



News

Dear parents, carers, children and staff at St Matthias,

As this is my last week at St Matthias, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you all for so many wonderful memories of my time at the school.

I started the school as an NQT straight from university - only intending to stay for one year but I got 'the St Matthias bug' and, like so many of my colleagues, always found a good reason to stay - most especially my commitment to the families.

St Matthias has become my second home. I feel as though I grew up here and have grown with the families I have grown so close to over the years.

I have been given so many amazing opportunities since I started working here and will be forever grateful and proud of the school I helped to shape.

When I look back at my time here, I will think about the many fun moments I had with the children and so many of the staff - especially the staff who I started working with and including those that have already also left.

St Matthias will always hold a special place in my heart and I am sure I will see many of you as I will be working just down the road, at John Scurr Primary, so do look out for me and say hello!

I wish you all the best in the future. I leave you in good hands - Julian Morant is a very experienced head who is very much looking forward to working with you all and is very committed to supporting you all with the continued consultation period from September. He was my mentor as a new head this year and has been so supportive. I have been meeting with him on a weekly basis to handover the details of the school and of course, the staff will be on hand to help you with anything you need as usual.

I wish you every success in the future and who knows, maybe I will get to work with some of you again in the future!

Take care,

Keeley Warren

School Term Dates for 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

Term 1: 2nd September 20 - Friday 23rd October 20

Half term:

26th October 20 - 30th October 20

Term 2: 2nd November 20 - 18th December 20

Christmas Break:

21st December 20 - 1st January 21

Spring Term 2021

Term 3: 4th January 21 - 12th February 21

Half Term:

15th February 21 - 19th February 21

Term 4: 22nd February 21 - 26th March 21

Easter Holiday:

29th March 21 - 9th April 21

Summer Term 2021

Term 5: 12th April 21 - 28th May 21

Half Term:

31st May 21 - 4th June 21

Term 6: 7th June 21 - 22nd July 21

Inset Days to be confirmed.



What has been happening at School during lockdown...

Rainbow School

Rainbow School started on Monday 20th April for keyworkers' children. This has been a success. The number of pupils attending Rainbow School has increased over the weeks. Initially, we started with 3 children attending and now we have 9 attending. They have spent their time learning, doing creative art work and having fitness sessions each day.

Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 pods

Year 6 pupils returned to school on Monday 15th June. We started off with 8 pupils in the pod and over time this has increased. We now have 12 pupils in Year 6.

Early Years and Year 1 returned to school on Monday 22nd June. There are 15 pupils in Early Years pod and 6 pupils in the Year 1 pod.

Children have enjoyed being back at school. All pods spent part of their day focusing on key learning in maths, reading and writing. Also, pupils had extra PE sessions throughout the week. The different pods took part in creative art projects which the children have participated in with enthusiasm. Early years created their own pirates, Rainbow School and Year 1 created Alien spaceships and Year 6 pupils created their own leavers' book.

Pupils in Rainbow School and Year 6 pods have enjoyed the 'bike sessions' organized by Dwayne. Some are excited because they have learned how to ride a bike for the first time.

Quotes from children

Here are some quotes from the children who have been attending school.

'It is fun but we have to remember to keep our distance.' - Maruf

'It feels normal, but different at the same time. I feel happy being back at school. We've been learning to ride a bike with Dwayne. It made me feel very happy.' - Shane

'We've been really busy doing Study Ladder tasks, P.E, handwriting and reading.' - Kaiden

'I am happy to be back at school because it is fun.' - Sumayyah

'At school lots of things have changed but it is easy to get used to. There is now a one way system around the school and we have done lots of exercise.' - Mollie

'I loved being able to see my friends. But there are new rules about washing your hands, social distancing and one way systems. It was strange but I got used to it' - Ireland

'Going to school in the pandemic was odd but fun. We managed to still play with each other while social distancing.' - Ciana

'I enjoyed riding the bikes at school because of the obstacles and the change of routes. Also the fact that we got to do PE everyday apart from Monday.' - Tahmid

'I think being back at school is okay and it is safe. We have to wash our hands a lot. We have to keep our 2 metre distance. It is quite different.' - Aneesah

Quotes from members of staff

'Rainbow school has been a great opportunity for children to interact with one another at a safe distance and to resume some normality during this challenging time. The children have been very happy to be back at school and have worked very hard to follow the new school rules and complete tasks that have been set' - Mr Dhanjal

'It has been lovely being back working with the children. We have been working on lots of creative projects like painting, drawing and making things. I look forward to seeing everybody in September.'



