

St Matthias CE Primary School Newsletter



Friday 28th February
2025



News from this week:

You should be so proud of your children! They have been so adventurous with the new menu and are now saying things like 'it's actually reallyyyy nice' and 'beetroot is so sweet!'. We are encouraging green on the plate which has resulted in us tripling our orders of cucumbers as they are being devoured on the salad bar. Well done healthy eaters!!! Please be reminded 'only fruit' as a snack before club and if your child has a packed lunch ensuring a balanced meal with no sweets, chocolate or juice. We can save the treats for other times.

The whole school are excited about world book day. Please don't buy a costume! We have many to lend. Each year we encourage children to pen their own stories and come in dressed as a character from their own story- essentially curating their own outfit. So if this is easier please ensure your child can explain who their character is and their role in the story! Posters say £1 but this is only because we are doing a giant book sale at the end of the day- the money is to buy books to take home and enjoy.

We are so pleased to have all children back after half term and can't wait to share our learning with you over the spring term.



We know that lots of our families and children will be celebrating Ramadan over the course of the next month. This is an important time of reflection and prayer from our Muslim community and is something that we know children are proud to talk about. In order to support our children in their learning, we do not recommend that students fast Monday-Friday. If you have any questions about this then please come and talk to a member of SLT.



We have a scooter and bike park in the KS2 playground. All bikes and scooters need to be taken here at the beginning of the day. We can no longer have them left at points across the school for health and safety reasons. Thank you for your support!

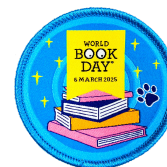
Gates open at 8:30 (close at 8:45am)
Your child must have attendance of >97%
Any holidays in term time will result in a fine from Hackney.

Important dates:

Wednesday 5th March
World Book Day Bookshop
Trips
Year 1 9:30-11am
Year 5 10:00-11:30 am
Year 4 10:30-12pm



Thursday 6th March
World Book Day 2025
Non-Uniform, bring £1 for a book



Wednesday 5th March
World Book Day Bookshop
Trips
EYFS 9:30-11am
Year 2 10:00-11:30 am
Year 3 10:30-12pm
Year 6 11-12:30pm

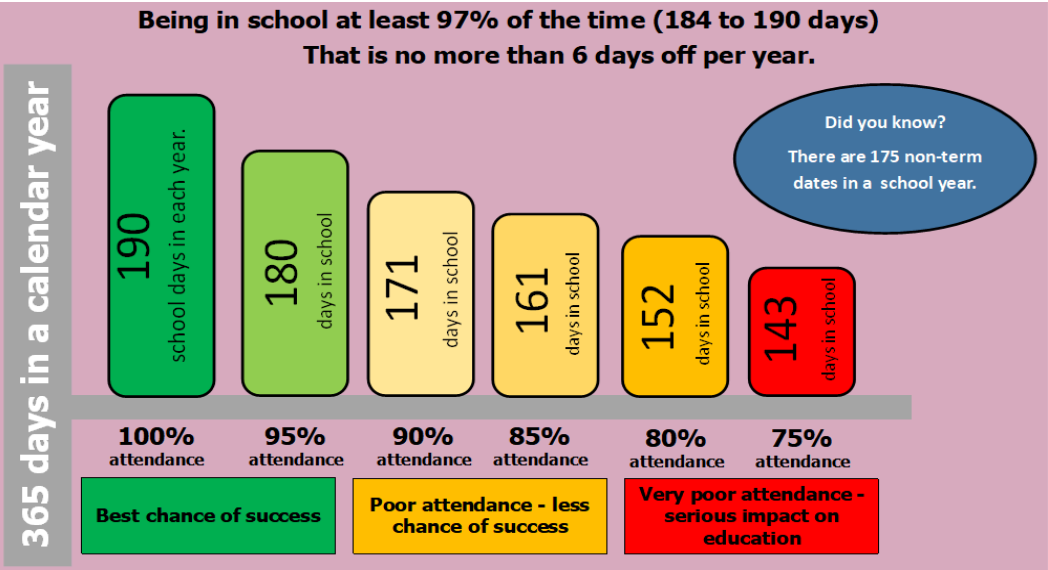


Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th March
Year 4 Residential to YHA Truleigh Hill



Monday 7th - Monday 21st April
Easter Holidays

If you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to us.



