

Monday 27th September	6pm: Year 5 Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 28th September	6pm: Year 2 Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 29th September	6pm: Year 1 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 30th September	10am: Welcome Mass for Reception children in Church. Only parents of Reception children are invited to attend due to the current restrictions on numbers in church. 6pm: Year 6 Curriculum Evening
Friday 1st October	Friends of St Matthew's Treat Friday-after school in the gazebo: 50p mix ups and 50p lucky dips
Tuesday 5th October	6pm: Year 4 Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 6th October	2.15pm: Buddy assembly to meet the new Reception children-Reception parents only.. 5.30pm: Reception Curriculum Evening
Thursday 7th October	6pm: Year 3 Curriculum Evening
Friday 8th October	Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day-donations welcome for Young Minds charity
Monday 11th October	5.30pm: Year 4 First Holy Communion Programme Parent Meeting in school hall.
Tuesday 12th October	Harvest Feast Day led by the Mini Vinnies. Donations for the People's Kitchen welcome.
Saturday 16th October	10am: Year 5 First Holy Communion-by invitation only.
Tuesday 19th October	3.30pm: Friends of St Matthew's Years 2 and 3 Halloween Movie Night.
Wednesday 20th October	3.30pm: Friends of St Matthew's Years 4, 5 and 6 Halloween Movie Night
Thursday 21st October	First Holy Communion Mass in School (Y5 and Y6) 5.30pm: Open Evening for Prospective Parents.
Friday 22nd October	Flu Vaccination. Break up for Half Term
Monday 1st November	Children return to School.
Wednesday 3rd November	4.30pm-5.30pm: Halloween Disco-Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 5.45pm-6.45pm: Halloween Disco-Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Friday 5th November	FOSM Treat Friday-after school in the gazebo: Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Monday 8th/Tues 9th November	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 11th November	Year 2 children Remembrance Parade (Monkton)
Wednesday 17th November	2pm: Infants Anti-bullying assembly-infant parents welcome 2.30pm: Juniors Anti-Bullying assembly-junior parents welcome
Friday 26th November	Non-uniform for chocolate for the Christmas craft Fayre.
Wednesday 1st & 8th December	Christmas Grotto after school-Friends of St Matthew's (more details to follow)
Thursday 2nd December	3pm: Christmas Craft Fayre
Friday 3rd December	Friends of St Matthew's Treat Friday-after school in the gazebo. Festive treats.
Tuesday 7th December	2-2.45pm: Reception Nativity Performance 6pm: Christmas Big Sing in church-more details to follow in due course
Wednesday 8th December	Christmas lunch for whole school, Children to wear Christmas jumpers on this day.
Thursday 9th December	2-3pm: Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play
Monday 13th December	Reception, Years 1 & 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14th December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 16th December	Years 5 & 6 Christmas Party
Friday 17th December	10.30-11.30am: End of term Mass in school. 1.30pm-2.15pm: Achievement Assembly-all welcome. Break up for Christmas holidays.

Educational visits and sporting events this term to be confirmed-letters will be sent out in due course. Any other events added throughout the term will be placed on the website and texts will be sent.



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Plea For Reception

Miss Shawcross has asked for donations of the following:

- Dried food goods such as corn-flakes, lentils, pasta, rice etc.
- Scented food essences e.g peppermint oil but not nut oils.
- Kitchen utensils for the home corner.

We would also be very grateful if any Reception parents could kindly donate the following: **cooking oil, washing up liquid, flour and salt** to make play doh. Thank you.

Headteacher News

Welcome to our happy school, where everyone is valued and given the opportunity to 'let their light shine.'

September 2021

Happy New School Year!



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you are all well. My first few weeks as the new Headteacher of St Matthew's have been wonderful-thank you for your kind wishes, support and warm welcome. From my experience of being a headteacher previously for a number of years, I know that a successful and happy school depends on us all working together.

I have been enjoying getting to know everyone and I hope to continue to meet you all in person in the upcoming weeks, either out on the yard or during our curriculum information evenings and other events. Please feel free to come and say hello or ask any questions you may have!

The children have settled back in beautifully and have enjoyed the delightful weather! It has been wonderful to be able to hold Collective Worships and assemblies together after so long, and play times have seen excited children mixing with each other again! In lessons, I have witnessed children who are eager to learn and engaging well. It really does feel a lot more 'normal' around school and we pray that this continues.

We welcome our new starters to the St Matthew's family. We also welcome **Mrs Henderson-Howes**, our new Year 3 teacher, to our school community.

