



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Week 14 Friday 15 December 2023

Headteacher's Message

Dear St Matthew's Parents and Carers

As we approach the final week of this half term, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible dedication and hard work on show from our Year 11 students following their return to lessons after their two weeks of PPE exams. Their effort and application have been astonishing, and I congratulate them once again for making it through this demanding period. The Y11 Celebration Quiz Night was a tremendous success, with a fantastic turnout that truly showcased the vibrant spirit of our school community and showed a real bond between the staff and students. Additionally, our Christmas Carol concert was a beautiful event, highlighting the diverse talents of both our students and staff. It was a pleasure to witness such a display of skill and creativity as we await the joyous arrival of the birth of Jesus. As a reflection of how our year 11's are perceived by external visitors, I have shared some feedback below from the staff of Xaverian College.

While lessons will continue as usual next week to make the most of our curriculum time, we are also committed to recognising and rewarding our students' hard work with a high level of rewards throughout the week. Furthermore, our Christmas liturgies will help us prepare spiritually for this special time of year.

Our Catholic identity shines brightly through the generosity displayed by our students in making hampers for those in need, showcasing the charitable nature of our school community.

In the coming week, I will be in touch to share the progress we've made in terms of pastoral standards and our plans for the upcoming year. I am excited to inform you about the remarkable achievements we've accomplished within this short space of time.

This weekend, as we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, known as 'Gaudete Sunday,' let us rejoice together as we light the pink candle on the advent wreath. The impending arrival of Christmas invites us to embrace the good news that we are deeply and uniquely loved by God, as emphasised by Pope Francis.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing our students' growth and fostering a community of care and achievement.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyous Christmas season ahead.

God bless



St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

Round Up

Headteacher's Message

Continued

Xaverian College MANCEP visit

I want to emphasise that the kind of experience we had today at St. Matthew's isn't something we encounter at every school we visit. Your school truly stands out, and it's deserving of this special recognition based on our exceptional experience.

The warmth and hospitality extended to us by your entire team, starting from the reception and continuing throughout our time with Mr Sharrock and the RE team, were truly remarkable. Prior to our visit, we were admittedly a bit nervous, but the warmth and welcoming nature of your RE team immediately put us at ease. We were deeply impressed by the unbelievable politeness and utmost respect shown by the students. In fact, it's the only school where every single student not only acknowledged us sincerely but also introduced themselves in a meaningful way.

Moreover, the quality of the students' responses was nothing short of breathtaking, especially considering they are 16-year-olds. Their engagement with the cave allegory spanned across various realms, from religion to politics, from social media to broader societal contexts. This level of enthusiasm and depth of understanding showcased their genuine interest and passion for learning within the classroom.

Throughout our time within the school premises, there was an unmistakable palpable sense of Catholicism, and it truly embodied the essence of what Catholicism represents at its best. It was evident in every corner, reflecting the values and spirit that create such a remarkable educational environment.

St. Matthew's has left an indelible impression on us, and it's a testament to the exceptional ethos and environment you've cultivated. Thank you for the privilege of experiencing such a wonderful educational atmosphere.



Attendance Information

BE ON TARGET



Please send your child to school every day including Friday 22nd December 2023. Every day counts

100% attendance	0 days missed	Excellent	0 lessons missed	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start
95% attendance	9 days of absence, 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory	45 lessons missed	
90% attendance	19 days of absence, 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor	95 lessons missed	Less chance of success. makes it harder to make progress.
85% attendance	27 days of absence, 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor	140 lessons missed	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% attendance	36 days of absence, 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable	190 lessons missed	
75% attendance	45 days of absence, 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable	230 lessons missed	



Students need to be in school to maximise their **LEARNING AND SUCCESS**

Attendance continues to be a key priority in school this year for all pupils. If students are not in school, they are not learning. Please remember that every school day is important for your child.