The fabulous choir performed at St Matthias Church this week as part of their ‘Let the River Run’ show. We are proud of our children for showcasing their hard work!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 4th March
Evensong at St Paul’s cathedral

Sunday 30th March
Mothering Sunday Service at St Paul’s West Hackney

Monday 31st March
End of term concert at St Paul’s West Hackney

Saturday 14th June
Visit to Magdalen College Oxford

Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August
Summer Choral Course



Book Recommendation of the Week!



Tuesday 22nd April
Start of Summer 1
All children back at school



**Monday 12th May-
Thursday 15th May**
Year 6 SATs Assessment
Week



**Monday 26th - Friday 30th
May**
Half Term Holidays



Monday 2nd June
Start of Summer 2
All children back at school



**Monday 3rd - Friday 7th
June**
Year 4 Multiplication Check
Assessment

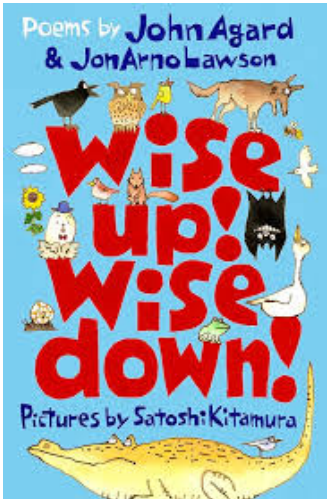


**Monday 9th - Friday 13th
June**
Year 1 Phonics Screen Check



**Monday 14th - Wednesday
16th July**
Year 6 Ufton Court

Chloe in Y5 recommends 'Wise Up, Wise Down' by John Agard and Jon Arno Lawson because it's a simple rhyming comedy. She thinks that children in KS2 would like it.



Residential



Friday 18th July - tbc
Summer Holidays



Sustainability





Our School Parliament met this week. They wrote letters to members of staff who they think can help us to achieve our objectives for this half term. They also took back our new plants from the classrooms and told their peers how they can look after them.



*Label
It*



As it gets colder, we are all wearing more layers to keep warm. Our teachers work hard to remind the children to put all of their coats/jumpers on their pegs and their scarves/gloves in coat pockets/bags. Children sometimes leave these in other places and when all items are **labelled with their name**, it is easier to find them.

Please label your child's school uniform with a name label or use a permanent marker pen.



Have a look at the St Matthias website and see what each class is learning about this half term!

[EYFS Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 1 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 2 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 3 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 4 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 5 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)
[Year 6 Spring 2 Curriculum Overview](#)



PE next week - please ensure pupils are in the appropriate PE kit.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Year 6	Year 5	Year 4
		Year 3	Year 1 Year 2	EYFS

Hot chocolate Friday!

Pupils enjoyed hot chocolate this week. They have consistently displayed exemplary behaviour and learning.



EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Marinela	Isla	Bleu	Khloe	Hoang	Samuel	Nassa

News from our classes: What has been the most memorable learning this week?

EYFS:

This week has been an unforgettable week for EYFS, our 10 eggs arrived on Monday and hatched on Wednesday. They have been absolutely thrilled to watch the chicks hatch and grow, we have been looking after them and feeding them. I have been so proud of all the children's courage to stroke and pet the chicks and their enthusiasm and affection towards them has been truly magical to watch! We are sadly saying goodbye to them on Friday where they will venture off to their new homes- we will miss them so much!

Year 1:

We have had a lovely week back in Year 1 and we really enjoyed seeing our friends after the half term break! We were delivered a new storybook to read this term and we discovered some clues for it outside! We wrote some great predictions about what the clues might be for. We learnt it was *Where The Wild Things Are* and have loved listening to the story. In maths we have begun addition and everyone has worked very hard - please practise lots of adding at home and don't forget to practise your maths on numbots! Finally we loved visiting the chicks in Early Years and we reflected on God's wonderful creation.

Year 2:

Year 2 have had a great start back after half term, we have all been working really hard on our learning already! We have been busy making predictions about our new book *Grandad's Island*, learning about the relationship between the 5 and ten times tables. On Monday we also started a new class singing session with Mr Cross of St Pauls Cathedral, we love singing so we have enjoyed getting to learn some new songs and learning more about music!

Year 3:

Year 3 have had an amazing start back! In writing we have read and discussed the story Jemmy Button. We have used this story to generate our own simile poem and character description.

In Humanities, we have begun to focus on the topic 'mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes'. This week's lesson was based on identifying the different layers of the earth.