Staff had some lovely events happening over the summer. Mrs Henderson-Howes

celebrated her wedding to her husband Mathew-congratulations to the happy couple! Mrs Brown also has a beautiful new granddaughter called Rae.

You can catch up with all that is happening at St Matthew's on our website, www.stmatthewsrc.org. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter too.

On the back page are key dates for this term. We would love you to join us whenever you can.

Remember, if you have any questions whatsoever or would like to make an appointment with any member of staff, please just contact the office.

Best wishes,
Mrs Alderson

Reading Reward Scheme

This year we have launched a brand new reading reward scheme! Children have a '100 square' in their reading journals. Each time they read at home to an adult for at least 10 minutes, the adult simply initials a square and dates it. These then equate to prizes and children also move their

way up the 'Hall of Fame' as they reach milestones every 50 times they read!

There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development.

We all love reading at St Matthew's and can't wait to see who will be first to make our 'Hall of Fame!' Children, remember to tell your teacher when you reach a milestone!



Pupils Leading the Way!

Pupil voice at St Matthew's is so important and we are delighted to be able to invite children to join our pupil groups this year. The children will shape change in our school and be able to share their bright ideas on issues they feel passionate about.

There are a number of groups being set up at present and staff are leading these.

We have the following groups this year led by the following staff:

Mini Vinnies: Mrs Aitchison

Outdoor Play and Learning/Mediators:

KS1-Miss Bamborough

KS2: Mrs Blackburn and Miss Burns

Eco-Committee: Mrs Alderson

Year 6 Junior Leadership Team: Mrs Torley

School Sports Organising Crew: Miss Wiblin

School Council: Mrs Longster and Mrs Seymour

Groups will take place at lunch times at least once each half term. Due to the School Councillors being unable to carry out any duties last year, the Councillors voted in last year will remain the same for this year.

Awards



We have some exciting new awards this term. Each week the house with the highest number of points will be announced in Star Assembly. The house that wins the most times each term will receive a special treat decided by the school council.

We also have the following awards: Wonderful Writer, Marvellous Mathematician, Perfect Presentation, Gospel Values, Middy Marvel and Star of the Week.

Admissions

Applications for September 2022 primary, junior and infant school places are now open. Applications close at 4.30pm on Monday 17 January 2022.

Applications for September 2022 secondary school places are also now open. Applications close at 4.30pm on Monday 1 November 2021.

If you need to speak to someone about school admissions, please contact the School Admissions team on 0191 424 7767 / 7706 / 7705 or school.admissions@southtyneside.gov.uk.

See www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/36365/Primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions for more details.

Open Evening

There will be an open evening for prospective parents of new Reception class starters for September 2022. This will be in the school hall on **Thursday 21st October 2021 at 5.30pm** and parents will have the opportunity to meet the Headteacher, Early Years staff and Governors. This will be followed by a tour of the school. Please could parents spread the word to anyone who may be considering St Matthew's for their child next year.

We also currently have places available in Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. Anyone interested in taking up these places should contact the school office.

Healthy Minds Team

We are passionate about emotional well-being at St Matthew's and consider this a priority. We are fortunate to have the support from the Healthy Minds Team this year. The team aims to help children and young people at the earliest possible stage, in order to support children, young people and families to develop skills and promote positive wellbeing and reduce the risk of further distress. More information will be coming shortly.

We are also taking part in the 'Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day' on Friday 8th October. Please encourage your child to wear something yellow on this day.



Harvest Feast Day 2021



On Tuesday 12th October we are celebrating our Harvest Feast Day. Our Mini Vinnies will be leading a liturgy for the rest of school that day and will also be

commissioned during the liturgy to carry on the good work of St Vincent de Paul throughout the year in our community. We are also taking **donations for the**

People's Kitchen charity that day. Mr Tom Baker, a volunteer from the charity, will collect the food and tell the children all about the good work carried out at the People's Kitchen. A separate letter will follow regarding this shortly.



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

Year 6

Year 6 have got off to a flying start this term! We are looking at place value in Maths, where they are consolidating reading and writing numbers up to 10,000,000. We will then move on to calculation methods.

In English, we will be looking at different aspects of fiction writing, looking in particular at sentence structure and using a wide range of punctuation and vocabulary.

We have started our new topic in RE, where we will be looking at what love is

and the importance of unconditional love, as shown throughout the Bible.