Please try to follow these simple steps:

- ◆ Try to judge how 'severe' your child's absence is. Do they really need to stay at home?
- ◆ Is your child better by mid-morning? If they are, send them into school.
- ◆ If your child has an extended or intermittent but persistent condition, contact their Head of Year and arrange a meeting to set up a supportive action plan. There is a lot of support we can offer to prevent your child from missing school.
- ◆ Non-urgent doctor, dental appointments and check-ups should be made out of school time where possible. School finishes at 3pm.
- ◆ If your child has a cough, cold menstrual pains, please send them to school. usually once they get with their friends, they forget they feel unwell.

Don't think that the 'odd day off can't harm'. Research carried out on the effects of broken weeks and achievement is astounding. A student can have 95% attendance but still have 10 broken weeks! Hugely detrimental to your child's learning, leaving big gaps in knowledge.

If you need any support or advice to help your child improve their attendance, please get in touch with us at school or email attendance@smrchs.com.

G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead

C Grainger – Attendance Lead

S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Rewarding Students



St. Matthew's
Roman Catholic High School
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS BEHAVIOUR & PUNCTUALITY

WIN £30 VOUCHERS
OF YOUR CHOICE
TUE 05 DEC - FRI 22 DEC

Every student who is in school on time and has
no behaviour points will be entered into this

**FANTASTIC PRIZE DRAW
+ LOADS OF OTHER
AMAZING PRIZES
UP FOR GRABS!!!**



We Pray · We Care · We Achieve

We Pray · We Care · We Achieve



14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE

Any student that reaches
100% attendance between

TUE 05 DEC - FRI 22 DEC

will be in with the chance to WIN...

AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS

GOODIE BAG



We **Pray**
We **Care**
We **Achieve**



Important message

Some students still have debt on their Parent Pay Account, we are making contact with you to discuss on a one to one basis what needs to be done next.

Please check Parent Pay and top up funds to clear any debt as soon as possible. If you are struggling to clear this debt please contact the Finance Team to discuss further.

Until debts are cleared we suggest your child/children bring a packed lunch with them to school each day as they will no longer be served in the cafeteria.

Children on Free School Meals have a £2.50 daily allowance for a meal at lunchtime. This allowance is not to be used for snacks at break time. If you wish your child to buy snacks or spend more than the allocated £2.50 you should top up their Parent Pay account accordingly.

Children on Free School Meals will now have a daily spend limit of £2.50, they will not be permitted to go over this limit and will be refused any items over the cost of £2.50. If you put additional funds on their Parent Pay account we will remove or change the daily limit to one you chose for your child.

If you have not activated the account please do so immediately.

If you have misplaced your unique username and password to activate the account contact the Finance Team straight away.

Your child will need their account activating to:

- ♦ buy snacks / meals from the catering service
- ♦ purchase academic items
- ♦ go on school trips/events

The Minimum Top Up is now £2.50.

When calling school please speak to the Finance Team or email

parentpay@smrchs.com



How To Activate A New Account

You will need an activation letter or email from school to get started. If you have lost this or not yet received it, email the school at parentpay@smrchs.com

You need a valid email address as a username and for account verification.

1. Navigate to parentpay.com
2. Select Login at the top right corner of the screen
3. Enter the username and password provided in your activation letter / email and select activate.
4. Complete the activation as detailed on screen.
5. That's it you're all done!

How To Top Up A Parent Pay Lunch Account

1. Navigate to parentpay.com
2. Select Parent Login
3. Username—this is your email address
4. Password—this is what you chose once you had activated your account
5. Select Login
6. Click Continue—(or if you want to set up one click payments follow the screen prompts)
7. Select Pay for meals
8. Enter how much you want to pay (minimum payment is £5)
9. Select Add to Basket
10. Click on Basket and check the amount is correct
11. Click proceed to Checkout
12. A receipt will be sent to your email address from Parent Pay.
13. That's it you're all topped up!



Free School Meals

We encourage all parents/ carers to check if their child is entitled to free school meals (FSM). Being registered for free school meals benefits both the student and the school as we will receive extra funding. It is the parents/ carers responsibility to apply for free school meals on behalf of their child.

Applying for Free School Meals only takes a few minutes. Please click on the following link to apply:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you are struggling with your application, please contact finance@smrchs.com and the Finance Team will be happy to assist you with your application.

