



Matthew's C.E (Aided) Primary School and Nursery Centre



'I can do all things because Christ gives me strength' Philippians 4:13

Friday Feature: 20th December 2024

This half-term we are focusing on the Christian Value of Trust



'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Psalm 18.2

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a wonderful two weeks with Christmas performances, Carols by Candlelight and lots of Christmas activities. The performances were amazing and showed how talented our children are— we are very proud of them. A BIG thankyou to all the staff in school who make these things possible for the children.

Everyone at St. Matthew's wishes you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you again on Monday 6th January.

Reading Rewards

Today we gave out our first reading rewards. If children read a minimum of three times a week their name goes into a box and at the end of the half-term 2 names are pulled out of each box. These children win a book to take home. Well done to all the children who received a book.



Attendance Award

The children are really enjoying the results of the attendance awards each Friday. This week the attendance award has gone to St. Teresa's class. The attendance is displayed in the school hall and the winning class receive the trophy to keep in their class all week.

We have seen a rise in attendance in every class since this began. Thank you for helping with your children's attendance!



Weekly Attendance	
1 st	St. Teresa 99.2
2 nd	St Padre Pio 99.45
3 rd	St Nicholes 98.7
4 th	St Thomas More 98.7
5 th	St Joseph 98.52
6 th	St Kateri 98.21
7 th	St Francis 98.16
8 th	St Cecilia 98.13
9 th	St Sophia 98.1

Weekly prayer

Our loving Father in Heaven,



Please guide us in the right direction this Christmas,
And teach us how to follow your path.
God please show us to be grateful with anything we receive this year,
As those who work for our success may not get recognition,
And those who may have freedom do receive anything.
God please use all of your might and power to bless those in poverty this Christmas
In Jesus's name, I pray.

Amen.

By 6 St Padre

Pupils of the Week

Nursery	Robert
Reception :St Francis	Fechi
R/1: St Teresa	Evelyn
1/2: St Nicholas	Lillie
2: St Joseph	Penny
3: St Cecilia	Ollie
3/4: St Sophia	Luca
4/5: St Kateri	Jack
5/6: St Thomas	Joel
6: St Padre	Ivy-Lu



Readers of the Week



Reception :St Francis	Sandy
R/1: St Teresa	Isabella
1/2: St Nicholas	Jaxson
2: St Joseph	Florence
3: St Cecilia	Raisa
3/4: St Sophia	Riley
4/5: St Kateri	Ashley
5/6: St Thomas	Amelia B
6 St Padre	Natalia

Well Done

Well done to Florence and Olivia who who received their modern and tap exam results.

Florence received a high merit in her Modern exam and Olivia received a distinction in her tap exam.

Brilliant work girls!



Future Dates



20th Dec	Last day of school
6th Jan	Back to school

Nursery

Thank you for everyone that attended the Nursery Christingle Workshop on Monday. We made our own Christingles and found out each parts special meanings.



Applying for Reception Places for September 2025

Applications for Reception places to start in September 2025 are now being taken by Telford and Wrekin Council.

[School admissions - Telford & Wrekin Council](#)

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 will start primary school from September 2025. Parents need to apply for a reception place by **15 January 2025**.

Sensei's End of Term PE Superstars

Prizes for children with the most Christmas points accumulated this term.

R1 St Teresa—Sienna

12 St Nicholas—Willow

2 St Joseph—Taiah

3 St Cecilia—Ollie

34 St Sophia—Zayden

45 St Kateri—Leon

56 St Thomas—Ellie

Sensei's Minecraft Legend : Jack

Sensei's Dance Club Hero—Iziah

Sensei's Cross Country Superstars—Seb and Safire

Sensei's End of Term Karate Blackbelts—Leila and Harry

Christmas Dinner

Mrs Meredith and our team in the Kitchen cooked another wonderful Christmas dinner for us on Wednesday.

The children were served by their teachers and teaching assistants and wore the hats they have been making in class.

Everyone agreed that it was a really tasty dinner!

Thank you Mrs Meredith, Miss Maiden and Mrs Beamond!



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing Internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56123456>, <https://www.fox.com.au/news/children-schools-online-safety-social-media-chat-apps>



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