

18—22 September	Y6 at Thurston
Wednesday 20 September	5.30pm: Year 3 Curriculum Evening for parents of Year 3
Thursday 21 September	St Matthew's Feast Day: Years 3, 4 and 5 to attend Parish Mass at St Matthew's Church— all welcome 5.30pm: Year 5 Curriculum Evening for parents of Year 5
Monday 25 September	9am: MacMillan Coffee Morning in Hall organised by FOSM - all welcome and cake donations gratefully received. Please drop off cake donations at the office in the morning 5pm-5.30pm: Year 1 Curriculum Evening 5.30pm-6pm: Year 4 Curriculum Evening 6pm: Year 4 First Holy Communion Programme Parent Meeting in hall
Wednesday 27 September	2.15pm: Buddy Assembly—Reception parents and Y6 parents welcome
Thursday 28 September	5.30pm: Year 2 Curriculum Evening for parents of Year 2
Monday 2 October	9.50am: Procession behind Our Lady of Fatima Statue and then Mass for whole school at St Matthew's Church
Tuesday 3 October	5.30pm: Year 6 Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 4 October	5.30pm: Reception curriculum evening for parents of Reception class
Friday 6 October	9.10am: Harvest Feast Day liturgy in school led by Year 2—parents/carers welcome
Tuesday 10 October	Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day - donations can be made to Young Minds online via their website
12 –19 October	Scholastic Book Fair - more information to follow
Friday 13 October	10.30am: Whole School Welcome Mass for Reception Children at St Matthew's Church—all welcome
Wednesday 18 October	5pm - Open Evening for Prospective Parents
Friday 20 October	FLU VACCINATIONS BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM—CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER
Wednesday 1 November	4.30pm-5.30pm: Autumn Disco-Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 5.45pm-6.45pm: Autumn Disco-Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 7 November	10am—Years 1, 2 and 6 to Parish Mass, St Matthew's Church
Thursday 9 November	Year 5 Film Event at the Vue, Gateshead
Friday 10 November	9.10am: Year 5 Remembrance Day liturgy—parents/carers welcome
Wednesday 15 November	2.30pm: Infants Anti-bullying assembly-infant parents welcome
Thursday 16 November	2.30pm: Juniors Anti-Bullying assembly-junior parents welcome
Friday 24 November	Years 3 and 4 Film Event at Cineworld, Gateshead
Mon 4/Tues 5 December	Parents' Evenings— more information to follow in due course
Weds 6 December	Years 2, 3 and 4 visit to the Customs House for the Pantomime
Tues 12 December	2 - 2.45pm: Reception Nativity Performance
Weds 13 December	Christmas lunch for whole school—children to wear Christmas jumpers/accessories if they wish
Thurs 14 December	2 - 3pm: Years 1/2 Nativity Performance
Mon 18 December	Reception, Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 December	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 December	Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 December	10am: Whole School Mass—all welcome
<b>Friday 22 December: Children break up for the Christmas holidays and return to school on Monday 8 January 2024.</b>	

Further educational visits and sporting events this term will be placed on the website diary and parents informed. Friends of St Matthew's Events will also be confirmed via our website shortly.



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### Plea For Reception

Miss Shawcross has asked for donations of the following:

- Dried food goods—lentils, pasta and rice
- Scented food essences e.g pepper-mint oil but not nut oils.
- Kitchen utensils for the home corner.
- Baskets and fake plants

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 2023

## Another Great Start at St Matthew's!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back after the summer holidays and we enjoyed the spell of sunshine we had as we started our new term! We have welcomed our new Reception starters, who have settled in beautifully and are making us all smile. All children are working hard across school in their new classes and settling back into routines; behaviour has been excellent around school!

We said goodbye to Mrs Henderson-Howes in the summer term and welcome Miss Suddick to Year 3. We also welcome Mrs Wharff, a trainee teacher from our Bishop Chadwick SCITT programme, to our school this year. You can catch up with all that is

happening at St Matthew's on our website, [www.stmatthewsrc.org](http://www.stmatthewsrc.org).

You can also follow us on Facebook, 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. We would also love to hear your ideas for anything you would like included in future newsletters or just any bright ideas you may have.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Alderson  
Head Teacher

### A Prayer for the New School Year

Dear Lord,  
Use my eyes to see new friends,  
Open my ears to listen to my teacher.  
Open my mind to learn new things.  
Let my heart remember you are always near when I am afraid.  
Help me to love others like you do.  
I want to shine your light so brightly in my school.  
Amen.



opportunities across school are of the highest quality. Thank you, Mrs Longster, for all your hard work in ensuring we achieved the Healthy Schools Award! For more information about our PE and PSHE curriculum see [www.stmatthewsrc.org/curriculum](http://www.stmatthewsrc.org/curriculum)

## Award Winning St Matthew's!

We are delighted to inform you that we have successfully achieved the Gold Active Mark and also the Healthy Schools Award!

At St Matthew's we highly value physical activity and inclusion of all in sporting activities. Miss Wiblin is our PE

Subject Leader and does a fantastic job ensuring that our pupils access an amazing PE curriculum and a wide variety of sporting opportunities; thank you, Miss Wiblin!

Mrs Longster is our PSHE Subject Leader, who ensures that personal development

## St Matthew's LOVES Reading!

Here at St Matthew's, we absolutely **LOVE** reading and aim to instill a love of reading in all of our pupils.

This year, we are teaching reading comprehension through the VIPERS scheme—which teaches all the elements of comprehension: vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising.

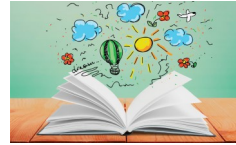
We are also allowing children to choose reading books for pleasure from our **newly revamped library**, along with their independent reading books.