Qualifying criteria for free school meals:

You are receiving Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



BLUE DOT DEAL—A STUDENT FAVOURITE

The Blue Dot Deal still remains a favourite and is exceptionally good value allowing your child to chose 4 items, for example; if they wanted something to eat at break they could chose something from the hot deli, get a roll for lunch from the cold deli, select a drink and get a fruit pot or something from the Homebake all for £2.50.

4 AMAZING ITEMS £2.50

HOT DELI Garlic Bread Pizza Melt Bap/Boat Cheese On Toast/Bap Pizza Melt Quesadilla BBQ Melt Bap	4OZ POTS Selection of Fruit Pots Selection of Jelly Pots Selection of Yoghurt Pots Selection of Seed Pots
COLD DELI A Selection of Rolls: Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Chicken Mayo, Egg Mayo	HOMEBAKES Mini Muffin Mini Cookie Mini Shortbread Mini Flapjack
DRINKS 125ml Radnor Drink Carton 330ml Water Bottle 8oz Slush Small Generation Juice	

* Not all items are available everyday



Year 8

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Top 5 Achievers

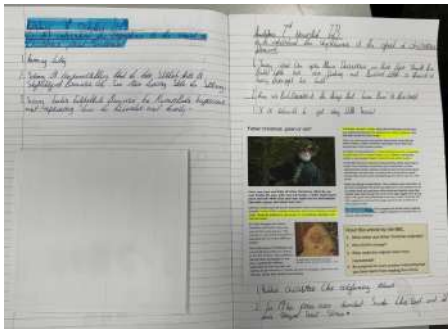
- ☆ ● Alvin T
- ☆ ● Rajesh S
- ☆ ● Issac E
- ☆ ● Maisie D
- ☆ ● Harez S

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Teacher Shout Outs...

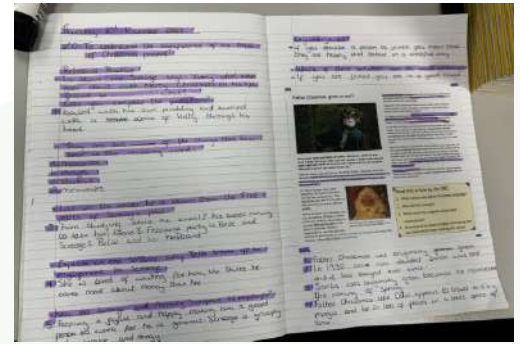
Miss Garmen- English

8J are English superstars - the progress they have made this term is unbelievable! I am astounded by their efforts and their resilience to always have a go, even when



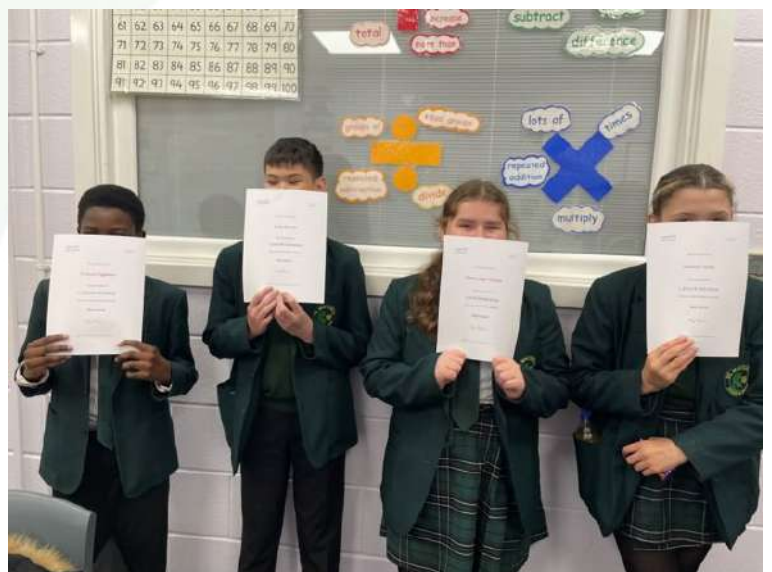
things get a little bit tricky. The whole class are wonderful, and I love

being their English teacher! A special mention for Mustafa - despite English not being his first language he writes the most beautiful and creative descriptions. He is an author of the future! Keep up this excellent work.



