

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided)

NEWSLETTER 13

5th December 2014

Dear Parents,

OFSTED SURVEY INSPECTION

Throughout the educational year, as part of the Government monitoring programme, OFSTED are asked to perform 150 subject survey inspections across the country. The visits are made up of a cross section of primary, secondary and special schools. Each survey includes an evaluation of the leadership and management, quality of provision (teaching) and achievement in specific subjects in the curriculum. In addition to this, the inspection programme enables OFSTED to survey specific issues relating to these subjects, to track the impact of recent initiatives and to investigate future development.

Yesterday we were subject to a Mathematics Subject Survey Inspection. We are not yet permitted to divulge any of the judgments before publication of the letter, but the inspection went really well and the staff and governors are pleased with the outcome. As soon as the letter is published, we will make it available for all to read on our website.

INFANT NATIVITY – Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th December

The children in Key Stage 1 are currently putting the finishing touches to 'Humph', this year's Infant Nativity production. Once again, we would also like to remind all parents of the following points:

- Only people with tickets will be admitted.
- We no longer permit babies and toddlers to attend.
- Members of the audience must remain seated at all times
- The use of camcorders and flash photography is not permitted. The school will be taking photographs and recording the production and copies will be available for family members to purchase.

These restrictions are necessary to ensure that both the children and audience can enjoy the nativity without unnecessary distractions which may spoil the performance. Given the huge effort that staff and children have put in to prepare this annual treat, please help us to make it a special day for the children.

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL

As you aware, at St Matthew's School, we do our best to keep a lid on seasonal activities at this time of year. In particular, we try really hard to ensure that the children do not get over-excited but remain focussed on their learning and making progress. By retaining the focus on the season of Advent and the true meaning of the birth of Christ, we are able to limit the impact of the commercial pressures that we see in the shops and in the media.

As part of this, we insist that all cards that are exchanged at this time of the year are posted in the school post boxes, not given out in the playground or cloakrooms. Not only does this help us to keep the excitement to certain times of the day, it also limits the amount of rubbish e.g. envelopes & pieces of paper we have to clear up around the school. The post boxes will not be set up until the final week of term, so please do not let the children bring cards to school before Monday 15th December.

STRANGER DANGER

Yesterday we sent home a text regarding an incident that occurred on London Road in Stroud. Please take the time to discuss Stranger Danger with your children. Maybe within your everyday routine, try and make sure that if you drop off your child that the person is waiting for you, and when you collect your child, that you are on time so that they are not left unattended. Also make sure they are always with at least one other person, either a friend of member of the family. If you do see someone acting suspiciously please contact the police immediately.

We are also currently being informed of an incident where a grey transit van with tinted windows has been slowing down and travelling alongside a child in the Stroud area. Again if you see anything that causes you concern, please contact the police.

CLUBS

Please see the list below of the dates when clubs will be finishing this term. A new set of clubs will be available next term:

Club:	Finish Date:
Indoor Rowing	Monday 15 th December
Gardening	Monday 8 th December
Multi Skills	Tuesday 16 th December
Knitting	Tuesday 16 th December
Russian	Tuesday 9 th December
French	Tuesday 9 th December
Sewing	Tuesday 9 th December
Aerobics	Tuesday 9 th December
Art	Wednesday 10 th December
Football	Wednesday 10 th December
Gymnastics	Wednesday 17 th December
Football(Y1 & Y2)	Thursday 17 th December
Netball	Thursday 11 th December
Pop Choir	Thursday 11 th December
Infant Singing	Thursday 11 th December
Music	Thursday 11 th December

COOLMILK

Please remember that if your child is over 5 and is a Pupil Premium child, they are entitled to free milk as well as free school lunch. Please order through Cool Milk AND let the office staff know if this applies to you.

MEDICINE

If you have any medicine that has been left at school that your child no longer needs, please come to the school office to collect before the end of term. This particularly applies with Calpol or Nurofen as they do have use by dates on the bottle.

Y4 SWIMMING

We would like to remind parents to pay any overdue swimming fees as soon as possible. As you are aware we have to pay for the use of the pool and the cost of the coach, which although we subsidise doesn't cover all the costs.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

If your child has been invited to attend this event on 16th December please make sure your reply slips have been returned by Monday 8th December. We are also desperate for help to transport the children to and from this event. If you think you can help, please contact the school office, it would be leaving from St Matthew's at 9:00am and collecting from Wycliffe at 12:30pm

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Week ending 4th December 2013	
Reception	Kieran Hughes
Year One	Zachary Thevenin and Harley Thevenin
Year Two	Archie Powell
Year Three	Mia Hooper
Year Four	Faye McCrink
Year Five	Daisie Jones
Year Six	Mikki Bingle