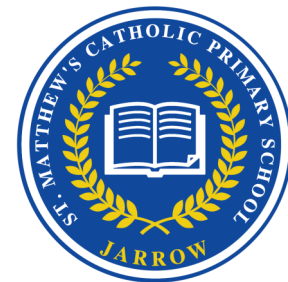


Thurs 2 May	Cricket Engagement Day—Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 to wear school PE kit that day.
Fri 3 May	Year 3 'Celebration of the Word' Liturgy in the School Hall at 9.15am. All Year 3 parents/carers welcome
Mon 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY —SCHOOL CLOSED
Tues 7 May	Years 1, 3 and 5 to Parish Mass—parents welcome to walk with us from school Reception at West Boldon Lodge
Wed 8— Fri 10 May	Year 5 at Hawkthirst
Mon 13— Thurs 16 May	Year 6 SATs
Tues 21 May	Years 2, 4 and 6 to Parish Mass—parents welcome to walk with us Year 3 Outdoor and Adventurous Festival at Marine Park, South Shields (AM) Meeting for New Reception Parents at 5pm in the School Hall
Wed 22 May	Year 4 May Procession at St Joseph's Church - children only
Thurs 23 May	Year 4 Bikeability (one day) Year 6 at Whitburn Cricket Club
Fri 24 May	Year 4 at the Great North Museum: Hancock
Mon 27—Fri 31 May	HALF TERM WEEK— SCHOOL CLOSED (Children return to school on Monday 3 June)
Tues 4 June	Year 6 Puberty Talk
Wed 5 June	Y3/4 (selected students) —Quadkids at Monkton Stadium
Fri 7 June	Year 2 Outdoor and Adventurous Festival at Marine Park, South Shields
Sat 8 June	First Holy Communion Mass for families of Year 4 pupils at 10am, St Matthew's Church.
Mon 10 June	Y5/6 (selected students) - Quadkids at Monkton Stadium
Tues 11 June	Transition morning
Thursday 13 June	10am—First Holy Communion Mass in school—Year 4 parents/carers welcome
Fri 14 June	Year 1 'Men Who Care For Us' Liturgy in the School Hall at 9.15am. All Year 1 parents/carers welcome
Mon 17 June	School photographs
Tues 18 June	Year 6 at Holy Island
Thurs 20 June	Transition morning
Fri 21 June	Y5/6 Careers' Fayre
Mon 24 June	Year 6 Bus Induction
Tues 25 June	Reception Balance Bike training
Wed 26 June	Y5/6 (selected students) Rugby finals at Monkton Academy
Thurs 27 June	Year 4 at Boldon Cricket Club
Fri 28 June	St Matthew's 70th Anniversary Celebration - more information to follow
Mon 1 July	Year 6 at Northumbria University
Tues 2 July	Reception Balance Bike training
Thurs 4 July	Sports Day
Fri 5 July	INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
Sat 6 July	Catherine Cookson Parade—Year 3
Thurs 11 July	Year 2 at Washington Wildfowl Park
Thurs 11 & Fri 12 July	Year 6 Transition Days
Tues 16 July	Year 6 Production at 6pm
Wed 17 July	Reception and Year 6 Beach Trip
Fri 19 July	10.00am: Leavers' Mass in School. School will end at 1.15pm for all. <i>Pupils break up for the Summer Holidays and return to school on Tuesday 3 September 2024. Any additional class trips to be confirmed via letters.</i>



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Plea For Plants!

Mrs Dejonge, Miss Suddick and Mrs Traynor-Richardson 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 them 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 2024

Summer Term is Here!



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have entered our final term in the school year and it has got off to a fantastic start!

This term is another busy one, with numerous exciting events which you can find on the back of this newsletter. We would love parents and carers to join us whenever you can. Our Year 6 pupils will be busy preparing for their end of year production and Mass, whilst all classes are also taking part in educational visits and transition mornings this term.

Some of our pupils will be taking statutory assessments in May and June. Our Year 6 pupils will be carrying out SATs in May, Year 2 will take optional SATs in June, 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 try their hardest; we wish them all the very best of luck.

Please can you ensure that your child is in full school uniform each day—**trainers and jewellery (including earrings) are not permitted**, in line with our uniform policy. Please also ensure that children wear their **school PE top, navy or black plain jogging bottoms/shorts and trainers** (no branded sportswear) with hair tied back for PE days.

Please note that the deadline for online Emblematic uniform orders is **June 16** to ensure

delivery before we break up.

As the weather warms up, please also remember to ensure your child wears sunscreen and a cap.

You can catch up with all that is happening at St Matthew's on our website, www.stmatthewsrc.org. Please also feel free to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news.

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

Miss Wiblin - 'Teacher of the Year' finalist!

We have received some fantastic news that our very own Miss Wiblin was nominated for the 'Teacher of the Year' category in the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust Celebration Awards.

Miss Wiblin has been shortlisted as a finalist, along

with two other teachers in our Trust, and is invited to a very special, fully funded, awards ceremony on Friday 12 July.

This follows both Mrs Young and Mrs Blackburn winning the 'Most Inspirational Staff Member' award in previous years.

We are sure that you will agree

that this is a very well-deserved award. We are so proud of Miss Wiblin and grateful for all that she does.



Personal and Character Development

Here at St Matthew's, we believe in developing the 'whole child' intellectually, morally, spiritually and socially. **Character development** is a huge part of our curriculum and we are currently looking closely at our values and how they align to our mission statement. Personal development is taught explicitly through our PSHE curriculum, but also runs through all of the wider opportunities that we provide for our pupils.