Ms O'Donnell

"Fortune, Luke, Demi and Scarlett completed their 6-week advanced intervention. They were fantastic over the 6 weeks showing a great attitude to all the tasks and activities they were given. Huge improvements made as well. I am so proud of them!



Miss Waters-

Just a big thank you again to the girls who have represented the school in either football, futsal or netball this half term. They are a credit to the year team and the school.

Highest attending forms are 8A with 97% attendance

64 students with 100% attendance across the year groups

Very Well Done!



Highlights of the week

Year 7

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Top 5 Achievers** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ • Michael A ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Lillie K ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Adelana O ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Destiny O ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ • Kaloassi C ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending forms this week
7I—7ABe
Well done!

77 pupils across year 10 have 100% attendance, which is fantastic.

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ **Our Stars of the Week** ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Mrs Walsh's – Riley-James M—7J ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mrs Rolt's - Noah J—7D ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mr Johnson's – Bonnie-Bleu O'L—7G ☆☆☆
 - ☆☆ Mrs Lennon's – Dallyce L—7A ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Year 7 textiles classes finished their pillowcases last week and they were brilliant!!



Year 7 Textiles pupils have done an amazing job making cushions using tie dye, fabric pens and applique. Well done to all pupils for their hard work, the cushions look fab

A lovely ceremony for the travelling crib in 7F (from 7B).



Year 7 Have enjoyed putting the Christmas hampers together this week. Thank you everyone for your support and generosity.





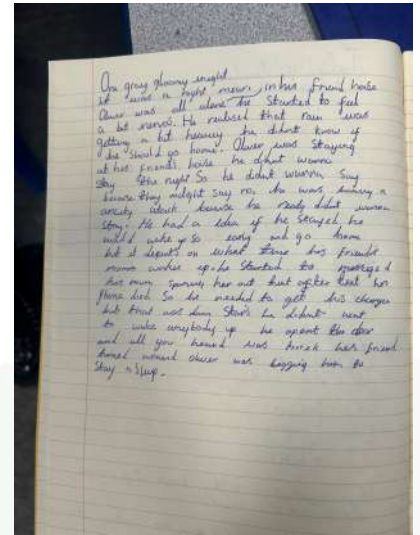
Highlights of the week

Beehive



Year 7 Nurture class finished and enjoyed putting together their Christmas Hampers this week! Thank you all for the contributions.

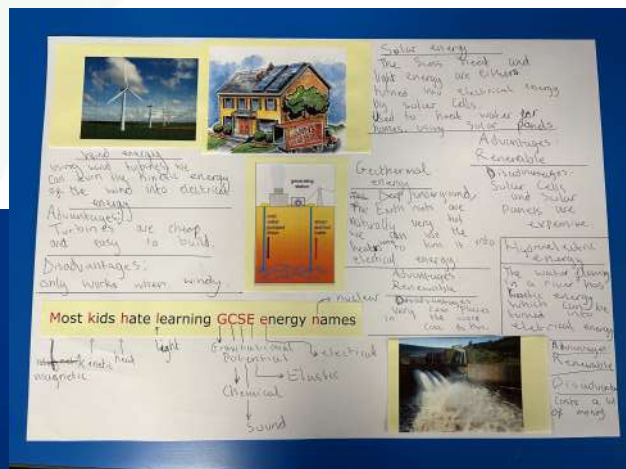
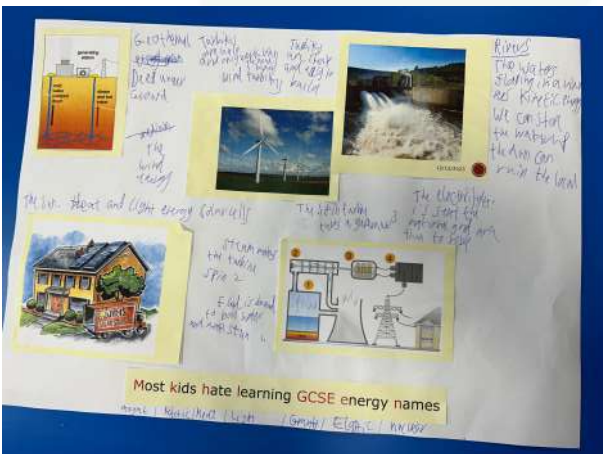
Year 8 nurture have been working on using pathetic fallacy in their English lessons and have made fantastic progress. Amazing work guys!



