St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Monday 1st December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This morning we celebrated the start of Advent in Collective Worship – that most magical time of year. We thought, whilst it was a season focusing on joy and looking forward, it could also be a busy and difficult time for many – especially our parents and carers who work so hard to bring the magic alive. In the run up to Christmas the children of St Matthew's are going to focus on kindness, and the joy and pleasure small acts of thoughtfulness can bring.

We have our Kindness Crib in the hall and we are going to try to make sure that the crib is filled with small bundles of warm dry hay, ready for Jesus' birth. Each time a child, or indeed adult, does something kind they will be able to add a small bundle to the crib, and their act of kindness will be recorded on a paper heart. These small acts of kindness will, we hope, ensure that the manager is full by the end of term. Please talk to your child about this – and we are very happy for you to record acts of kindness they do at home and send this in.

Also in Worship today Teddy (Rec) passed his much deserved Good Manners Cup onto Ethan A, and the Writers Cup went from Issy (Year 6) to Matilda (Yr 3). Well done to these worthy winners.

As I sit in my office there is no doubt that the festive season is here as the lovely sound of the children's singing comes from the hall. Everyone is working so hard on making their shows the very best they can be and are so looking forward to sharing their hard work with you.

Tickets have been sent out to Early Years and Key Stage 1, and everyone is warmly invited to join KS2 as we celebrate with a traditional Carols and Candles service in St Matthew's Church.

Nursery and Reception: Tuesday 9th December @ 9.30am in school (ticket only)
Year 1 and Year 2: Wednesday 10th December @ 9.30am in school (ticket only)

Please note that the doors open at 9.20 and there will be no admittance after 9.30.

Key Stage 2: Tuesday 17th December @ 6pm, Matthew's Church - everyone warmly welcome!

More details will go out with Key Stage 2 Children, but it is expected that all KS2 children will attend this event unless there are very special circumstances.

As with all school occasions should you wish to take any photos these must only be for family use and not shared on social media. Any breach of this will result in a ban on photos at school events.

Rock Steady be holding a concert for parents of children who attend this club. Details will be sent directly from the club organisers.

Rock Steady – Friday 12th December @ 2.30 pm (school hall)

Christmas Lunch and Festive Jumper day in on Wednesday 17th December, with Christmas parties being held on:

Tuesday 16th December – Reception and Nursery
Wednesday 17th December – KS1
Thursday 18th December – KS2
More details will follow from class teachers .

Thank you to the PTA for getting us into the Festive mood with a very well attended Christmas fair on Friday. We still have the Tree sale (Saturday 6th) and Wreath making (Thursday 11th) to look forward to.

The children in Cine club have also been very busy –here is a report from them:

St Matthews Film Academy has spent this term pushing its craft further than ever, creating a powerful film for Christian Aid. The students haven't just risen to the challenge - they've set a new benchmark, with a remarkable number achieving their Level 1 filmmaking certification and leading the country as the first cohort to embark on securing their Level 2 accreditation through The National Film and Television School. Their work now heads toward a fitting celebration: a premiere at the RIBA award-winning Townhouse screening hall at Kingston University on 10th January. It's a moment that shows just how far our young filmmakers can go.

Many congratulations to Lara, Appoline, Rose, Harry R, Kayan, Edward, Nate, Ayhaan, Heidi and Finn – budding future OSCAR winners!

On a personal note I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all your kind words last week on the announcement of my retirement. As you all know this was not an easy decision but the right one for me and my family. The good news is that it is still a long way off and I have until the end of the summer term to enjoy leading this wonderful school and community.

I hope that you all find some time for peace and reflection in these next few weeks of advent preparation, and we look forward to welcoming you at the many events before the end of term

Best wishes

Mrs Warner
Head Teacher

Friendship **Discovery** **Prayer**