



St Matthew's School Newsletter - 13th March 2015

Meet the Head

There will be a "Meet the Head" event on Friday 27th March at 9am in the Sports Hall, finishing at 10am. We hope that, barring any technical problems, we will have launched our new school website and set up parent log-ins for eSchools earlier that week. This will give parents access to information about attendance for their child, they will be able to see their children's class pages with curriculum information, and have access to email to support home/school communication. It will also give parents the ability to pay for school meals online for next term onwards. We will use "Meet the Head" to have a look at this together. We hope to see you there.

National Science and Engineering Week at St Matthew's Monday 16th March - Friday 20th March

At St Matthew's, we will be celebrating British Science Week next week. As well as lots of exciting science happening in classrooms, Years 5 and 6 will be attending an interactive science lecture at the Department of Chemistry and we will also be welcoming scientists into school.

For the first time ever, Year 6 will also take on the role of science 'teachers'. They are, at present, busy planning engaging and hands-on investigations, covering a range of scientific concepts. Groups of Year 6 children will then visit other classes to work with the younger children, as they deliver their lessons and carry out their carefully planned investigations. Year 6 is extremely excited at the prospect of taking on such a role and we are hoping that this will prove to be an exciting learning experience for all involved.

During previous years we have also been delighted to welcome parents/carers into school to work with children, exploring aspects of science and technology. If you would like to come into school to work in class, please get in touch.

We are looking forward to a science filled week!

News from the School Council - the Buddy Benches are here!

If you need a friend, come to the bench, chat and play games.

We now have a Buddy Bench in both our playgrounds. If children are feeling a bit lost or have no one to play with they can make their way to the Buddy Bench where a "buddy" will get them involved in a game. The benches are manned every day from 12.30 -1.00 by members of the School Council (and friends). The buddies are enjoying their new responsibilities and are very friendly and approachable!

Thank you to the PTA for raising the funds to buy the benches.

World Book Day Disco - Thank You PTA

Thank you to the PTA also for the fantastic World Book Day Disco last Friday. The sports hall and community room were fabulously decorated (as were some of the PTA) and the children had a wonderful time. Here is some news from the PTA themselves:

PTA News

Thanks to everyone who helped make last Friday's **World Book Day Disco** such a success. The sports hall looked amazing and we hope everyone who came along had fun. Together we raised £500 for the school.

Tomorrow (Saturday 14th March) at 2pm we've got our **Magic Show** for key stage two children (Years 3 to 6) and their siblings. If you haven't already bought a ticket you can still come along tomorrow to the sports hall and pay at the door. Tickets cost £2.

Next Friday (20th March) is the **Year 2 cake sale**.

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

Living Eggs in Year Two and Nursery

This week we have had living eggs in Year 2 and Nursery. The eggs hatched into cute chicks and the children have enjoyed learning about their life cycle. The children were very gentle and careful when holding the chicks and helped feed them. We ran a live-stream for the children to watch at home and on Friday the chicks will be rehomed on local farms.



Surprise Visit - Tigers About the House

Miss Hatcher's class were extremely shocked to have a surprise visit from Giles Clark this week. Giles (from BB2's Tigers About The House), had heard that a group of children from the class had been involved in raising money to save tigers. While he was visiting the UK, he wanted to say thank you to the children in person and to also take the opportunity to highlight the necessity of working to save endangered species, such as the tiger. The children loved hearing about his experiences working at Australia Zoo and also asked lots of questions about Spot and Stripe, the furry stars of the TV show. It was an amazing experience and one that will be remembered for a long time!

Governor News

Below Zoe Thorn, Chair of Governors, has written the latest news from our governors:

The governing body at St Matthew's works in a strategic role throughout the school. In this first report, I'll outline what governors do.

School governors have three main roles:

1. Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
2. Holding the headteacher to account in raising standards and promoting the well-being of pupils
3. Ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

In order to carry out these roles, governors meet as a full group about 5 times a year, and each governor is also a member of a smaller committee (Curriculum or Resources) which meets about once a term.

Governors also visit the school, attend training to update their knowledge and skills, and can be members of interview panels when selecting new members of staff. Governors have also recently been involved in the process to select a new school meals provider, and in the selection of the e-schools communication system.

Governors are parents, members of staff, and members of the local community.

Last week, in a full governing body meeting, governors:

1. Audited and updated their child protection knowledge;
2. Received an educational standards report from the Primary Adviser attached to St. Matthew's;
3. Looked at new ways of reporting training and school visits.

If you would like to know more about the governors, or have any questions, please contact Mrs Maskell in the office, who is the Clerk to Governors.