The Year 9 Nurture class had a fantastic Science revision lesson this week. They worked hard to remember key facts relating to the topic of energy source, transfers and renewable energy. Great effort!

Teacher Shout Out:

to Kayleigh (11k) for being a wonderful Beehive Mentor, supporting the Beehive staff and students at lunch time! We are very proud of you.



A very proud Miss Mallinson and team Well done !



Modern Foreign Languages

The MFL department are really proud of the excellent work our students have been producing over the last few weeks



Year 11 have worked extremely hard for their PPE French exams in listening, reading, writing and speaking. The pupils completed their speaking exams this week in exam conditions. Here is Kamsi preparing her role play and photo card in test conditions. Many thanks to all our invigilators, led by Mr Ward and Mr Goodwin, for preparing the students and calming their nerves!! 'Bonne Chance' for Result's Day!

Frau Callison's year 10 class all received a sweet treat last week on the 6th Dec to celebrate St Nicholas Day.



Mr Moran's class enjoyed playing 'one pen, one dice' last week to practise their French translation skills. Here are Crystabel and Kindness competing against each other!



Our word of the week is 'ni hao' or

你好

which means hello in Mandarin Chinese!



Mrs Hasson was extremely proud of the lovely Spanish speaking work being produced this week by 7B and 7H.





Chaplaincy Corner



This week we have been continuing our journey through Advent towards Christmas. The “travelling crib” has continued its travels around the school and there has been great excitement as it arrives at each new form room. Many form teachers have spoken highly about how their students took part in the liturgy of welcome and really made it a celebration of the birth of Christ.

This time of year is always busy with Carol Services and we hosted ours this Tuesday after school. There was a wonderful turn out from family and friends. We gathered to celebrate the musical talent of our wonderful students, but also to give praise to God as we heard again the Christmas story. Thank you to all the students who contributed to the evening, especially those who read readings for us.

This Thursday a group of our students went to Christ the King Church to join in with their old primary school's Carol Service. It was another wonderful occasion and we thank everyone at Christ the King Primary School for their hard work in preparation and for inviting us to be a part of it.



Wishing you every blessing as we prepare for our final week of this term. God Bless.



Chaplaincy Corner

As we come into the final week of preparations for Christmas we would like to share with you the times of the Christmas Masses at some of the Catholic churches in our area. The times of Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day can be found in the following table. You are all very welcome at any of these Masses, no matter what your journey of faith has been so far: Jesus is there waiting for you!

Church	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
St John Vianney's, Moston		11:30am
St Dunstan's, Moston		10am
St John Bosco's, Blackley	5:30pm	9:30am
Mount Carmel, Blackley	7:30pm	11:30am
St Clare's, Blackley	6pm (Romanian) 8pm (English)	8am and 10:30am (English) 12:30pm (Romanian)
Christ the King, Newton Heath	7pm, 11pm	10am
St Patrick's, Collyhurst	7pm	9:30am
St Malachy's, Collyhurst		11am
St Margaret Mary's, New Moston	6pm, 11:30pm	8am, 10:30am
St Chad's, Cheetham Hill	11:30pm	8am, 11am



Spotlight on SEND – Identifying needs

Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia)

What is DCD?

DCD (Dyspraxia) is a specific learning difficulty. Pupils with DCD have problems with motor co-ordination and often appear clumsy when moving around. They have perceptual-motor problems and find writing difficult. They may also have pronunciation difficulties, caused by problems in controlling the movements of the mouth and the tongue. Approximately one child in 20 suffers from this condition, which affects four times as many boys as girls.

