



# St Matthew's School Newsletter

## 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

We hope you have all enjoyed the first days back at school.

It was a very busy summer holiday period in school. We had two big construction jobs taking place over the holiday period to combat the overheating issues we have had on hot days. First we have had more opening windows fitted to the classrooms and some of our offices. Secondly we have had air-conditioning fitted to all of our classrooms.

All the work was completed just in time for the children to return to school. I feel very confident that this will resolve the problems we have had over the last few summers.

Just to keep us on our toes, we also had a broken pipe which flooded a classroom and a power supply failure which resulted in our car park being dug up to trace the fault. All seems to be working well now.

The next building project is good news. The playground equipment the children chose last term is to be installed in our main playground. Work will begin on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### Updated Curriculum Frameworks

Our curriculum frameworks for all year groups have been updated for this half term. They can be found on our website at [www.stmatthews.eschools.co.uk/curriculum](http://www.stmatthews.eschools.co.uk/curriculum). These will be updated each half term as we go through the year, so some of the later half terms may change a little as the year progresses.

### Meet the Head

For parents new to the school, "Meet the Head" is hosted by the school governors. They are informal meetings that offer a chance to meet with the Head Teacher, ask questions and make suggestions about whole school issues. Sometimes the meetings have a specific agenda, other times they are completely open meetings. They are also a good opportunity to meet up with other parents and carers.

This term we have lots we wish to share with parents and carers as discussed above, and so we are planning three "Meet the Head" events:

- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September** - To look at the introduction of our eSchools Learning Platform for children and parents, and to share outcomes from the Parent/Carer Survey carried out at the end of last year.
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – to look at the new assessment processes being introduced into the school this academic year (see below)

- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – to share the latest information on our School Development Plan

We hope to see you there.

## **Early Excellence and Target Tracker**

We have started to introduce new assessment systems into the school this academic year. In Reception we are using “Early Excellence” as a baseline assessment. We have also introduced Target Tracker into school to assess Reading, Writing and Mathematics in the first instance.

It will be a big part of our work to embed these new systems during the course of this year. We will be sending out information about these changes later this half term, and we will also hold a “Meet the Head” event (see below) on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (9:30 in the Sports Hall) about these changes so that parents and carers have a chance to ask any questions they may have about the new systems.

## **Parent Survey and Our Next School Development Plan**

We had a tremendous response to our Parent and Carer Survey at the end of last term. We will be sharing the outcomes from that survey in our next Meet the Head event on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The responses we have had will really help us plan the future improvements to the school. This term we will be working to formulate our next School Development Plan. We will share work so far in another “Meet the Head” event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The plan will be published on our website once finalised.

## **School Book Fair**

Thank you for the tremendous support for our book fair last term. We raised £760 to buy books for St Matthew’s. The next book fair will be in December.

## **Lost Property**

This year we will continue with disposing of lost property on the last Friday of each month, so please make sure you have looked for any lost items by then.

We will also have some Year Six monitors who will collect items left around the playground at the end of each day and put them on a trolley. This trolley will be put by the entrance gate at the end of the day for children and parents to check for anything they may have lost. We hope that helps to reduce the amount of lost property that builds up in school.

## **Some Important Safety Notices**

**Dropping Off and Picking up Children by Car** – We have had two parents come to us this week saying that their children had nearly been hit by cars at the start of the School Day. Please can all parents and carers be extremely careful when bringing children to school by car or collecting them. In particular:

- **Please do not park on Caroline Place**
- **Avoid reversing onto Norfolk Street from side streets**
- **Look out for children on bikes, especially young children on small bikes who can be difficult to see.**

Wherever possible we encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Here is a link to an article sent in by a parent that outlines the many advantages of getting to school this way if you can. -

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/change-your-travel/children-and-families/school-run>

**End of the School Day** – At the end of the school day there are still children on site in school so we need to keep the school safe and secure. To help us do this please:

- Leave the school playground by 3:35pm
- Please check for any lost property by this time rather than coming back into school. The Lost Property arrangements described above may help this.
- Adults should not under any circumstances use the children’s toilets

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with these matters.

## Some Dates for Your Diary

Below are some further dates for the term ahead. In particular, please note the dates and times for our Harvest Festivals.

Further information about some events will be sent out closer to the time, and other events may be added as the term progresses.

You can keep up to date and access the school calendar on our website:

[www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/calendar](http://www.stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk/calendar)

Training Day – school closed for children	Wednesday 2nd September 2015
Training Day – school closed for children	Thursday 3rd September 2015
School starts for children	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
Meet the Head	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2015, 9:00am to 10:00am
Harvest Festival	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am - Years 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>• 10am – Years 4, 5 and 6</li> <li>• 2:30pm – Nursery and Reception</li> </ul>
School Photos for Individuals	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Meet the Head	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 9:00am to 10:00am
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 26th October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015</b>	
Parent Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 3:40 to 7:30 (except for Mr Evans’s and Mrs Isaac’s Class)</li> <li>• Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 3:40 to 5:30</li> <li>• Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 3:40 to 7:30 – second date for Mr Evans’s and Mrs Isaac’s Class</li> </ul>
Reception Phonics Workshop	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2015, 9:00am to , Sports Hall
Anti-bullying Week – Theme: “Make a Noise About Bullying”	16th-20 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
Meet the Head	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2015, 9:00am to 10:00am
Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Last Day of School - Autumn Term Closes	Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015