes and for our more competent swimmers, to develop deep water skills and water safety skills. Due to our commitment to swimming, we have successfully applied for grants from the City Council to support the school in meeting the additional costs of providing three swimming teachers for every class, rather than the standard two.

There will be an update about next years' swimming provision, in a separate letter.

Cricket at St. Matthew's

We have been very fortunate that during the last ten years the England Cricket Board (ECB) have, through their '**Chance to Shine**' initiative, provided free Cricket coaching to our Year 5 children, in PE Curriculum lessons in the summer term. Further information: <http://www.chancetoshine.org/> and <http://www.cambscricket.org.uk/page/youth-cricket/schools/chance-to-shine-4643/>

This year we have once again benefitted from this scheme, and **Steve Taylor**, an excellent Cambs Cricket coach, has been teaching our Year 5 classes Kwik Cricket in the summer term. He has also been running our popular Year 5 and 6 Kwik Cricket club after school. Although our curriculum cricket lessons are free, we do have to pay for the after school club, however we have used some of our Sports Premium grant to enable this club to remain free to the children. This initiative and the clubs have allowed our children to

perform really well at the **Year 5 & 6 cricket festivals**, on Parker's Piece, each June, reaching the County Finals again this year..

Please look at this link to Cambs Cricket Board which gives details of local cricket clubs which accept Primary age children: http://cyca.playcricket.com/website/web_pages/208608

Young Sports Leaders

Our **36 Year 5 & 6 Young sports Leaders** have been doing a fantastic job, planning and leading sporting activities for our younger children, during lunchtimes.

They have also been assisting class teachers in running **intra class competitions** and did a fantastic job on Sports day, assisting with running activities for our Reception, Year 1 & 2 children on Parker's Piece.

A big thank you to all of our Y6 Sports Leaders, who will shortly be leaving us to move on to their Secondary Schools. They have all done a fantastic job over the past two years!

We will be inviting new Year 5 children in September (current Year 4) to apply to become a Young Sports Leader.

Please contact Mr. Wellington for further details: mwellington@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk

St. Matthew's School Sports Council

Our Year 5/6 Sports Council meets each week to organise and plan sporting activities across the school and to publicise clubs and activities to the younger children. The council is chaired by our **Bronze Sports ambassadors**: Keir Harper, Serena Blackwood, Luca McTaggart and Jasmine Pellegrini. Imogen Ransome has been creating the council's agenda and minuting our meetings to ensure everyone knows what has been agreed. The council have been planning and running sporting activities in Golden Time, for Year 2, Year 3 and 4 children who wish to take part. This has been very popular and the sports vary each week to give the children the opportunity to try different sports. They have all been amazing this year and given their lunchtimes willingly to create our sports day model this year. A big thank you to Serena and Keir, who have been our Bronze Sports Ambassadors for the past two years. Luca and Jasmine will be our Bronze ambassadors, with two new Year 5 children being given the opportunity next year to train at Netherhall (CSSP) to join them later next year. Please see link below for further details of the Cambridge School Sports Partnership (CSSP) leadership programmes:

<http://www.cambridgessp.com/leadership.php>

Sports Day 2016

A big thank you to everyone who played a part in making our Sports days such a wonderful event. My particular thanks to all of you who helped set up from 6 a.m, and everybody who gave up their time during the day to help set up, pack up, give out programmes, run our PTA stall or donated bunting. It really cannot happen without all of your support.

Thank you to our PTA, who as well as running our snacks and drinks stall, kindly donated money to purchase bottled water for the children. Thanks also to Mr. Dixon and Mr. Thornley and the fantastic Year 7 Sports Leaders from the Parkside Federation, who helped run activities in the afternoon and to our wonderful St. Matthew's Young Sports Leaders, who helped in the morning activities. A final thank you to all of our teaching Assistants who spent a very long day on Parker's Piece setting up, running activities and packing up equipment.

There are photographs of the day on our school website: (further pictures will be added soon)

http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/website/sports_day_2016/217283

If you have any **comments, feedback or questions regarding any aspect of PE or Sport at St. Matthew's please contact me by email.** If you have any suggestions for new clubs you or your children would like us to offer please let me know and if you can offer coaching expertise in a sport and would like to discuss this further please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Collard

School Sports co-ordinator

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