Some positive changes to next year:

The Local Authority has agreed to fund the school so that we are able to employ a new teacher. This means that instead of mixed classes we can return to having a class for each year group.

As you know, there will be some changes to staff in September. Sadly, we are losing Ms Warren and Ms Soubris. We wish them all the best in the next phase of their careers. We will now have an Executive Headteacher, Julian Morant (Headteacher for Christ Church) and Ms Kamali will be the Acting Deputy Head.

We have employed two new teachers for Year 1 and Year 4. Due to COVID-19, children will not be able to meet their new teacher in person as they usually do at the end of the year. Instead, the teachers will introduce themselves to their class on class dojo.

The teachers will be:

Early Years (Nursery and Reception) - Ms Mannan and Ms Holden (Nursery Nurse)

Year 1 - Ms Taranto

Year 2 - Ms Crozier

Year 3 - Ms Kamali and Ms Khankhara

Year 4 - Ms Cabak

Year 5 - Ms Morris

Year 6 - Mr Dhanjal

You will notice that Year 3 has two teachers. Both Ms Kamali and Ms Khankhara are very experienced teachers and will work together to plan and teach the children in year three.

We have decided to create phases or bubbles across two year groups as the numbers in each class are very small. This will make it easier to plan lunch times and break times as each phase will be able to share a space that is allocated to them for a short period of time, with cleaning between phases. We may get more creative with the phase names over the summer holiday!

Nursery and Reception Phase 1

Year 1 and Year 2 Phase 2

Year 3 and Year 4 Phase 3

Year 5 and Year 6 Phase 4

Entry and exit to the school building from September

We introduced a one-way flow system during the summer term. We have reviewed this for September:

Drop off in the morning:

Year	Time	Location	Notes for parents
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Year 5 and 6	9:05	Via Bacon Street	and straight into the classrooms via the black gate near the main office. Please follow government guidance on social distancing in September and queue from the Brick Lane side of the school gate. Parents must say goodbye outside the gate and allow children to enter the premises by themselves. A member of staff will guide them.
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Parents dropping off children in other year groups will then need to walk around the school via Chilton Street to Granby Street.

EYFS	9:10	EYFS gate in Granby Street	Parents without siblings can cross the road and exit on the pavement next to the housing opposite the EYFS gates.
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Parents dropping off older siblings in years 1, 2, 3 and 4 can continue along to the main playground gate in Granby Street, then leave via Granby Street on the pavement next to the housing opposite the EYFS gates. Parents will no longer enter the playground in the morning. Siblings in years 1, 2, 3 and 4 can join the designated line for their year groups and go into class from 9:10.

Year 1,2,3 and 4	9:15	The main playground gate via Granby Street	The gates will be open from 9:10 so siblings of children in EYFS can go into class a little early and read. Officially the start time for this group will be 9:15. Again, parents must say goodbye outside the gate and allow children to enter the premises by themselves. A member of staff will guide them. Parents can leave via Granby Street on the pavement next to the housing opposite the EYFS gates.
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Entry and exit to the school building from September continued

Pick up in the afternoon:

Year	Time	Location	Notes for parents
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Year 5 and 6	3:20	Via Bacon Street	and straight into the classrooms via the black gate near the main office. Please follow government guidance on social distancing in September and queue from the Brick Lane side of the school gate. Parents must say goodbye outside the gate and allow children to enter the premises by themselves. A member of staff will guide them.
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EYFS	3:15	EYFS gate in Granby Street	Parents will come and wait while keeping socially distanced in the garden area. The children will be sent to the parents one at a time.
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Year 1	3:20	Exit from external doors near the slope into playground.	Parents must wait while keeping socially distanced in the playground. Please raise your hand to indicate your presence and the teacher will send out your child.
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Year 2	3:20	Exit from external classroom door.	Parents must wait while keeping socially distanced in the playground. Please raise your hand to indicate your presence and the teacher will send out your child.
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Year 3	3:20	Exit via the main door near the climbing frame.	Parents must wait while keeping socially distanced in the playground. Please raise your hand to indicate your presence and the teacher will send out your child.
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Year 4	3:20	Exit via the main hall door to the playground.	Parents must wait while keeping socially distanced in the playground. Please raise your hand to indicate your presence and the teacher will send out your child.
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We hope these changes will make life a little easier for everyone when the whole school returns in September.

We look forward to seeing all the children back at school in September. We hope you all have a good summer break.

