St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Monday 17th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of you who came along and help share our harvest celebrations in St Matthew's Church before we broke up for half term. Wimbledon Foodbank have collected all your donations and have asked me to pass on their thanks for your kindness and generosity. Please don't forget that foodbank donations are needed at all times of the year, especially at Christmas, and you can give regularly by popping something into the donation box when you do your shop in the supermarket.

It really feels like winter is finally here and we have actually turned the heating on in school! As always please can you make sure that your children have suitable winter waterproof coats and hats in school every day.

The return to school after half term has been busy from the start. The first day back saw our Year 3 children head out to the Poppy factory in Richmond where they learnt about the history of the Remembrance Poppy, and had a go at making their own. They could only use one hand and adaptive machines so they could experience the challenges faced by the disabled veterans returning from the war.

Father Alastair led our traditional Remembrance Eucharist in school on Monday 10th November, where each class laid their own thoughtfully made wreaths and we lit candles and prayed together for Peace, Thanks, Love and Remembrance. It was a peaceful and moving service.

Last week was a busy one with many classes going out on trips and visits. On Tuesday Years 3, 4 and 5 went to New Wimbledon Theatre to take part in the String Fever Music festival organised by Merton Music Foundation and came back inspired to become musicians and singers . Year 2 were also out that day visiting the library in Raynes Park and picking up their library tickets. On Thursday Year 3 were out and about again – this time going to visit Butser Farm, the open air archaeological museum. Our youngest children haven't missed out either – Reception went on their first school trip to see The Nutcracker at Wimbledon library. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to accompany the classes – these trips would not be possible without you.

On Friday we said prayers during Collective Worship for Mrs Broad, our wonderful Chair of Governors, ahead of her funeral later that day. The school were represented by our Governors and myself at what was a fitting celebration of a life well -lived and dedicated to the service of others. She is much missed.

We will also have her in the forefront of our minds as we welcome Bishop Rosemarie, Bishop of Croydon and Chair of the SDBE Schools Committee as she blesses the school and the new refurbishments today, Tuesday 18th.

Mrs Broad was passionate about education, in particular literacy, so she would have been very proud of the children who had their work commended as part of the Wimbledon Bookfest 'Legends' competition last summer. The awards have finally come through and we celebrated with Alexander, Alexandra, Charlie, Clemmie, Daisy, Elza, Kate, Lila, Magnus, Matilda, Max and Michael who received certificates, and with Leo H who writing was credited with Distinction and was included in the book; he is now officially a published author.

The PTA have also been busy. Please make sure that you also have these dates in your diaries as the hectic festive season approaches.

PTA Events
Friday 28th November
PTA Christmas Fair

Thursday 11th December
PTA Wreath making 7.30 pm .

School Events
Nursery and Reception Christmas Show
Tuesday 9th December -
9.30 prompt – Late comers will not be admitted into the hall

KS1 Christmas Show
Wednesday 10th December
9.30 prompt – Late comers will not be admitted into the hall

KS2 Carol Service
Wednesday 17th December
St Matthew's Church 6pm.
All KS2 children are expected to attend – the rest of the school community is very welcome to come .

Rock Steady Concert
Friday 12th December – 2.30 for parents of children in the Rock Steady Club

Christmas Parties: More information to follow from Class teachers

EYFS -Tuesday 16th December
KS1 -Wednesday 17th December
KS2 – Thursday 18th December

Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Wednesday 17th December – whole school

Thank you also to the PTA who have funded the now traditional end of term Christmas Panto for the whole school on Friday 19th December.

Farewell to Mr Norris

I am sad to announce that Mr Norris has decided that the time has come for him to hang up his St Matthew's keys and he will be retiring at the end of this term. He has been such a huge part of the school for the last 9 years and will be much missed by both the staff, children and families alike. It certainly won't be the same on the gate without him. There will be more occasions for us to celebrate his time here at school but I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to him for his hard work over the years and wish him a well-deserved and very happy retirement with his family and, of course, his beloved dogs.

Best wishes

Mrs Warner
Head Teacher