In Science, we are looking at classifying living things and in Geography we will be looking at Biomes.

Year 6 had an amazing time in Thurston last week and the children were an absolute credit to their parents and our school! We will keep you updated on the rest of our adventures this year.

We have spent some time getting to know our new Reception Buddies. They are so lovely.

We are looking forward to sharing a Welcome Mass with our buddies and the new Reception parents on Thursday at church.

Year 6 is a really fun year and the children can't wait to try all the new exciting things waiting for them!

Miss Wiblin



Our Lovely Pupils!



Reception



Year 1

Friends of St Matthew's

The Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM) Jarrow is a voluntary group of parents and carers who work to fundraise and provide extra-curricular events and activities for the children of St Matthew's.

Having operated informally for a number of years, we adopted a formal constitution in 2019 and are currently in the process of registering with the Charity Commission. An important step in its development, official charity status will increase opportunities for fundraising activity and grant applications - you can find out more about our organisational operation at our Annual General Meeting, which will take place in December.

The group currently consists of three Trustees and a number of volunteers who

meet on a regular basis to organise events and work with staff and the wider school community. Our members are dedicated to enhancing the school experience for the pupils of St Matthew's, particularly at a time when statutory funding is squeezed, and the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about new challenges for us all.

So, what do we actually do? Well, you will all have seen the Be Kind, Be Humble outdoor classroom – our biggest achievement to date. We planned and delivered this project from idea to inception, with the support of local businesses, members of the local community-and of course you, the parents, carers, children and staff of St Matthew's.

Other recent activities include providing Reception parents with a 'first day survival kit' and raising funds for playground markings and games. This year we have some very special events planned, including First Friday Treats, movie nights and something very special for Christmas. You can follow FOSM on Facebook at facebook.com/FOSMjarrow or attend our next drop-in coffee morning.

FOSM are always looking for new volunteers and committee members – we would love to hear your ideas and suggestions so if you can spare some time or expertise to help, please get in touch! Please contact FOSM directly via Facebook or email fosmjarrow@gmail.com for more information.

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Matthew's RC Primary School, we have a history of excellent attendance and are very proud of our children and families for their determination to attend school every day, on time.

We will shortly be announcing the class with the best attendance each week in our Star Assembly and will keep parents updated with our whole school attendance figures.

Please could parents help us with this by **ensuring your child gets to school on time each day and by trying to arrange medical appointments before or after school**

whenever possible. All requests for leave should be carried out by completing the school form available from our school office. Please note that **leave can only be granted for exceptional circumstances.** In line with government policy and advice from the Local Authority, unfortunately headteachers **cannot authorise absence from school during term time for a family holiday.** Please see [Holidays in term time - South Tyneside Council](#) for more information.

We appreciate your continued support with attendance and punctuality.



COVID-19

We are continuing to adapt to the new COVID 19 procedures in school. Please be aware of the following:

From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has COVID-19. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school until they get the test result, as long as they have no symptoms.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they **must** stay off school and take a PCR test: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and/or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

It continues to be important that if your child has to go for a PCR test, that you inform the school office of this. We would also ask that that you email the result to school when you receive this. Although schools are no longer required to 'Track and Trace,' we are still expected to have this information and may be contacted by Public Health to assist them.

We continue to follow government advice in school, ensuring a thorough cleaning regime, keeping school well ventilated and promoting regular hand washing/sanitation throughout the school day.

We are also continuing to limit the number of parents attending events. We are hoping to gradually increase this as the term continues.

Please could we also ask that, if your child is absent due to illness, you inform the office before the start of the school day. Thank you –your support is very much appreciated.

Reception

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children into their first year at St Matthews. They have settled in really well and are enthusiastic to try new activities and make new friends. We also welcome you as partners in your child's education and we look forward to getting to know you, and your children, much better over the coming year.

Over the past week we have been exploring our school and meeting lots of new people and friends. On Friday we had a special visit from Father Saji, we were able to show him how we made the sign of the cross during prayer time and joined him in a special blessing for starting our

learning journey.

Here is an overview of the things your child will be learning this half term across the different areas of learning. This half term we are going to start by looking at what makes us unique. We will also be learning about the qualities of a good learner.

During our topic we will be discussing the question 'What makes me unique?' Through this question we will be developing many of the children's personal social skills including building confidence when talking in small groups, talking to friends about personal wants and needs and developing the children's ability to communicate about their own homes and

communities. This topic will also help to raise awareness about all the different aspects that make us unique and give us the opportunity to talk about a range of different appearances, cultures and beliefs

Miss Shawcross



Year 1

Hello from Year 1! We have an exciting term planned to start the school year beginning with the topic Marvellous Me! We will be learning all about ourselves and how wonderful and unique we all are.