Test your children by asking them these questions:

How many layers does the Earth have?

Can you name the layers of the Earth?

Year 4:

Year 4 have had a great start to the half term. With a new seating plan we have all showed focus and commitment to our learning this week! In writing we have begun our new unit and have been researching fairy tale endings, ready to turn them into a twisted narrative. In geography we focused on the question, 'What is migration?' We had meaningful discussions about the impact migration has had on the UK and all the positive changes that we have because of migration.

Year 5:

Year 5 have had an amazing week back, working really hard in all subjects. This week in maths, we have started using short division including remainders and regrouping, year 5 have shown resilience through the challenges and word problems. Within writing year 5 have finished their big write and started their new text called Promise, they have shown enthusiasm as always, bringing amazing ideas! Within PSHE they have started their new topic "Healthy me", starting to think about ways they can look after their bodies. Within Science they conducted an investigation on what it takes for a plant to grow and will be observing their plants throughout the next coming weeks. Lastly year 5 engaged in buddy story time with year 2, they were amazing role models and I am so proud of them! Well done year 5!

Year 6: Year 6 launched straight into learning this week; we began planning for our discovery narrative and researched some interesting facts about wolves. We also started using Learning by Questions - an online learning tool that tailors questions for our learning needs. At the end of the week, we visited chicks in reception.

School value in focus this week: **Collaboration**

Each week the class teacher nominates a pupil in their class who has shown the school value that was in focus.



The pupils who have shown excellent **collaboration** are:

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Elira	Kamirah and Raphael	Junior	Sharon and Berekia	Chantae & Mouhammed	Artem	Nasseem



It is normal to feel low, sad or down sometimes but if this goes on for too long then talking therapies have been proven to help people make positive changes so that they feel better and stay better.

We are an NHS service offering free talking therapy to people registered with GPs in the City and Hackney area in London. These areas include Barbican, The City, Clapton, Clerkenwell, Dalston, London Fields, Shoreditch, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington, Hackney, Hoxton and Homerton. We offer psychological therapy to help with issues ranging from Anxiety, Depression and Panic Attacks to Phobias, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Although you do need to be registered to a GP in the above areas, you do not need a GP referral to talk to us. You can refer yourself directly via the 'Get Help' buttons on this website.

The types of therapies that we can offer include Cognitive Behavioral Therapies (CBT), Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy, Behavioural Couples Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy and Counselling for Depression

<https://cityandhackneytalkingtherapies.homerton.nhs.uk/>

Services and support in Education

Hackney SENDIAGS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice, Guidance and Support)

[0-25 SEND Local Offer](#) | [Family Information Service](#) | [Hackney SENDIAGS \(SEND Information, Advice and Guidance Service\)](#)

If you are looking for information, advice and support (IAS) about your child (or yourself if you are a young person under 25 with additional needs and or a disability) you can contact Hackney free impartial service SENDIAGS.

Telephone 020 7275 6036 (Advice Line)

E-mail sendiags@hackney.gov.uk

Web www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/sendiags

and Advice to disabled people on; Benefits, Housing, Health, Social Care, and other independent living services.

Phone 020 7613 3206

Text phone: 020 7613 3208

Email info@choiceinhackney.org

Website <https://choiceinhackney.org/>

[Hackney SEND Parent Carer Forum - Housing focussed forum meeting.](#)

Hear from staff working in SEND relevant areas of housing. Find out more about processes and ask questions relevant to you.

Thursday 13 February 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Marie Lloyd Centre, Queensbridge Road, E8 3LA

[Hackney Ark Children's Occupational Therapy - Talk to us 1:1 advice session 2025](#)

Monthly bookable slots to get advice from an NHS Occupational Therapy service who assess children under 18 experiencing functional difficulties with everyday tasks due to a physical and or neurological disability.

Monthly last Wednesday of the month 1 pm to 4 pm

Booking required.

In-person, phone and online options available.

[Hackney Ark - Key Work drop in sessions for parents and carers](#) (New venue)

If you have a child that receives any support from Hackney Ark and you would like information and advice in relation to services or benefits that you may be entitled to. OR you would simply like the opportunity to meet with, learn from and share your experiences with other parents who also have children with health and or developmental issues you are welcome to attend a weekly drop in session at Comet facilitated by a member of the Hackney Ark Key Work team.

Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:30 am during term time only.

Thomas Fairchild Community School Forston St. N1 7HA

[Mind The Gap - Drop-In Social Group 2025](#)

Are you looking to learn more about Autism from professionals and peers?

