#### Spring Term Dates-for more details see our website calendar

Thursday 26 January	3.30pm: Year 5 Hawkhirst Information meeting
6 to 10 February	Mental Health Week in School
Tuesday 7 February	E-Safety Day, 1.30pm: Juniors Pupil Assembly and Parent Online Safety Session. All junior parents/carers welcome.
Wednesday 8 February	5pm: Y6 SATS information session for parents
	Key Stage 2 Swimming Gala (Team of 8) (Afternoon)
Friday 10 February	9am—9.30am: Reception reading session—parents can pop into the hall to read stories with their children
Thursday 16 February	3pm-3.20pm: Karen Evans, Bishop Chadwick Catering Manager, will be holding a drop in session for parents/carers give feedback on the new school menus, ask any questions they may have and share your ideas. All welcome.
Friday 17 February	Break Up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 27 February	Pupils return to School
Thursday 2 March	World Book Day-dress up as your favourite book character or wear PJs/onesies and bring your favourite book for a of reading funpaired reading, World Book Day activities and lots of story time! We are also encouraging children staff!) to enter our 'Radical Reading' competition, sending in their photos of reading in exciting places such as on a bouncy castle or out on a walk! More information to follow.
Wednesday 8 March	5pm: Year 1 Phonics Information Session
Thursday 9 March	Reception Class: Multi-Skills Event at Temple Park 9-12noon. Please ensure your child wears PE kit on this day.
	10am: Years 1—6: Whole School Lenten Mass at Church. All welcome.
Friday 10 March	Girls Football League at Hebburn 3G 12:30 –3:30pm. More information to follow.
13-17 March	Science Week in School
	Year 5 Bikeability—more information to follow
Tuesday 14 March	10am—Years 2, 3 and 5 to Parish Mass. All welcome
	Y4 Sports Hall Athletics Finals at Temple Park. 9-12 noon. Please ensure your child wears PE kit on this day. Y6 Heights and Weights checks
	5pm—SATs information session. Y2 parents welcome
Friday 17 March	9.15am in hall: Women Who Care for Us Liturgy - Reception Class. All parents/carers of Reception class welcome
Triday 17 Waren	Y2 Cricket Festival at Temple Park 9-12 noon. Please ensure your child wears PE kit on this day.
Tuesday 21 March	10am—Years 1 and 4 attending Parish Mass
Monday 27 and Tuesday 28	Parents' Evenings—more information to follow
March	Tarefits Evenings more morniation to follow
Wednesday 29 March	Girls Football League at Temple Park 12:30-3:30. More information to follow.
Thursday 30 March	9.15am—Year 3 Easter Liturgy. Parents/carers of Year 3 pupils welcome.
	Y5/6 Tag Rugby Finals at Temple Park. 12:30– 3:30. More information to follow.
Friday 31 March	10.30am: Whole School Mass at Church – all welcome
•	Break up for Easter holidays. We return to school on Monday 17 April.
	Information regarding any Educational Visits/Sporting Events will be sent out to relevant classes in due course.



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Alnwick Grove Jarrow
Tyne and Wear NE32 5YT
Tel: 01914898355
Website
www.stmatthewsrc.org
Email:
office@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk

#### Inside this issue:

Happy Spring Term!	1
Outdoor Play	2
E-Safety	2
Friends of St Matthew's	3
Road Safety	3
Attendance	3
Dates	4

#### Consultation on the School Day

By September 2023 we are required by law to ensure that the time children are in school equates to 32.5 hours. At present, pupils are in school for 31 hours and 40 mins. You will shortly be receiving an online survey regarding your thoughts on this - we would be grateful if you would complete this and welcome your feedback. Thank you.

# Headteacher News

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

January 2023

# Happy Spring Term!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a great start to the New Year, with children working incredibly hard in all classes and enjoying their new learning topics. You can find all of our long term planning maps on our website on each year group page, so please do take a look to see what your child will be studying this term. As part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, we have been developing and embedding a new exciting curriculum, so keep your eyes on our website and social media for class updates on all the exciting teaching and learning happening across school.

We have another busy term ahead, with lots of exciting opportunities for our children and also many events which we would love parents/carers to join us for.

Please could we remind parents to ensure your child comes to school in full school uniform each day or correct PE kit when it is PE day—please see our uniform policy on the website. Just a reminder that no earrings or jewellery are permitted and we also ask that children with long hair tie this back.

Could we also politely ask that

ensure they collect children on time—our staff finish at 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 5pm on Fridays and school gates will be closed after these times.

any parents of children in after

school wraparound provision

As always, our staff are happy



to assist in any way they can. Please feel free to contact Mrs Young or Mrs Traynor-Richardson in our office if you have any queries or would like to make an appointment with a staff member or myself.

We would also love to hear your feedback regarding our newsletter and any items you would like to see in future newsletters. Please just email the office with any ideas.

Best wishes, Mrs Alderson

Head Teacher

## Goodbye and Good Luck, Miss Burns!

Last week we said a sad goodbye to Miss Burns.
Miss Burns has been a teaching assistant at St Matthew's for over 10 years and has provided amazing support to our pupils. Her kindness, professionalism and care has brought so much to our school community and we

will miss her very much.

Miss Burns is heading off to pastures new and pursuing a new career opportunity. We wish her the very best in her new role and look forward to her popping in to see us all. Thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts—Miss

Burns was very touched by your kindness.



This week got off to a fantastic start on our Junior yard, with our Playground Leaders ensuring all pupils were playing safely with our new equipment. We have a tennis area, ball skills area, throwing and catching/skipping area, quiet area and 'hang out' area. Our next stage in the

leading games outside.

project is to develop our Infant play opportunities and Miss Bamborough will be helping to lead this.