Some examples of this are: our range of pupil groups such as the Junior Leadership Team, School Council, Mini-Vinnies and Eco-Committee; assemblies and workshops that we hold, such as

NSPCC assemblies, staying safe on building sites and water safety; our wide range of extra-curricular clubs we offer and educational visits, along with exciting projects such as the upcoming **South Tyneside Carnival Project and Catherine Cookson Parade**, which Year 3 are taking part in. On top of this, we have a very strong sporting offer, a wide range of musical opportunities and we also reach out to the community and parish as much as possible.

As part of our PSHE curriculum, we also focus on **online safety and anti-bullying**. Children are taught how to stay safe and we have a **no tolerance** policy when it comes to bullying—children know that we are a 'telling' school and are encouraged to

tell a trusted adult or pop any worries in the 'worry boxes' each class have. We have support from the **Healthy Minds Team and also Mrs Hope** for any children who need additional emotional or restorative support - please contact our SENDCo Miss Shawcross if you would like to know more about this.

We have also recently revised our **Anti-Bullying policy**, including clear procedures regarding our processes around bullying or potential bullying. Please visit our 'Policies' section on the website for more information.

Sporting Successes

We have had an incredible amount of sporting successes this last term, such as...

- Y6 Sports Hall Athletics County Finals—5th place
- Y4 S Tyneside Sports Hall Athletics Bronze medallists
- Y5/6 S Tyneside Swimming Finals—bronze medallists and 21 medals
- Y5/6 Mixed Football —Bart Rippon Cup winners (for the 3rd consecutive year in a row)
- Y5/6 Girls Football - S Tyneside Cup runners-up
- Y5/6 Girls Football - S Tyneside Cup Runners Up

- Y5/6 Girls Football ESFA Pokemon Cup at Liverpool FC - semi-finalists
- Y5/6 Mixed Football - EFL Cup finalists representing SAFC
- Y5/6 Mixed Football—Mariners League Champions
- Y5/6 Girls Football—South Tyneside League Champions

Both of our football teams are also through to the County Cup Finals and the semi-finals of the Catholic Cups.

A huge well done to all of those involved in the successes but also to all of our pupils, who represent St Matthew's so well in so many Sporting Festivals and events. Thank you also to Miss Wiblin, our incredible PE Leader, for all she does for sport at our school.

We would also like to congratulate Joseph in Year 6, who is amazingly talented in martial arts and has qualified for the World Karate and Kickboxing Commission Championships in Italy! Good luck, Joseph!



Uniform Recycling

As you know, we are always looking for ways to help our planet. In addition to our Fundraise and Recycle clothing bank, we now have a rail in the main entrance with

uniform items that have been donated by kind parents. They are all in excellent condition (some are brand new!) so please do take whatever you need to save the

uniform from going to landfill.

We also accept donations for this rail - please hand these into our lovely ladies at the office.



Road Safety



As you are aware, the road outside school is very busy and parking is an issue. We have had complaints from residents about cars parking in front of their drives or on the grass verges, causing damage to grass and kerbs. Please park responsibly and give yourself plenty of time at pick up/drop off. **Do not park on the yellow lines for the safety of all.**

Can we also remind parents to stay with their child in the morning until a staff member comes to the gates at 8.40am. Please can we also ask those on bikes to take care when coming into school and be mindful of pedestrians. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are vital in ensuring our pupils reach their full potential.

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 and parents are asked to sign the late book.

Please also note that Headteachers are **unable to authorise holidays** and that unauthorised holidays could result in a fine.

Please note that new legislation is coming into place in August regarding penalty notices; a letter has been sent out to all parents regarding these changes.

Our attendance across school so far this year is **95.7%** Last term, **Year 5** had the best attendance with a fantastic 97.3% attendance!



Careers Fayre - We need your help!

Raising aspirations is high on our agenda at St Matthew's—we aim to teach our children that they can 'let their light shine' in so many ways and encourage them to achieve their dreams.

This term, our Year 6 pupils will be visiting **Northumbria University** to discover what life at university is like. Following on from the success of last year, we would also like to hold a Careers Fayre for our Year 5 and 6 pupils, to inspire

them to think about their future careers. However, we need your help to do this...we would like to ask for volunteers who would be happy to chat with pupils in small groups about their careers on the afternoon of **Friday 21 June**. Please contact the office if you feel you would be happy to do this. We would like to encourage as broad a range of careers as possible, or you may have a voluntary role that you carry out which you would like to share with the children. Thank you in advance for your support.

Summer Works

We are pleased to inform parents that some vital building works will be taking place in the summer holidays such as a new roof and newly refurbished infant/junior toilets.

This will mean that school will be inaccessible over the holiday period. Please note that the visitor car park will also be out of use for a short time when we return - we will keep you updated when we know more information.

Friends of St Matthew's and Fundraising News

Our Friends of St Matthew's have been working hard to continue to raise vital funds for our school and provide our school community with exciting events.

Last term, they held a fantastic **Easter Egg Hunt**, which all children took part in and received an egg for completing. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny during the afternoon! FOSM raised an incredible £313.43 from this - thank you for your contributions.

Funds from FOSM are currently being spent on books for school, outdoor play equipment and storage for these resources, a metro pass and also money towards leavers' hoodies.

All are welcome at our FOSM meeting on **Wednesday 1 May at 4.30pm** to discuss upcoming plans for our 70th anniversary and Summer Fayre.

School have also been raising funds; the Science Fayre raised £119.15 and

money is being spent on Science resources, whilst the Valentine's Disco raised £281.27 and this money has been spent on books for story time at the end of the school day; thank you to you all for your kindness and to our lovely Admin Assistant, Mrs Traynor-Richardson, who co-ordinated these events.

We also raised **£115 for CAFOD** through our Big Lent Walk—it was a wonderful morning and children collectively walked over 200 miles!