Or maybe you are searching for a fun, Autism-friendly social space?

If so check out our Mind the Gap drop-in sessions!

These drop-in sessions are a space for Autistic young people to get together and socialise in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Parents or carers and young people over the age of 16 will be able to self-refer by emailing us on huh-tr.mindthegap@nhs.net

After confirming a few details, they will receive a call from one of our facilitators to get a little more information to make sure that the offer is suitable for the young person and answer any questions they might have.

5 pm to 6:30 pm every second Thursday of the month.

Next date Thursday March 13

Family Coach (SEND) Make screen time work for you

Across the 2 hour workshop you'll have the opportunity to explore:

What research says about screen time

What managing screen time looks like for you and your family

How you're currently managing screen time; Amount of time, What your child is using screen time for

Transitioning from screen time, Using screen time for rewards/consequences

9:15 am - 11:15 am on Friday 7 February

Holy Trinity School, Beechwood Road, E8 3DY

Please book by emailing familycoach@hackney.gov.uk

Educational Psychology Parent Advice Sessions

The Parent Advice Sessions are open to all children and families living in Hackney including those children not yet in school, children who are out of school, children who live in Hackney and attend school in other boroughs

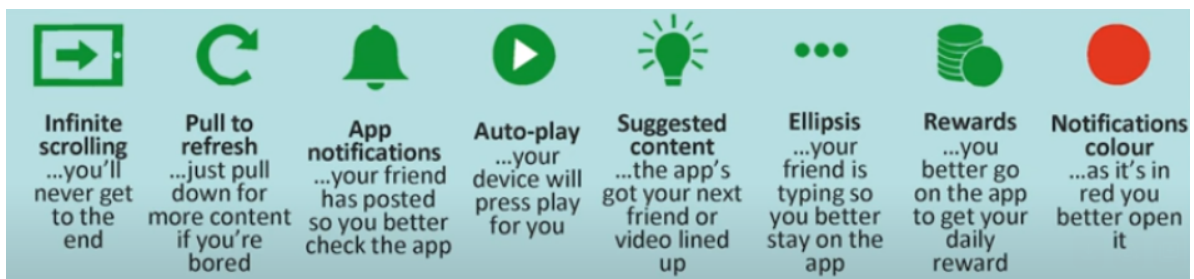
If you would like support and advice, this is an opportunity for you to talk about your child/children with an educational psychologist for up to 30 minutes on our phone line.

Wednesdays between 1:00 and 3:00 pm and during term time.

Online booking form to secure a slot.

Tip for keeping pupils safe online (taken from saferinternet.org.uk)

How do apps get us to come back?



Keeping Children Safe

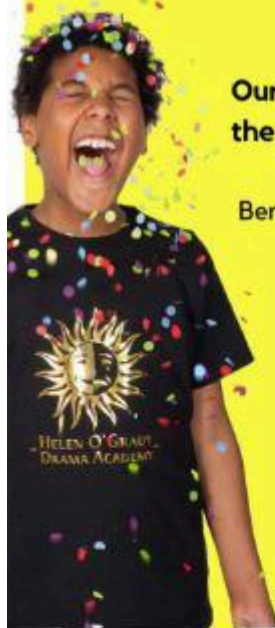
The safeguarding of the children at St Matthias is our number one priority. We adhere to stringent safeguarding procedures to protect the welfare of all the children who come to our school. We will endeavour to work with parents and carers as it is our duty as a school to protect our children and to keep them safe.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Blewett) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Miss Frohock & Mrs Cherid).

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ONLINE DRAMA



"The online lesson was amazing!
It's been the best learning
experience by far since
lockdown began."



Our structured curriculum and trained teachers guarantee the highest standard of interactive online drama classes.

Benefits of Our Online Classes for Students Include:

- Increased SELF ESTEEM and CONFIDENCE
- SOCIAL INTERACTION and COMMUNICATION with others
- FUN activities to engage CREATIVITY and IMAGINATION
- SPEECH and LANGUAGE development

JOIN US IN AN ONLINE TRIAL LESSON TODAY!

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nicola Gossip BA Acting & Andrew Mayer BA Acting – Joint Principal's

Tel: 07777 672284/0208 360 4020

Email: nlondon@helenogrady.co.uk

www.helenogrady.co.uk



HELEN O'GRADY
DRAMA ACADEMY