Children with DCD may:

- appear to be clumsy, bumping into people and objects
- have difficulty in judging distances and the position of objects in space, so find ball games particularly hard
- be unable to change speed and direction without overbalancing
- be unsure of which hand to use and may change hands in the middle of an activity
- have immature use of pencils, crayons, scissors, puzzles and simple construction toys
- have difficulty in copying shapes and pictures
- have difficulty producing some speech sounds and be unable to communicate their ideas easily
- find it confusing if they are given too much verbal information at a time because they take longer to process it and are rarely able to make immediate responses
- find it hard to sequence information and reproduce it verbally, which affects their ability to answer questions in the classroom
- find it difficult to adapt to a structured school routine
- have limited concentration and poor listening skills
- be easily upset and have temper tantrums, which annoys other children
- have poor social interactions and difficulty making friends
- be rough and aggressive because they have difficulty controlling their movements.



Support strategies

You may need to:

- give clear, simple instructions and constant reminders, both oral and written
- provide a reasonably quiet working environment
- organise activities to develop listening skills and attention skills, such as sound tapes
- encourage learners to present ideas using visual methods
- organise games and activities requiring cooperation and turn-taking
- practise a range of sequencing activities
- help pupils organise their written work by using writing frames
- praise every effort and successful achievement of new skills



SEND Referral



SEND Referral

Praise every effort and successful achievement of new skills.





Shout our for Team Humanities



★ ★ ★

The Indian ocean tsunami

Question: 'The primary effects of the Indian ocean tsunami were more devastating than the secondary effects.' Do you agree?

Sentence starters:

Some geographers would agree that the primary effects of the tsunami were the most devastating. The resource box shows.... This means that... **Yes**

However, other geographers would argue that... The resource box shows.... This means that... **No, I disagree**

In conclusion, I **agree/disagree** with the statement. This is because... **As a result...**

Resource box:

Figure 2: Waves destroyed homes in Thailand. The tsunami caused 210,000 deaths overall and made 2 million people homeless.

Figure 2: The tsunami completely changed the landscape, leading to disputes over where pieces of land. This slowed down rebuilding.

15:00

L/O: To compare the impacts of the Japan tsunami with the Indian ocean tsunami.

Thank-you to Ms. Cox for sharing these images of fantastic scaffolding in Geography— an invaluable tool which supports all learners in the classroom.

Marvellous work from Cody and Zach—keep up the hard work!





London overnight theatre trip to see *Wicked* the Musical and Harry Potter Studio Tour Tues 16th & Wed 17th July 2024



The total cost of this trip is **£225**

A **£75** deposit required by ParentPay to secure a place.

If your child is interested in going on this trip then please ask them to see Mr Millington urgently before all the places are filled.

Trip is now open to anyone who plays a musical instrument or is interested in Music or drama at KS3.

Included in the cost...

- Coach travel
- Tickets to see *Wicked* the Musical
- Sightseeing in London
- Evening meal in a restaurant
- Overnight stay in hotel
- Bed and breakfast
- Harry Potter Studio tour



Highlights of The Week

ST MATTHEW'S
CHRISTMAS
CAROL CONCERT
TUE 12 DEC



A HUGE THANK YOU

for everyone's support with our Christmas Carol Service/Concert on Tuesday evening

Thanks to the staff who sang with our amazing and talented choir, it was a truly special performance.



The choir connected with the audience and seemed to include them every step of the way, its always such a pleasure to see and hear the audience applauding throughout.

Well done to all you talented performers.





Highlights of the week

CHRISTMAS 2023 HAMPER APPEAL

The SMRCHS family have always been incredibly generous at Christmas time and this year will be no different!

We would like to raise funds and collect donations to support the families within our school who may need a little extra help over the festive period.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate a new, unwrapped gift and drop it off at school.
- Donate a voucher that we could raffle.
- Support our Christmas jumper day.
- Buy raffle tickets.
- Share this post with your friends, family & local businesses.

SPREAD THE WORD!

www.smrchs.com



FROM US TO YOU, THANK YOU

We have had Form group collections, staff collections, teddy bear raffles, Christmas Cake raffles and much, much more.
We Pray, We Care, We Achieve

What a difference all our support and contributions collectively will make to families within our community over the Christmas period.