In our lessons we will talk about our families and our friends, and think about our likes and dislikes. During this topic we will be finding out about our local area, we will look at maps and find our

school and local facilities. In science lessons we will be learning about our bodies and our senses. In maths we will be looking at place value within 10 and begin to look at addition and subtraction within 10.

This term we will also start looking at a different word and number each week, children will bring these home to share with their family. Year 1 will also be spending some time in the reception yard

to help to ease the transition from Reception to Year 1.

Mrs Longster



Year 2

Hello! I am so happy to welcome all of the children and parents into Year 2. We have had a brilliant start to the year and the children have settled in wonderfully! We are all looking forward to a very exciting half term and I know that the children are going to try so hard in all of our topics- as they have already shown me some excellent work and amazing attitudes!

During the first half of the Autumn Term, we will be making sure that we have remembered all of the key concepts that we learnt in Year 1 and introducing all new ideas for Year 2.

In Maths, this will involve; investigating numbers to 20, 50 and 100, how to separate numbers into tens and ones, addition and subtraction methods and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In English, we are very excited to be looking at Julia Donaldson books- we will be describing the characters from her stories and even writing some of our own stories, using these as inspiration.

We will be looking at new topics, such as; The Great Fire of London in History, Materials in Science, Information Technology Around Us in Computing and many more.

I look forward to meeting all of you as the term progresses and thank you for your support.

Mrs Aitchison



Year 3

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year in Year 3 and we are looking forward to: learning, exploring and growing together.

Literacy: Linking to our Stone Age Topic, we will be reading a range of immersive texts, such as: 'Stone Age Boy' and 'Stig of the Dump'. We will develop our written and reading skills to understand what we have read and to write exciting stories and recounts.

Numeracy: This term, we will develop our Place Value and understanding in: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with a key focus on our times tables knowledge.

Topic: We will explore what life was like in the Stone Age and become historians as we investigate historical sources and create some fantastic Cave Painting Art.

Science: As scientists, we will experiment with different types of rocks and soils and link this learning to Literacy as we investigate the life of Mary Anning and her discovery of fossils.

RE: Throughout every aspect of our learning, we will celebrate our relationship with God and reflect on our wellbeing and spirituality. This term, we will explore what 'Home' and 'Family' means to us.

Other: In Year 3, we will also be developing our French skills, musical abilities and we will become adept with basketball techniques, whilst focusing on our fitness levels. We will also strengthen our ICT skills and design/ construction understanding.



Year 4

Hello from Year 4! We are so excited to be back in class together! We have been working so hard already and are having fun with our learning! Do you like our class motto? We voted as a class for our favourite one!

RE

Our RE topic is all about People. People we know and people in the Bible. We have been investigating our family trees.

Maths

In maths we are learning about place value and our addition and subtraction of 3 and 4

digit numbers using column methods.

English

In English we are focusing on new spelling rules. Our text work is a story about a Time Travelling Cat who goes back in time and can even use a computer!

Science

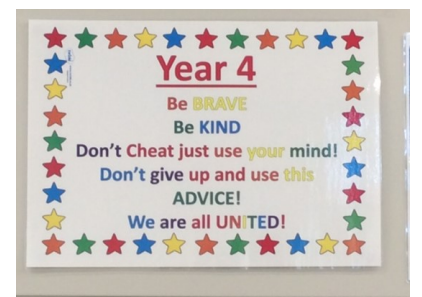
In Science we are talking about living things and their environments.

History

Our history topic is all about The Romans (Part

1) and how they managed to grow their Empire all the way to England.

Mrs Torley



Year 5

Year 5 have settled in brilliantly and are already working hard.

At present we are looking at Place Value in Maths. In English we have completed work on the book 'Can I build another me?' which links with our Religious topic of 'Ourselves' and our PSHE. This is design to help us see we are all different but all equally important and valued.

Now we are studying how to make our writing more descriptive using our imagination to invent a new dragon.

Our Geography topic this term is Saxons and Vikings and in Computing we are looking at Computing Systems and Networks – we are finding out how they work and link together to transfer information and how they can be used to complete tasks together.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and all our exciting things planned. Year 5 is going to be a great year!

Mrs McGregor

