



St Matthew's School Newsletter, 12th May 2015

Sports Desk



St Matthew's has another sporting trophy in the bag!

Our Year Five/Six Boys football team completed their series of matches in the School Sports Partnership Football Competition as champions. The boys won all eight of their matches, scoring 25 goals in the process and conceding just one. The boys also took part in a "Champions League" competition matches for the

top four teams last night. They won the semi-final and drew the final 1-1 against St Alban's, losing in dramatic fashion in a penalty shoot-out that went to "sudden death". Very exciting. Well done to them all.

Our Year Five/Six Girls netball team also put in a great performance to finish second in their group in the recent Cambridge School Sports Partnership Netball Competition. In gale-force winds, they won one match and drew all their others to just miss out on a place in the semi-finals.

Nursery and Reception Sponsored Scoot

Congratulations to the Nursery and Reception children who managed to raise a total of £426 from their sponsored scoot event in April. The children loved pedalling around the playground for as long as they could and cheering each other on. The money raised will be spent on replenishing our outdoor learning



resources e.g. construction equipment, bats and balls and outdoor writing equipment. If you have any outstanding contributions please bring them into the office. Many thanks for your continued support.

Scratch Day at St Matthew's

On Saturday 9th May over 60 children took part in Scratch Day at St Matthew's.

Scratch is a free programming language where children, and adults, can create interactive stories, games and animations. It helps children to think creatively, use logical reasoning and work collaboratively. On Saturday, those who took part were introduced to the basics of Scratch, worked in large



groups to create projects, and were given an opportunity to use their skills to explore their own ideas. Children worked really hard to make maze games, chatbots and rock bands. Even the parents learnt some programming.

Huge thanks to Samin Ishtiaq who organised the event and to the many parents and carers who helped on the day, including the PTA for the delicious provisions for the breaks.

Everyone who took part had great fun working together and sharing their programming knowledge. If you attended, and want to share your Project, add it to <https://scratch.mit.edu/studios/1171780/>.

PTA News

Thanks to Samin Ishtiaq who organised an afternoon of **Scratch programming** for KS2 children. Sixty children attended, and

Our popular **cake sales** continue to raise funds for individual year groups. Most recently year 6 raised almost £180. Thanks to everyone who donates and buys cakes.

PTA funds

The PTA continually responds to requests from the school and suggestions from parents and carers, to fund a whole range of items, such as the buddy benches, new books for the school library and playground equipment.

Tony Davies came along to both of our recent PTA meetings to discuss ways in which the PTA can use our funds on bigger projects. We agreed at the meetings that

we have an amazing £10,000 to spend on these projects. The priorities we identified were a new trim trail for the main school playground, a school garden/growing area to be used by children, new laptops for the school and new school signage. Thanks to everyone who has helped to raise these funds, and we look forward to seeing them being used by the school in the next few months.

Dates for your diary-

- **Summer extravaganza planning meeting: Friday 15th May, 9am** in school community room. Come along to help plan this year's end of term event, and look out for other opportunities to join in/help.
- **Year 3 cake sale: Friday 15th May**
- **St Matthew's swim night at Parkside pool** – we've got the pools and flumes to ourselves on **Saturday 16th May, 6-7pm**. We've still got some tickets left. Forms are available at the school office.
- **St Matthew's quiz, band and dancing night:** book your baby sitters for **Friday 5th June** because our quiz night is back! Look out for more details coming soon.
- **Summer extravaganza: Friday 17th July**

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

Miss Carter's Class Assembly

Miss Carter's class really enjoyed performing in their very first Class Assembly! We heard all about what they've been learning as part of their new topic of 'Growth and Growing'. The children sang songs about caterpillars, showed the stories they had written and their symmetrical butterfly paintings. We were all very proud of how you all joined in so confidently. Thank you to all of the parents and family members who came to watch.



Young Sports Leaders

Our Year 5/6 'Young Sports Leaders' have been doing a tremendous job organising activities for the younger children. Here they are in their "Young Sports Leaders" t-shirts bought for them by the PTA.



Governor News

Reconstitution

On Tuesday evening last week governors had a lengthy meeting to reconstitute, as we are obliged to do by September 2015 under the School Governance Regulations 2012. This process is mandatory for governing bodies of all maintained schools in England and is designed to help governing bodies reduce the number of unfilled governor vacancies (this has not been an issue at St Matthew's) and also encourage the skills-based recruitment of new governors. For example, if we need someone with legal expertise, we can specifically advertise for a governor with these skills to either be co-opted onto the governing body or elected through the parent election process.

The Outcome for St Matthew's

The main differences are that we now have: four elected parent governor posts (previously six); one elected staff governor (previously three); one elected Local Authority governor (previously four); and the category of community governor has ceased to exist. In practice, the governors whose category of governor no longer exists have been co-opted back onto the governing body for a two-year term. There are two exceptions: Carrie Rice was a staff governor and has stepped down (she is currently on maternity leave) and Ashley Walsh too has stepped down due to work commitments.

In short, our new governing body looks very similar to the old one. This process will now be ratified by the Local Authority.

The Reconstituted Governing Body:

- Elected Parent Governors: Joanna Dean, Sarah Ransome, Sam Wilkes-Read and Gavin Ayliffe.
- Elected Staff Governor: Melissa Hatcher
- Co-opted Staff Governor: Emily Evans
- LA Governor: Carole Mills
- Head Teacher: Tony Davies
- Co-opted Governors: Lucy Walker, Kevin Blencowe, Jill Tuffnell, Neil Perry, Zoe Thorn and Mark Tinkler.

We have three co-opted governor vacancies including one vacancy for another member of staff to be co-opted onto the governing body. This could be a member of the teaching, office or support staff.

At the end of this academic year the school secretary, Anne Maskell, will be stepping down as clerk after 20 years service - an impressive tenure! We would like to thank Anne for all the help she has provided the governing body with over this time. We will soon be starting the recruitment process for a new clerk whose duties include managing the business of the governing body and advising the governing body as appropriate.

Other Business

Aside from these formalities, during Tuesday's meeting we have ratified the school budget for the new financial year just started. This year we will benefit from increased funding to Cambridgeshire schools [we were previously one of the worst funded counties in the country], although we are not sure how many more years this will last. The plan is to make a small surplus of around 1% of our income by the end of March 2016. This would mark a significant improvement on the position at the end of March 2015 where we recorded a deficit.

Our attention is now focused on recruiting a new clerk and formulating a new school development plan. In relation to the school development plan, we will be sending out a questionnaire later this term asking parents for their thoughts which will feed into this process. In addition, we will be looking into incorporating a permanent feedback link on the new school website so that parents can send us comments more regularly.

As always, please feel free to contact me by email.

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Joanna Dean, Elected parent governor and link governor for communication.