



St Matthew's RC Primary



32 Carnethie Street
Rosewell
Midlothian
EH24 9AT

Tel: 01312714695
Email: stmatthews_ps@midlothian.gov.uk
Website: <http://stmatthews.mgfl.net>
Head Teacher: Miss A Chidgey
Twitter: @stmatthewsps1

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy week here at St Matthew's and motivation is high as we draw nearer to the Summer Holidays. With 7 weeks left, classes will spend time working on their next steps that have been identified through assessments completed over the last couple of weeks. Class updates will help to keep you informed on what will be covered generally within classes and seesaw updates will update you on any progress within this learning.

Over the course of May, we will be evaluating our development plans for this year and using the data we have gathered through assessments and pupil focus groups to plan our priorities for next session. We would usually use parent's evenings to gather parent and carer views to shape our plans. However, this session we will be sending out a google form for you to complete to help support with school priorities and how we spend our pupil equity fund. Please look out for this in your inbox next week.

School Office

Mrs Golder's postponed operation is due to take place next week, we wish her all the very best of luck and a speedy recovery. For most of the day the office will remain unmanned. In order to contact us, we strongly encourage you to continue to email in the first instance. School emails will be checked regularly throughout the school day. We will also check the voice messages left on the school phone periodically throughout the day and endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency we will have a mobile phone for you to contact. This phone will be on a member of our teaching staff at all times from 8.50am-3.15pm. It should only be used in an emergency as it will interrupt the teaching taking place. This number will be texted to you on Monday morning. We have also placed a new doorbell at the front door to the school, please use this for access.

Park Smart

Thank you for all your support so far with our Park Smart campaign. We all need to work together to ensure our children are safe. Unfortunately the weather hasn't been too kind to us this week and this may have prevented active ways to travel to school. Fingers crossed the weather improves so the children can bike, scoot or walk to school where possible to reduce the congestion on the main street.

P6/7 Cover – next week

Monday – Miss Chidgey
Tuesday – Mrs Syme
Wednesday – Mrs Syme
Thursday – Mr Clark returns

Class Updates

Instead of a monthly newsletter, classes will now share what they plan on teaching each week to help to support conversations at home and better inform parents of what their children are learning.

Primary 1-3

P1/3 have enjoyed learning some new set 2 and set 3 sounds this week in literacy. We have been working on reading aloud to a partner to build our fluency and we have been encouraging the pupils to use 'Fred in our head' (sound out the word in their head before saying it out loud) when reading green words. In numeracy this week we have had a focus week on subtraction strategies to build up our mental maths skill set. In Maths we are continuing our Fractions topic. Some of our pupils are learning about fractions of shape whilst others focus on fractions of quantities.

Next week:

In literacy some of us will be learning the final set 3 sound whilst others continue to learn set 2 sounds. We are really focusing on including capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in all of our sentences and will be doing some daily writing practise to support this.

In numeracy some of us will be focusing on addition strategies whilst others will be working on multiplication skills. Mrs McCready has set up a beautiful altar to Mary in our classroom this week and will be continuing this topic next week as it is the Month of Mary. She will also be teaching P1/3 about the lifecycle of a caterpillar next week. The pupils are watching our classroom caterpillars grow bigger each day and are very excited to see what happens next.

Primary 4-5

Within literacy this week we've thoroughly enjoyed continuing to explore our Folktales, in particular we've used drama to explore stage directions and act out our roles as herds' people and enchantresses. Next week we will continue along our folklore theme and begin writing our own version of fairy tales and folktales.

In numeracy, we've been revisiting fractions of a quantity and halves and quarters. Having just begun to explore these within a context (such as word problems) we will continue to work on fractions of whole amounts next week, paying close attention to how these will look as written problems.

We've also introduced a lot more time for spelling and reading in the classroom, with 25 minutes set aside in the morning each day to focus on each of these in order to commit our spelling rules (and Fry's words) to memory.

Primary 6-7

In literacy this week we have continued to develop our understanding of the play *The Elephant in the Room* and next week we will finish this learning but writing our own play script based on this. We also did some creative writing this week. We looked at a character and developed who they were, where they lived and described an interaction with another character. We also completed our entries for the next Young Writers Competition – a poem about a peculiar pet.

In numeracy this week we continued our learning in algebra, and developed our understanding of BODMAS which is a strategy to help us answer questions in the correct order. Next week in numeracy we will be focusing on fractions, looking at fractions of shapes, quantities and fractions with differing numerators and denominator.

We started learning about Handball in PE and watched a match to see if we could work out the rules of the game. Unfortunately our lesson was hailstoned off, but we are looking forward to continuing next week.

We continued to compare Denmark and Scotland, this week focusing on the climate and weather of each country. Our artist of the week this week was R.E.M. It was good to experience their music style, but we definitely prefer some of the other artists we have covered.

P.E Days

Next Week P.E will be delivered by Mrs Tait as follows

Mon – P6-7 and P4-5

Tues – P6/7 and P1-3

Fri – P4/5

We are unable to provide changing facilities so your child must come dressed for P.E. You may wish to provide an extra snack and a water bottle on these days and if it is forecast to rain a change of socks and shoes to keep feet dry.

Contact with School

In line with our risk assessment, please note that no adults other than school staff or other essential staff are permitted into the school building. If you need to contact the school office, please do so via email to stmatthews_ps@midlothian.gov.uk. Please see above re emergency phone calls to the school. To report a pupil absence, please continue to use the messaging service provided via the school phone.

We would like to thank you once again for your continued support. We will keep you updated with any further information via our usual channels of communication.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Chidgey
Head teacher

