



## St Matthew's School Newsletter 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016



### Visit from Channel Swimmer Ed Williams

On Thursday 22nd September local Channel Swimmer Ed Williams from Elite Swimming Academy came to speak with the children at our assembly on the importance of resilience and perseverance. Ed spoke about his recent 25 mile swim between Ireland and Scotland which took place in August. He first attempted the swim in 2014 but was unsuccessful due to taking hundreds of jellyfish stings so the message to the children was to never give up if you fail first time!

You can read Ed's full report on the swim here:

<http://edwardwilliams.org.uk/2016/08/30/success-north-channel/>

Ed is head coach at Elite Swimming Academy who teach many of our pupils to swim in and around Cambridge. Visit [www.eliteswimmingacademy.co.uk](http://www.eliteswimmingacademy.co.uk) for full details and find a leaflet attached.



### Chariots of Fire

At the time of writing, we have raised a brilliant £738 for Papworth Hospital. A big thank you from all of us on our staff team (pictured below) for all your donations and the support on the day.



## News from the PTA

Our AGM is being held on Tuesday 11th October at 19.30 in the School Community Room. Please do come along. It's a big deal for us really - we talk about the money we have raised and how we will spend it and what sort of events we will run over the next year. The decisions we make on that evening and people's ideas and suggestions really do impact on the school and make a tangible difference to our children's environment and experiences.

We also need to elect the new committee (secretary, treasurer, and co-chairs) who are the named people that ensure we stay a charity. If you feel you are interested in more info or are thinking of standing for election, then please let us know.

Otherwise the role of class rep / coordinator of a specific event is also really important and we'd love to hear from you. You get bags of support and can really make a difference! The next big one is the Spooky Disco - if you're up for a challenge and like ghosts, monsters, spiders and other hallowe'eny things then this could be for you!

Email [pta@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk) or grab Gabby Uncles, Sara Izvekova, Alice Tranah or George Fitzpatrick at school if you recognise us and fancy a chat!

We are on Facebook too at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmatts/>

Below you can see a list of PTA events coming up this term:

- Oct. 1 - Mr Marvel magic show for the new Nursery and Reception children
- Oct. 14 - Y6 cake sale
- Oct. 21 - Spooky Disco
- Nov. 9 - Meeting - 7.30pm School Community Room - All welcome
- Nov. 11 - Meeting 9am School Community Room – All welcome
- Nov. 11 - Reception cake sale
- Dec. 16 - Festive Frolic

## Violin Performance in Assembly



This week Sicheng performed in assembly with Mariya, our Cambridgeshire Music violin teacher, to inspire children to take up the violin.

We are very proud that we have more children learning musical instruments in school through Cambridgeshire Music than any other primary school in Cambridgeshire (so we are told).

Well done, Sicheng! If you would like to find out more about taking music lessons through Cambridgeshire Music at St Matthew's, visit their website at [www.cambridgeshiremusic.org/contact/](http://www.cambridgeshiremusic.org/contact/).

## Safe Practice in PE, Sport and Physical Activity - Ear-rings and Jewellery

National guidance from the Association for PE (afPE) and Cambridgeshire County Council has always been that no jewellery should be worn in PE. This includes swimming and physical activity.

This advice also says that we should **not** put plasters or tape over ear-rings or studs. There are anecdotal cases of children wearing ear-rings / studs with plasters being hit by a ball or coming off worse in a collision and having nasty injuries as a consequence, and similarly plasters and studs falling away and bare feet being punctured.

We therefore remind you that jewellery is **not** permitted at school and children with pierced ears should only wear studs. We ask that children do not come to school wearing ear-rings when they have PE or swimming. If they are wearing ear-rings the children will have to remove them before they take part in the activity. Teachers cannot look after any jewellery for children and the school cannot be responsible for items of jewellery that are lost.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this matter.

## Thank you PTA!

Thank you to the PTA for match funding our new bookshelves with a very kind anonymous donor for all of our guided reading books. They have made a real difference to our ability to organise and retrieve books quickly, as well as looking great and helping to keep our school tidy.



## Harvest Festivals Assembly:

The children have been busy rehearsing for their harvest festival assembly in October. We will be sending out a letter on Monday with the dates and times once we have finalised these.

