



St Matthew's School Newsletter – 19th July 2023

Some Very Fond Farewells

A very busy year has come to an end with the fantastic Year 6 Production of “Pirates of the Currybean” and a beautiful leavers’ assembly. Well done to all of the children. We will miss you all very much and wish you all the very best for the future.



We are also saying goodbye to a number of staff this year. Good luck to Mrs Brankin, Mr Ince, Daisy, Katie and Ria. And of course not forgetting Mrs Lewis. Thank you to all the parents and carers who contributed to her leaving gift. Mrs Lewis was bowled over by everyone’s generosity. We wish Mrs Lewis and all those leaving us this term the very best of luck for the future.

Thank You to the PTA

This has been an amazing year for the PTA. Their fundraising efforts have done so much to keep important aspects of the school going in a difficult time for school budgets. Already this year they have supported us by funding the new chromebooks that children across the school are enjoying using and enabled us to keep our specialist music teaching provided by Mr Evans that the children love so much. Only this week the PTA have donated over £10,000 to enable us to buy the new “Monster Phonics” scheme that we will be introducing to the school next term. These things would really not be happening if it were not for your amazing collective efforts, so a heartfelt thank you from us all.

The PTA do so much more than fundraise of course, and the Summer Extravaganza was a brilliant example of how the events they organise bring us fun, entertainment and help bind our community together.

Back to School in September

The first day back to school for children in years 1 to 6 will be Monday 4th September (children in nursery and reception will have their own starting days). On Monday 11th September we will be holding an "Open Classrooms" event for classes in years 1 to 6 from 8:30am to 9:00am. This is when children can bring their parents into their classroom to show them their "place of work". Parents and carers can also meet the class teacher (though it is not the time to talk about any particular issue in detail, more a chance to say a brief hello).

Parents and children can arrive from 8:30am (you don't have to arrive early, school will still "officially" start at the normal time of 8:45am, but we will open the gates early at 8:30am to support those who might be rushing off to work).

We will send more details in September, but thought parents and carers might like to get the date in their diaries.

School Dinners

From next September we are having to increase the cost of a school dinner to £2.25. We have worked with our caterers Lunchtime to absorb rising costs over the last year, but we do now have to put the price up to reflect some of those costs. The school lunch still represents good value for money and is certainly one of the cheapest, if not the cheapest, school dinner in Cambridge so still represents excellent value for money.

School lunches for the full half term from September will therefore be £78.75, (£11.25 per week).

Can you help us improve city walking routes?

Cambridge Living Streets is launching a project to map widely used walking routes around the city and identify key improvements to make these journeys safer and more pleasant. Having safe walking routes to schools is a key part of this. We'll record key routes and proposed improvements on a dedicated website, so people can then click on a journey to find a good route to use. They can also send in comments and suggest additions.

If you have suggestions about key routes we should map or can help in this work either contact Linda Jones at Linda.j.jones@icloud.com or our group chair at Cambridgegroup@livingstreets.org.uk

Finally...

...we hope you have a wonderful summer. Overleaf are the dates for the next academic year that you can also find on our website. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.

St Matthew's Term Dates, 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Training Day, school closed to children	Friday 1 st September 2023
School starts for children (For parents of children in Nursery and Reception - check the date for your child's start in your admission information)	Monday 4 th September 2023
Half Term Holiday – Saturday 21st October to Sunday 29th October 2023	
Autumn Term Closes (last day of school)	Wednesday 20 th December, 2023

Spring Term 2024

Training Day, school closed for children	Thursday 4 th January 2024
Training Day, school closed for children	Friday 5 th January 2024
School starts for children	Monday 8 th January
Half Term Holiday – Saturday 17th February to Sunday 25th February 2024	
Spring Term Closes (last day of school)	Thursday 28 th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Training Day, school closed for children	Monday 15 th April 2024
School starts for children	Tuesday 16 th April 2024
May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)	Monday 6 th May 2024
Half Term Holiday – Saturday 25th May to Sunday 2nd June 2024	
Last Day of Summer Term	Friday 19 th July 2024
Start of Summer Holidays	Saturday 20 th July 2024

Autumn Term 2024

Dates for the 2024-2025 academic year have yet to be finalised. We can confirm however that the first day back for children in years 1 to 6 will be Thursday 5th September 2024. As usual, children in Nursery and Reception will have their own starting dates.