

## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE-



**THIS HALF TERM WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE CHRISTIAN VALUE OF  
COMPASSION**

### **NOVEMBER 2024 HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER**

#### **Introduction**

I trust you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing half term break with your families and hope you find this newsletter helpful in keeping you up to date. We keep parents/carers as informed and involved as possible and are continually updating our school X/**Twitter** account. This can be found at **Twitter@StMethodist**. Your child's class will add any exciting learning to these sites, so you can log on to see what they have been up to- you may be surprised!

#### **Remote Learning**

As you will be aware, we use Seesaw to support children's learning at home. Seesaw is used to set and mark homework and to communicate with parents/carers. Please ensure you check seesaw each day so you don't miss any important letters and information.

You will continue to receive half-termly Home/School knowledge planners from your child's teacher, outlining knowledge to be taught this half-term. I hope you find these to be interesting and useful, when supporting your child with homework. These can also be found on the school website.

#### **Uniform**

Thank you for supporting us with our uniform policy. As the weather becomes colder please remember that trainers and boots e.g.; Ugg Boots are NOT allowed in school, the correct footwear is black shoes. Children wearing incorrect footwear will be **required to wear PE pumps** in school.

#### **Pupil Rights Group (PRG)**

Congratulations to members of this year's Pupil Rights Group who were recently elected by their peers. This year's pupil representatives are;

Y3: Jesse and Rose

Y4: Grace and Henry

Y5: Dexter TS and Olly M

Y6: Lucas and Autumn

Mr Pamphlett will be working with the group and has some exciting initiatives planned. This includes the PRG leading the school as we take part in The UNICEF Right's Respecting Schools Award UK. Watch this space!

### **Member of Parliament (MP) Visit**

The MP for Bolton South and Walkden, Yasmin Qureshi is visiting school on 1<sup>st</sup> November. She will tour school and meet with members of the Pupil Rights Group. We look forward to giving her a warm St Andrew's welcome.



### **Punctuality and Attendance**

It is vitally important that your child arrives for school at the 8.50am and **attends regularly**. Staff are working very hard to ensure all children progress and achieve their best and good attendance is key to this. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please remember to telephone the school office before 9.30am. Any holidays taken in term time WILL receive a fine.

### **Medical Appointments**

Can you please try, whenever possible, to request medical appointments after 3.30pm. This avoids children missing learning when attending appointments.

### **Extra-curricular**

#### **Extra-curricular activities**

##### **After school-**

Monday: KS1 multi-sports club

Pyramid club

KS2 Choir

Wednesday: Y5 and 6 Football

Thursday: Y3 and 4: Cricket

Maths Club

##### **Breaktime clubs-**

Monday: Premier Sports coach (KS1 & 2)

Tuesday: Pupil rights group

Thursday: Place2Talk,

Premier Sports coach (KS1 & 2)

Friday: Place2Talk

### **Working with our Partners**

#### **Walkden Library**

All classes from Y3-Y6 are visiting the library at Walkden Gateway during the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Salford Road Safety Team**

The schools' road safety team will be coming into to speak to Y4-Y6 classes about keeping safe on the roads in winter. Evidence suggests that child

pedestrian road accidents are more likely to occur in the mornings and afternoons on week-days during the winter months. The 'Be safe, be seen' class sessions have been developed to help children to keep themselves safe.



### **The Royal British Legion**

Every year we are proud to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be on sale before and after school on the playground.

**Year 4** pupils will be leading a special act of remembrance during their family worship on 8<sup>th</sup> November. We will be observing the 2 minutes silence in school on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am.



### **Children in Need non-uniform Day**

Children in Need is on 15<sup>th</sup> November. If your child would like to bring in a voluntary contribution to the charity, they may come to school dressed in something spotty or red and yellow on this date.



### **Parents' Evening**

Parents' evening will be held in school on 26<sup>th</sup> November. It will consist of a five minute meeting with your child's teacher. Following the success of the after-school 'book looks' we will **not** be making books available on this date. This will save time and reduce congestion in school.

### **Book Fair**

During parents' evening, please spend some time browsing the Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be open in school each night after school from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> November inclusive.

### **Christmas Events**



We have been making lots of plans to ensure that Christmas in school, will be a magical and exciting time for the children. I have outlined the proposed Christmas celebrations and dates below.

### **Big Sing- Audacious Church**

The school choir will be performing as part of the 'Big Sing 2024' at the Audacious Church in Manchester. This will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Members of the choir will receive detailed information around times/coach travel/ pick ups etc.

### **Pantomime**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we are taking all the KS2 children (Y3,4,5,6) to the Victoria Hall in Bolton to watch the pantomime, Aladdin. This will be a wonderful chance for our pupils to experience the joy of live theatre at Christmas time! The subsidised cost of this is a voluntary contribution of £10 per pupil. Please pay this on the parent pay app.

### **Hamper Raffle**

The staff are kindly donating items for luxury Christmas Hampers. This will be raffled off in December at the disco. The Pupil Rights Group will be selling raffle tickets on the yard after school during the first two weeks of December. They will also be available to buy from the school office (20p per ticket).

### **Christmas Bauble Competition**

The children are invited to make a bauble/decoration for their class Christmas tree. These should be sent in on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas tree light switch on! The winning bauble in each class will receive a prize.

### **Choir**

The choir will be performing for senior citizens at the church luncheon club on 9<sup>th</sup> December. They will also be singing carols for residents at Bourke Gardens in Walkden.

### **Nursery Singalong**

Families of nursery and Reception children are invited to a Christmas singalong on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am in the school hall. Mince pies, tea and coffee will be served from 9am.



### **Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day**

The kitchen staff will be serving Christmas lunch on 10<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is on packed lunches, they have the option of buying a Christmas lunch. The office will be sending out forms to book and pay for the lunch in advance. Alternatively, you may wish to make your child's packed lunch more festive by adding a cracker or mince pie. Children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school sweatshirt on this day.

### **Christmas Production**

The KS1 children in Year 3, 4 and 5 will be presenting a production of the nativity story, '**Bethlehem Bake Off**'. There will be two performances of this, at 9.30am on 11<sup>th</sup> December and at 2pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets (free of charge) will be available from the school office from 4<sup>th</sup> December and limited to two per family due to space restrictions. The office staff will send out further details.

### **Christmas Disco**

There will be a Christmas Disco on 16<sup>th</sup> December from 6-7.30pm. This will be £1 admission for children and adults. Please note that children from Nursery to Y2 are only allowed to attend the disco if accompanied by a responsible

adult. The disco will finish promptly at 7.30pm so please ensure you make arrangements for KS2 children to be collected on time.

### **Party Day**

Party day will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Class teachers will send out further details nearer the time.



### **Walkden Methodist Church**

#### **Christmas Fair**

There will be a Christmas Fair at Walkden Methodist Church on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 11am-1pm. This includes stalls, refreshments and a visit from Santa! Everyone is welcome.

#### **Church Christingle**

You are invited to join the congregation of Walkden Methodist Church for a Christingle service on 17<sup>th</sup> December. This will be at 4pm.

#### **Carol Service**

Our traditional carol service in Walkden Methodist Church will be on the last day of term, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am. We hope lots of families will join us for this.

The church's own carol service is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 3pm- all are invited to attend.

#### **Finally**

School breaks up for the Christmas holiday on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.20pm and starts back on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. A. Barker  
Headteacher