We are using some of our PE Premium Funding to support this but would greatly appreciate any donations for our outdoor play, such as tennis balls, soft balls, bean bags, colouring pencils or skipping ropes. If anyone has any bright ideas regarding outdoor play or knows of any grants available, please just get in touch.

safeguarding education and

computing curriculum in school;

we teach aspects of e-safety in all

year groups throughout the year

Deputy Headteacher and also our

Computing Subject Leader, keeps

all staff up to date with the most

recent E-Safety advice and

We also want to help you, as

parents, to navigate this very

difficult area. On E-Safety Day

we will be holding a Pupil

**Assembly and Online Safety** 

**Session for our Key Stage 2** 

parents. Clennell Education

before the Summer holidays aside from

2

(Tuesday 7 February) at 1.30pm

teaching.

and Mrs Torley, our dedicated

PE News



Miss Wiblin, our fantastic PE Subject Leader, is running an exciting new Daily Mile initiative this term—our 'Healthy Hearts Challenge.' Children have to tick off 14 hearts on their charts to earn a reward, just in time for Valentine's Day coming up.

In other news, our boys football team will represent South Tyneside in the Alan Grimes Memorial trophy this term and they will also travel to St Mary's, North Shields in the Bishop's Cup. Best of luck to all involved!

#### Report from the Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM)

'It was a busy end of the year for the Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM) with a flurry of Christmas activities and events. Thanks to everyone who came along, bought Christmas cards and helped out! Our Christmas Grotto in particular was a fantastic event – we had lots of lovely feedback and happy children! With your help we raised:

- £137 from Christmas Card sales
- £500 from the Christmas Grotto, hamper raffle and Christmas craft sale

This latest fundraising activity has helped us get some way to our next target, which is to purchase some much-needed outdoor equipment for the children. To help us achieve this goal, we have some fun and exciting things planned for the Spring term.

Dates are subject to change but look out for:

- Family St Patrick's Night on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March at St Matthew's Church Hall (TBC)
- Easter Hunt!
- Mother's Day Hamper raffle with some extra special goodies
- A King's Coronation Celebration in May (date in May tbc)

Some of you may not know but the Friends of St Matthew's is a Registered Charity which means every year we hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and publish an annual report.

Our AGM will take place on Monday 6 March at 6pm in the school hall. We will be opening the doors at 5.30pm for anyone who is interested in hearing more about our work or getting involved as a volunteer or trustee of the charity to pop in and find out more. Details and booking form for the AGM are coming soon!'

Page 3



Our beautiful Christmas grotto!

### Creative Enquiry Project

We are delighted to inform you that we have secured £3750 from the South Tyneside Local Education Cultural Partnership to create our very own learning and wellbeing garden. We have been assigned a wonderful artist—Amy Grounsell, who will work with a team of children, staff and volunteers to create a place where children can connect scientifically and spiritually with nature, engage in storytelling and spark their imaginations.

The project will be led by Amy and our wonderful Art and Design Technology Subject Leader, Mrs Limer. We will keep you updated about the exciting developments on our Facebook page!

Liturgical Prayer

resources to help with this. We will be

Children planning and
leading liturgies is one of our RE
improvement priorities this year and our
proactive RE Leader, Mrs Aitchison, has
been providing classes with lovely
ensuring that all parents have the chance to join their child's class during this very special, prayerful time. All classes will be leading liturgies over the coming months

Online safety is a key area of our

Solutions will be

holding an informative session and the children will also be sharing what they have learnt from the day. We would love as many parents as possible to join us for this vitally important session.

We will also be sending out useful online safety information to all parents and sending out our Acceptable Use Policy for parents to talk through with their child and sign.

If you have an online safety concern or a safeguarding concern of any kind, please contact Mrs Alderson (Designated Safeguarding Lead –DSL), Mrs Torley (Deputy DSL) or Miss Wiblin (Assistant DSL),

Year 5 who led a beautiful Remembrance Day Liturgy in the Autumn term with support from Liz Boylan, Bishop Chadwick Director of Chaplaincy. We would love parents/carers to join our pupils in their prayer time. We will also be joining the parish for Mass on occasion - all welcome.

#### Attendance and Punctuality

At St Matthew's Catholic 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. Our attendance to date this year is 95.2% and our aspirational target for the year is 97%.

We have a lovely new weekly attendance trophy for the class with the best attendance each week. A huge well done to the first winners of this award, Year 1, who had 100% attendance last week!

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.

#### Magic Breakfast Ending

We have had the support of the Magic Breakfast facility for a number of years now. This has enabled us to provide bagels for all pupils and cereals for breakfast club. Please be aware that we are now no longer eligible for this support and so bagels will not be available in the morning for pupils. Please ensure your child has a breakfast in the morning. Remember, we have a breakfast club available from 7.30am each morning.

#### Road Safety

Please could we remind all parents to take care when dropping off and picking up children at the start and end of the school day. The roads around school can get very busy and we are concerned for the safety of all the members of our school community.

Please avoid parking on the yellow lines and also ensure you do not block any cars in. We have also had some complaints from local residents and the local Neighbourhood Officer regarding cars being parked in front of their drives or on the grass verges.

When dropping your child off, please also ensure that they do not get out of the car directly on to the road. Cars can come along the road very quickly and may not see the child getting out of the car.

We have been speaking with our pupils regarding road safety and will continue to promote the importance of this in school. Thank you for your support with this.

3

ANNIAT

The 6th to 12th February is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of this year is 'Let's Connect.' All classes will be holding sessions with Natalie Doyle, our Primary Mental Health Worker and also carrying out activities throughout the week to help them 'connect.'

Children's Mental Health Week

It would be wonderful if families could also carry out an activity for home from the Place 2 Be website. Please visit

https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/ to access some lovely resources.