



The Botwell Bulletin

Sunday 22nd September 2024

Meet the teacher sessions

Many thanks for all the families that gave up their time to come to the meet the teacher sessions. Where it was lovely to have whole families there having children attend was also quite a distraction for some important messages. We'll review how we undertake these sessions next year based on feedback this year. All teachers should have put their presentations onto Dojo for any families that were not able to attend as well as a reference tool for all.

Parents' evenings is scheduled for the 22nd October. Appointment times will go live a week before for these Teams virtual meetings.

Coffee morning/parent workshops

We will be holding a number of coffee mornings and hope as many families as possible come in for a cuppa. You are welcome to stay for the workshop that is usually after or are welcome to leave. Our priority is to facilitate a sense of community and we are endeavouring to bring families together.

We will be repeating session 1 of the Makaton workshop on Tuesday. This will be taking place at 9:00am straight after the open coffee morning, which starts at 8.35am. We do encourage parents to come to the workshops provided as this is a fantastic opportunity to learn a valuable skill.

Hot School Meals

Since the Start of September we have had a new caterer in place. We are very confident that the quality of food is much better already and the children are enjoying the salad options etc but there is much to improve still. Please be patient as we fine tune everything over the coming couple of weeks.

We are using coloured bands that the children wear on their wrists during lunch service. This is to ensure that children with food allergies and specific meal requirements are catered for effectively and safely.

Friends of Botwell AGM

We are aiming to have the Friends of Botwell (PTA) initial meeting of the year at 7:30pm on the 22nd October. At this meeting Mr Oakley will be outlining the school's priorities this year and we will be hoping that our caterers will provide a tasting session for parents also. The main point of this meeting however is to see how families can work together to raise fund for the benefit of the children. Most recently for instance the 'Friends' agreed to annually pay for the coach to the Year 6 residential which means that every child will eventually benefit from this.

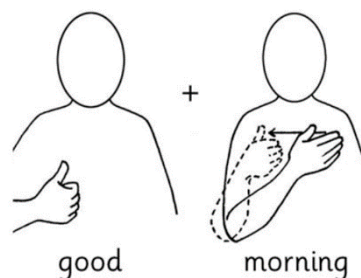
Come along, get involved and meet some other parents.

Upcoming events

- Tue 24th Sept – Coffee morning and Makaton workshop
- Wed 25th – Fri 27th Sept – Scholastic book fair in school
- Fri 27th Sept - Macmillan coffee morning (Oasis) cake sale (School hall)
- Tue 1st Oct – Coffee morning and Makaton workshop
- Fri 4th Oct – Harvest Mass @9.30am
- Mon 7th Oct – Photographer in for Rec – Year 6 children
- Tue 8th Oct – Brilliant Parents Workshop @9.15am
- Thu 10th Oct – Photographer in for Nursery children
- Tue 15th Oct – Brilliant Parents Workshop @9.15am
- Tue 15th Oct – Zoolab workshop for Y2
- Mon 21st Oct – Librarian visiting Nursery
- Tue 22nd Oct – Brilliant Parents Workshop @9.15am
- Tue 22nd Oct – Parents' Evening (Rec-Y5) over TEAMS
- Fri 25th Oct – School ends for half term
- Mon 4th Nov – Children return to school
- Tue 12th Nov – Parents' Evening (Y6) over TEAMS

Makaton sign of the week

In our drive to encourage our school community to use Makaton sign language, we are promoting our sign of the week, starting with a simple good morning. We would love to see families signing this to us on the gate in a morning.



Macmillan Coffee Morning and cake sale



The Parish will be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 27th September. Please support this worthwhile charity and drop in for some coffee and cake. You can even treat yourself and visit twice!

Also, after school, there will be a cake sale. Please can any donations be brought in Friday Morning. If your donated cake is home-made there will even be awards in an upcoming assembly for effort, so make sure you label it when you drop it off with the children.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic book fair will be back at Botwell next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The fair will be set up in the hall after school and will sell a wide range of fiction and non-fiction children's books as well as stationery. Please do come and take a look as there are some amazing new children's books available. Our school also benefits from receiving a percentage of the sales, allowing us to purchase new books for our class libraries.



Uniform

All children should be in winter uniform now so that means no summer dresses etc now. The uniform policy is on the website if you are not sure.

Earrings



Lots of children have benefitted from the change in policy relating to earrings, but just to clarify once again: The singular earring must be a plain silver/gold **ball** stud earring. There should be no sparkly jewels in them or any patterns etc. They need to be uniform and small for safety to avoid any injuries. Staff will be sending reminders in the first instance to parents and then asking the children to remove the item or asking parents to come in to do so.

Labelling

Every single day numerous staff are walking round with lost uniform that is not labelled and parents are asking for help finding such garments. Please please please label every piece of your child's uniform. When you wash it make sure that it is still visible as over time sometimes labelling fades. A sharpie works very well apparently!



Prayer and Reflection

This weekend, we celebrated the Feast of St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist (21st September).

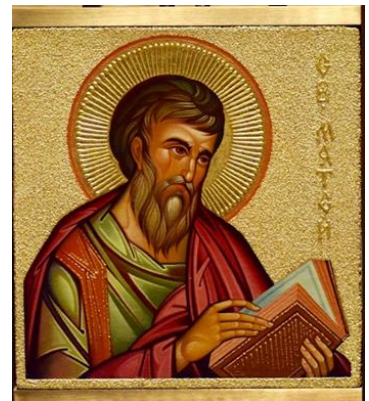
At the time that Jesus summoned him to follow Him, Matthew was a tax-collector for the Romans. No one was more shunned by the Jews than a Jew working for the Roman enemy by robbing his own people and making a large personal profit. Tax collectors were not allowed to trade, eat, or even pray with others Jews.

One day, while seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at Matthew and said two words: "Follow me." This was all that was needed to make Matthew rise, leaving his pieces of silver to follow Christ. His original name, "Levi," in Hebrew signifies "Adhesion" while his new name in Christ, Matthew, means "Gift of God."

St. Matthew is known to us principally as an Evangelist. He was the first to put down in writing our Lord's teaching and the account of His life. His Gospel was written in Aramaic, the language that our Lord Himself spoke. His Gospel was written to convince the Jews that their anticipated Messiah had come in the person of Jesus.

Let us pray:

Through the intercession of St. Matthew, the Evangelist, may we always put aside worldly distractions and follow You, O Lord, as quietly as St. Matthew left his work and immediately became one of Your disciples.



By his example and prayers, help us to follow You, without counting the cost, and remain faithful in Your service, now and forever.

Amen