



St Matthew's School Newsletter – 27th March 2015

Tag Rugby Success in the County Finals

Our Year Five / Six Tag Rugby team put in a tremendous performance to come second in the County Finals in St Ives last Thursday, competing against the best teams from schools from all over Cambridgeshire. The team won all but one of their group matches to qualify for the semi-finals. The semi-final was a nerve-racking match against Fenstanton which we won by 8 tries to 7. This earned us a place in the final against Westfield, the only team to beat us in the group stage. The team put in a great performance, taking an early lead, but unfortunately were eventually beaten to take second place. The team were magnificent and we were extremely proud watching them, not just for their skill but also for the character they showed in never giving up and conducting themselves throughout in an extremely sporting manner. Well done to all of the team and thank you to the parents who came along and supported us.



Boys Football Team Victories

We have had continued sporting success with our boys' football team beating all-comers in the first round of matches in the Cambridge City and South Sports Partnership Year 5/6 Football competition. This included beating a number of opponents who are usually our strongest rivals. The second round of matches takes place next term. Good luck!

Our B Team also wrapped up victory in their mini league with a convincing victory over St Paul's by 17 goals to 3. This means they qualify for the final to be played at Coleridge next term.

What a Performance!

Some of our weary rugby players rushed back from the County Finals to take part in a superb music concert for parents in the sports hall. This featured performances from our choir, soloists on various instruments and the first large scale, public performance from our school orchestra. The event was a tremendous success, the hall was packed and £178 from donations was raised for music in St Matthew's.

Parents also turned out in force to support two other shows put on by the children, the wonderful Circus Show by Year One and Mrs Hurst's Class Assembly. This evening after school some children will be performing for parents in the St Matthew's Talent Show to raise money for Comic Relief.

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the parents and carers for giving the children an audience to perform to. Your support is greatly appreciated.

News from the PTA

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make our recent PTA events so successful. Our first ever **Key Stage 2 Magic Show** mesmerised its audience and raised £150 for the school. Last Friday saw **year two's cake sale**. Thanks to everyone who donated and bought a mound of delicious cakes. Together you raised £265 for year two's raptor visit.

This week we've had an event to raise money for the **school's new vegetable garden**. Thanks to Bee Wilson's generous donation of a host of amazing new **cookbooks and a magnificent Easter egg** we raised £249. The lucky winner of the Easter egg was from Mrs Spencer-Allen's class. We hope it hasn't all been eaten yet!

PTA Dates for Your Diary

Next term is already filling up...

Tony Davies is coming to our next **PTA meeting at 2pm on Friday 17th April**. He will outline the various projects the school would like us to support. Everyone's welcome to come along to find out what the school wants, and help us decide how best the PTA can support the school and how to spend the funds you've helped to raise. For anyone who can't come along to that meeting we will be discussing the plans again on **Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm**. Both meetings will be held in the school.

- **Year 6 cake sale:** Friday 24th April
- **Year 3 cake sale:** Friday 15th May
- **A swim night at Parkside pool** – we've got the pools and flumes to ourselves on **Saturday 16th May, 6-7pm**
- **St Matthew's quiz night with music:** book your baby sitters for **Friday 5th June** because our quiz night is back!

If you want to get involved with the PTA or have any comments, suggestions or feedback, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you - pta@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk

Science and Engineering Week at St Matthew's

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed St Matthew's Science Week! There were lots of amazing science activities taking place, both around school and in the local area, throughout the week. Year 6 absolutely loved taking on the role of science teachers and relished the opportunity to work with the other year groups. Their presentations and activities were greatly enjoyed by all. They put an amazing amount of time and effort into their lessons and their projects were very well planned and delivered. Year 6 are very much looking forward to taking on other opportunities to 'teach'.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making St Matthew's Science Week such a fantastic success.



From Our Early Intervention Support Worker...

Hello. I am Jo Aykroyd, the Early Intervention Family Worker connected with your school. I can offer support and advice and help you to find new ways of managing common issues such as:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Establishing rules, routines and boundaries
- Increasing confidence
- Improving family relationships
- Providing information on local support services
- Access to parenting courses

I will next be in St Matthew's on Wednesday 29th April 2015 to offer some appointments to discuss support. Feel free to contact me through the school or on my mobile 07824 569789.

I look forward to meeting you!

From the Governors...

The current members of the governing body are set out in the table below [see attached document]. Each governor is a member of either the Resources or Curriculum sub-committees (except for Tony Davies who attends both). The Resources Committee focuses on the finances of the school, together with the buildings, personnel and IT. As the name suggests, the Curriculum sub-committee's focus is the educational side of the school, ranging from what children are learning in the classroom to scrutinising the academic performance of the school.

After Easter, we are required as a governing body to reconstitute (essentially this is a cabinet reshuffle!) This will give us the opportunity to focus more on the skills we need as a group to carry out the role of governing the school. It's an exciting opportunity which should put us in a stronger position to lead and support the next stage of the school's development and we'll update you more on this in future newsletters. Once that process is complete, we will also include a brief biography of each governor in subsequent newsletters.

Joanna Dean (Elected Parent Governor and Link Governor for Parent Communication).

Clubs and Activities

Next term there will be thirty extra-curricular clubs on offer in St Matthew's. These can be found on our website and a complete list has been sent out via eschools today.

Staff News

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Miss Thackray who worked in our Nursery for the Spring term. She has done a great job for us and we are sorry that she is leaving Cambridge and so is unable to continue in the long term. We have successfully recruited Miss Dymond to be our Nursery class teacher next term.

Finally, congratulations to Miss McDonald who will be getting married this Easter. When she returns in April she will be Mrs Lloyd.

Happy Holidays

We hope you all have a great break over the holidays. Remember – first day back at school is TUESDAY 14th April 2015.