



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: 7th March 2025

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

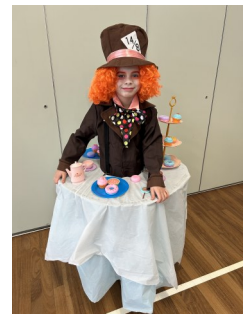


Please share the attached home school value with your child.

Dear Parents and Carers

World Book Day - 6th March 2025

We had a fabulous World Book day yesterday. Thank you so much for helping your children dress up. The costumes were amazing and it was lovely to see everyone sharing different books. Well done St. Matthew's!

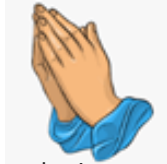


We will be taking part in **Red Nose Day** on 21st March.

We are asking children to come dressed in red and bring a £1 donation. Red Noses are available to buy from the school office for £2.50.



Weekly prayer



Dear God

Please be with me today in everything I will face.

Help me to learn well at school.

I pray that I will be a good friend to those around me today.

Amen

12 St Nicholas

Pupils of the Week

Nursery	Henry M
R St Francis	Azaiyah
R/1: St Teresa	Harry
1/2: St Nicholas	Dalton
2: St Joseph	David
3: St Cecilia	Raisa
3/4: St Sophia	Amiah and Daniel
4/5: St Kateri	Ben
5/6: St Thomas	Jasper
6: St Padre	Esme



Readers of the Week



R :St Francis	Amirah
R/1: St Teresa	Patrick
1/2: St Nicholas	Reuben
2: St Joseph	Freya
3: St Cecilia	Jaida
3/4: St Sophia	Ffion
4/5: St Kateri	Vicky
5/6: St Thomas	Mylee
6 St Padre	Davey-Mae

Attendance Award

This week the attendance award has gone to St Joseph



Weekly Attendance		
1 st	St Joseph 1	99.31%
2 nd	St Teresa 2	98.52%
3 rd	St Sophia 3	96.67%
4 th	St Kateri	96%
5 th	St Cecilia	95.81%
6 th	St Francis	94.33%
7 th	St Padre Pio	92.29%
8 th	St Thomas More	91.76%
9 th	St Nicholas	90%

Well Done

Well done to Lillie who was awarded with her 25m swimming badge and a certificate for her participation in Schools Gotta Dance



Future Dates

Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day
Friday 11th April	Break up for Easter
Monday 28th April	Back to school
Monday 5th May	Bank holiday
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	PD Day
Tuesday 3rd June	Back to school
Friday 18th July	Break up for summer





It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

SOURCES: <https://www.independent.co.uk>, Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018; <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk>, <http://uk.businessinsider.com/how-app-developers-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones>, Journal of Youth Studies; <https://www.mirror.co.uk/techline/free-kids-losing-sleep-963396>, University of Leeds; https://medhealth.ueed.ac.uk/news/article/1296/lack_of_sleep_damaging_for_children