



St Matthew's School Newsletter

31st January 2017

Welcome Back to Mrs Lewis

We are delighted that, after being absent for a few months, Mrs Lewis is beginning to return to work. In the first instance Mrs Lewis will be working on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

We have all missed her hugely and it is great to have her back.

Dates for the Diary

Below are some dates for the remainder of this term. Keep an eye out for more news about activities planned for World Book Day on 2nd March. As always we will be encouraging children to dress up as their favourite book characters for the day. News will also be coming about the activities planned for National Science and Engineering Week.

Last day of school before the half term holiday	Friday 10 th February 2017
HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February, 2017	
First day back to school after the half term holiday	Monday 20 th February 2017
Parent Consultations	Thursday 23 rd February 2017, 3:40 to 7:30 Tuesday 28 th February 2017, 3:40 to 5:30
Meet the Head	Friday 24 th February 2017, 8:55 to 10am
World Book Day	Thursday 2 nd March 2017
National Science and Engineering Week	Friday 10 th to Sunday 19 th March 2017
Last Day of School - Spring Term Closes	Friday 31 st March, 2017
EASTER HOLIDAYS Saturday 1st April to Monday 17th April 2017	
TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	Tuesday 18 th April 2017
First day back to school after the Easter Holidays	Wednesday 19 th April 2017

Upcoming Parent Consultations – New Booking System

As you can see in the dates above, next half term we will be having our parent consultations on 23rd February and 28th February.

Mrs Bates's class had their consultation early as she is soon to be going on maternity leave. We took the opportunity to trial a new booking system for the parent consultations. Parents could go online and book a time slot directly.

The trial worked very successfully, so we will be using the system to book all of our next round of consultations. To use the system you will need to be registered with eSchools. Most parents are registered already. If you are not, you just need to give the school office your email address and we can then set you up on the system.

We will let parents know when it is time to book their consultation time shortly via email. Parents who are not on the system already will receive a paper letter and form as before.

Governor News

Below you can find a summary of our Full Governing Body meeting held last term, prepared by the clerk to our governing body, Lis Silver.

The Full Governing Body (FGB) of St Matthews School met on the 8th December. Sarah Sewell gave an excellent presentation to the Board on Healthy Eating and the Food Policy in the school. She explained how food and cooking was incorporated into the curriculum and changes that had been made to lunchtime in the school to help promote healthy eating. The governors congratulated both Sarah and the school on the enormous amount of work that had been done in this area including establishing the school garden so children can plant, grow and cook their own food.

The FGB were advised that a panel of governors had successfully carried out the Headteacher's Performance review. The meeting also received reports from the Teaching, Learning and Outcomes Committee which had looked in detail at the school's performance in the statutory assessments. The governors were pleased to note that in almost every area the school was at or above the National Average. The future objectives were agreed as:

- *focus on improving outcomes for Pupil Premium/SEND children*
- *focus on replicating the success at teaching reading on raising standards in Maths and writing*
- *focus on ensuring the new assessment procedures are fully embedded in the school*

The meeting received a report from the Resources Committee. They were pleased to note that despite the uncertainty over future funding levels that the financial picture this year was very positive as a result of careful prioritisation of the budget.

The FGB reviewed the annual Child Protection and Safeguarding Report and approved it for publication on the website.

The meeting also agreed arrangements for interviewing the 4 candidates for the Co-opted Governor vacancy. Interviews will take place in the Spring term.

Lost Property

Please make sure you check lost property before the end of term. We will be having a clear out of lost property just before we break up. Displaying all the lost property at the front of the school as we have in the past is no longer viable as we have grown, so instead we will be having more regular clear outs to keep the amount in the lost property drawers down so they are more “searchable”. If your child does lose something, please ask them to look for it promptly.

Meet the Head

The next “Meet the Head” will be on Friday 24th February, the first Friday after the half term holiday. Please come along if you have any questions or suggestions and want to meet up with fellow parents.