

Tuesday 24th May	3.20pm: Friends of St Matthew's Platinum Jubilee Picnic on the School Field after school.
Wednesday 25th May	5pm: Reception New Starter Parents' Meeting
Thursday 26th May	Children break up for half term and return on Monday 6th June. Please note, due to the additional Bank Holiday on Thursday 3rd June, schools are asked to be closed for an additional day this year in lieu of this. This is why we are closed on Friday 27th May.
Monday 6th June	Children return to school.
Thursday 9th June	Individual, class and sibling photographs.
Friday 10th June	9am: Healthy Minds Coffee Morning - all parents welcome.
Thursday 16th June	Captain Chemistry in school
Friday 17th June	9.15am—Years 1 and 2 Father's Day Liturgy - all male family members/carers welcome (and Mums too!)
Saturday 18th June	10am: First Holy Communion for families of Year 4 pupils at St Matthew's Church.
Tuesday 21st June	Move Up Afternoon Session 1
Friday 24th June	Staff Training Day - children not in school today
Saturday 25th June	12—2pm: Summer Fayre
Tuesday 28th June	Move Up Afternoon Session 2
Thursday 30th June	First Holy Communion in School - children and Catechists only
Tuesday 5th July	Infant Parent/Child reading sessions: Parents/carers are invited to come and read with their child in the hall with some juice and biscuits at the following times: 1.30-2pm: Reception class 2.30pm-3pm: Year 2 2pm-2.30pm: Year 1
Thursday 7th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July	Footsteps into Paradise BCCET event at Durham Cathedral-more information to follow.
Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July	Year 6 transition visits to Secondary Schools
Monday 18th July	6pm: Year 6 production
Friday 22nd July	10.30am: Leavers' Mass in School. 1.30pm: Awards Assembly in the gazebo-parents welcome. School will end at 2.30pm for all. Pupils break up for the Summer Holidays and return to school on Tuesday 6th September 2022. Sporting events and additional class trips to be confirmed via letters.



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Plea For Plants!

The FOSM and Miss Burns are kindly holding a gardening club this term to make our grounds look beautiful. We would be very grateful for any donations of plants/seeds/pots-please simply drop any donations off at the office. Thank you.



Headteacher News

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

May 2022

Summer Term Begins!



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I can't quite believe that we are already in the summer term; this year has flown by! It has been so lovely to be able to enjoy school life with much more of a sense of 'normality' - we are all really enjoying welcoming parents back for events where possible, attending trips and sports festivals again and gathering together for liturgies and assemblies. Year 5 even headed off to Hawkthirst for a residential and had a super time!

This term is another busy one, with numerous exciting events which you can find on the back of this newsletter. Children will also be taking statutory assessments again for the first

time since 2019. Our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils will be carrying out SATs this month, Year 1s take part in the Phonics Screening Check in June, whilst our Year 4s will undertake the Multiplication Tables Check in June. All we ever ask is that our children do their very best and we wish them all the very best of luck.

We also formally joined the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust on April 1st. We are enjoying being part of our Trust and the opportunities it brings for our pupils. We have had some lovely news that Mrs Blackburn, our amazing teaching assistant, is a finalist in the 'Inspirational Staff Award' category of the Bishop Chadwick Celebration Awards; this category was

voted for by pupils. Very well deserved, Mrs Blackburn!

You can catch up with all that is happening at St Matthew's on our website,

www.stmatthewsrc.org.

Please note that we are in the process of re-organising and updating our website this term - we welcome any suggestions you may have for this. Please also feel free to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Remember, if you have any questions whatsoever or would like to make an appointment with any member of staff, please just contact Mrs Young in the office - we have an 'open door' policy and are always happy to help.

Best wishes,
Mrs E Alderson

Thank you, Mrs McGregor!

We are very sorry to inform you that Mrs McGregor, our beloved Year 5 teacher and SENDCo, will be retiring from teaching at the end of this academic year.

Mrs McGregor has taught for 38 years and has been a teacher at St Matthew's for 24 years. She is a much loved,

dedicated and respected teacher who will be missed by all. However, we are sure she will be popping back to see us regularly!

We would like to thank Mrs McGregor for her years of service and wish her the very best for a long and happy retirement.



Uniform



We place great emphasis on presentation at St Matthew's, and encourage children to present both their work and themselves completely. It is our policy that all children should wear full uniform when attending school.