The last 10 minutes of each day is dedicated to **story time** in all classes and

we will also be holding our **parent-child reading sessions** throughout the year, as well as paired reading opportunities in school.

In addition to this, we will be holding a **Scholastic Book Fair from 12-19 October**. Parents and children are welcome to come and browse the books and school receives commission from all sales to purchase new books - more info to follow.

The best way you can help your child is by ensuring they **read at home each night** for at least 10 minutes - please see our special reading reward squares in our reading diaries to help record this and ensure your child receives exciting reading rewards!



## Uniform

Please may we remind parents to ensure their child comes to school in **full uniform each day and also has the correct PE kit** (PE t-shirt, royal blue shorts or navy blue/black jogging bottoms and trainers).

Please also note that, in line with our policy, no jewellery is to be worn, including earrings. We would also encourage children to use book bags instead of backpacks as our cloakroom areas are very limited for space.

Please contact us if we can help to support you in any way with uniform.

## Admissions

Applications for September 2024 Primary, Junior and Infant school places are now open. Applications close at **4.30pm on Monday 15 January 2024**.

Applications for September 2023 Secondary School places are also now open. Applications close at **4.30pm on Tuesday 31 October 2023**.

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](mailto:school.admissions@southtyneside.gov.uk).

See [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/36365/Primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions](http://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 2023. This will be in the school hall on **Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 5pm**.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the Headteacher, Early Years staff, Junior Leadership Team and Governors. This will be followed by a tour of the school.

Please could parents share this information with anyone who may be considering St Matthew's for their child next year.



## Our Lady of Fatima

We are very excited to be part of the visit to St Matthew's of the **Centenary Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco Tour**. On Thursday 28

Mrs Boyle) coming to tell all classes the fascinating story of Our Lady of Fatima. On Friday 29th, our pupils will get to see the statue first and Fr Saji will join us for a blessing. Then on Monday 2 October we

## Emotional Wellbeing

We are passionate about emotional wellbeing at St Matthew's and consider this a priority. We are fortunate to have the support from Natalie Doyle from the **Healthy Minds Team in school each week**.

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 Tuesday 10 October**. Please encourage your child to wear something yellow on this day.



will be joining our cluster schools at St Matthew's to take part in an Our Lady of Fatima procession and Mass at 10am.

Please also take note of the liturgies coming up for your child's class—all parents are very welcome to join us for all liturgies and Masses.

## Wraparound Care Provision

Please note that we currently have some spaces available in our fantastic wraparound care provision. **Breakfast club and tea time club are £5 per session, or £4 for siblings**. Breakfast club runs from 7.30am to 9am and tea time club runs until 5.30pm (5pm on Fridays).

The provision is led by Mrs Carmichael and Mrs Sheraton, who work hard to offer exciting provision for our pupils. Children carry out a range of activities, such as arts, crafts, sports and reading. There are **still places available** - please email [TMAchildcare@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk](mailto:TMAchildcare@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk) to book a place for your child.

## Contact/Medical Details

In order to help us keep our records up to date, please could parents ensure they **keep us updated with any changes to contact details** such as address changes or telephone numbers.

Please also let us know immediately if your child requires any new medication or has any changes to current medication. May we also ask that you ensure that, if your child receives medication in school, that this is in date and the prescription information is on the box.

**Miss Bamborough is our Medical and First Aid Lead** in school; please contact her if you have any queries.

## FOSM

We have an incredibly dedicated, proactive and kind **'Friends of St Matthew's' (FOSM)** Parent Teacher Association. They held a number of fantastic events last year, such as our Summer Fayre, an Easter Egg Hunt, a Christmas grotto night and a Coronation celebration.

FOSM are always looking for new volunteers and committee members – they 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](mailto:fosmjarrow@gmail.com) for more information.

## Attendance and Punctuality

At St Matthew's, 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.

Last year our attendance was **96%** for the year, which is above the national average. This year we hope to improve upon this even more and are aiming for 97% attendance.

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, unfortunately headteachers **cannot authorise any absence from school during term time for a family holiday**.

Please remember that if your child is late, parents must sign in at the office. Being on time every day is so important; it helps to ensure children don't miss vital learning and gets them in to good routines.

## Parking

As you will be aware, the roads around school get very busy at drop off and pick up times. We have had concerns raised regarding the safety of roads around school for our pupils and also complaints from local residents related to cars blocking driveways and parking on grass verges.

Please could we urge all parents to park considerately and ensure they **do not park on the yellow lines**. If you live close by, walking to school would also help to ease the problem greatly.

## Our Curriculum

At St Matthew's we are proud of our **ambitious and exciting curriculum**, which we have developed in recent years as part of the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust 'Transition Project.'

Subject Leaders have worked alongside our Trust to develop a curriculum which is clear and progressive and provides continuity when children start secondary school.

We teach all subjects in the national curriculum and also believe in providing children with opportunities to enhance the curriculum e.g. through educational visits and practical activities.

We have also embarked on a range of new English and maths curriculum initiatives. For example, we now use the **SoundsWrite programme** to teach phonics and children have been really enjoying our 'Talk 4 Writing' approach to the teaching of writing. In addition to this, the formation of letters and cursive writing is taught through our 'Letterjoin' programme.

In maths this year, we are also excited to be taking part in the **'Mastering Number'** programme—a programme designed to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense from Reception to Year 2.

We are holding **curriculum evenings** in the coming weeks, which we would love as many parents as possible to attend. During these, you will hear what your child will be learning in class this year and also have the chance to meet their new class teacher.

Remember, if you ever have any questions about our curriculum or the progress your child is making, please just see your child's class teacher.

Please see the back page for details of each curriculum evening.