Please could we remind parents that children **must come to school each day in full school uniform and school shoes (not trainers).**

The same applies to **PE kits** - on PE days children must wear their school PE t-shirt and school jumper, together with black or navy blue jogging pants (or school PE shorts if the weather permits) and trainers.

For health and safety reasons, **we do not allow earrings and jewellery** to be worn in school. This includes space saver earrings.

If a child is not in full uniform, a text will be sent to their parent to inform them of this; please help us by ensuring that they then arrive in school in uniform the next day.

May we also politely request that, for safety reasons, if a child is unable to fasten their laces, they wear shoes with velcro until they are able to fasten laces themselves.

As the warmer months begin, can we also ask that children bring a hat or cap into school and sun-cream to protect them from the sun - some parents may find once a day cream easier before children come to school!

Please do also contact Mrs Alderson if you have any problems acquiring school uniform.

We are also looking at ways to reduce uniform costs and recycle uniform such as a swapping event. We welcome any ideas around this. Thank you for your continued support.

Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a Class Teacher and SENDCO to work in our lovely school and join our fantastic, hardworking staff team.

Please see the **vacancies page of our website for more information** and details of how to apply or call our school office if you have any questions about the role.



Easter Cards for the Parish

Pupils were keen to spread the Easter message and bring some cheer to members of the Parish. All classes made beautiful Easter cards which were distributed to

housebound parishioners and also given out at Masses at St Matthew's Church. The Mini Vinnies presented these to Fr Saji at our end of term Easter Mass.



Fundraise and Recycle!



Please continue to spread the word that we have a clothing container on site for unwanted clothes. The money raised goes directly to school and clothes are either then sold in charity shops or recycled.

Don't forget, you can also raise money for school whilst shopping online. All you need to do is go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsfostmattjarrow/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Friends of St Matthews Primary - Jarrow at no extra cost to you!

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are vital in ensuring our pupils reach their full potential. As part of Bishop Chadwick, we have recently updated our Attendance Policy, which will be placed on the website in the next few days for your perusal.

It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young. Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. Please be aware that your child will be marked as late on the register if they arrive through the office entrance after 9am.

Please ensure your child is an 'Attendance HERO' - Here, Every Day, Ready, On Time.



Sporting Success!

We've had some amazing sporting successes this term. Here are a few of them...

-Our footballers finished second in the South Tyneside Gidney League. They are also through to the semi-finals of the Bishop's Cup!

-The swimming team won 11 medals at the South of Tyne Swimming Gala, finishing in 6th place overall

-Year 4 hockey team came 1st and 2nd in the South Tyneside hockey finals

-Year 4 won silver medal at the South Tyneside Sportshall Athletics competition

Joseph's Got Talent!

We are so proud of our Year 6 pupil, Joseph Chow, who appeared on Britain's Got Talent on Saturday as part of his dance group, 5 Star Boys. The boys performed a heart wrenching, incredible dance to a song called 'You Will Be Here' and the judges all said 'yes' to the group to send them through to the next round!

Joseph has also been offered places for September at two prestigious ballet schools, Elmhurst in Birmingham and the Royal Ballet School of London; this is a

truly amazing achievement!

We wish Joseph and the 5 Star Boys the very best in the coming weeks on Britain's Got Talent; we will all be watching and cheering you on!



Healthy Minds Team

We are very lucky to be receiving support from Natalie Doyle, Primary Mental Health Worker for the Healthy Minds team, this year. Natalie supports across school and will be carrying out workshops in each class this term to support emotional wellbeing. The team also consider referrals to support emotional wellbeing and mental health.

All parents are invited to join us in the school hall for a cuppa and a biscuit on Friday 10th June at 9am to find out more.

Friends of St Matthew's News

Our Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM) have been very busy this term!

At the end of March they held a very successful Annual General Meeting in which the achievements and finances of 2021 were discussed-please see the report attached with this email.

In April, they held their very first Easter Egg hunt and raised an amazing £247! Thank you to all who attended and donated; we hope you enjoyed this fun, family friendly event. The FOSM have

also been supporting in school, assisting with visits, supporting Miss Burns with a gardening club and also helping our playground leaders to develop play times -take a look at some of the lovely resources we have received. Thanks to all involved!

Be sure to pop along to our 'Platinum Jubilee Picnic' on Tuesday 24th May after school if you can-just bring your own picnic, blanket and soft drinks (no alcohol please) and FOSM will provide the Royal fun!

