

Weds 2 October	2.30pm: Reception and Year 6 Buddy Assembly. Families of Reception and Year 6 welcome to attend 5pm: Year 1 Curriculum Session for Parents
Thurs 3 October	5pm: Y3 Curriculum Session for Parents
Fri 4 October	9am-12noon: Year 6 RAP Event at South Shields Fire Station 9.10am: Year 2 Harvest Festival Celebration of the Word—parents of Year 2 welcome
Weds 9 October	Girls Football League Afternoon 1
Mon 14 Oct—Thurs 17	Scholastic Book Fair—more details to follow
Thurs 10 October	Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day
Tues 15 October	Flu Immunisation Day—deadline for consent/refusal is 8 October
Weds 16 October	5pm: Prospective Reception Parents Open Evening
Thurs 17 October	10am: Whole School Mass in Church—all welcome
Tues 22 October	Reception handwashing session
Weds 23 October	Autumn Discos (more information to follow) 4.30-5.30pm: Infants. 5.45-6.45pm: Juniors
Friday 25 October	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM—RETURN ON TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER
Tuesday 5 November	10am: Years 1, 2 and 6 to attend Parish Mass
Friday 8 November	9.10am: Year 5 Remembrance Day Celebration of the Word in the hall
Mon 11 & Tues 12 Nov	Parents' Evenings
Weds 13 November	Year 3 and Year 4 to the Vue Cinema
Mon 11 – Fri 15 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week. Activities will be taking place in all classes.
Tues 12 November	Years 3, 4 and 5 to Parish Mass
Tues 19 November	Years 5 and 6 to Cineworld
Tues 26 November	Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to the Custom's House to see Mother Goose
Fri 22 November	9am-12noon: Year 2 Mini Tennis Festival
Fri 27 November	9-12noon: Years 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics
Tues 3 December	9.30am-12noon: Reception at the Urban Factory
Weds 4 December	Year 4 Bikeability
Fri 6 December	9am-12noon: Year 1 Christmas Multi Skills
Tues 10 December	2pm: Reception nativity 6pm: Year 4 Reconciliation Service at St Matthew's Church
Weds 11 December	Whole school Christmas lunch—children can wear Christmas jumpers or a festive accessory today if they would like to Christmas Grotto after school—more details to follow
Thurs 12 December	2pm: Years 1 and 2 nativity
Fri 13 December	Reception and Year 1 at the Custom's House to see 'The Sorcerer's Suitcase.'
Mon 16 December	Years 3 and 4 Christmas party
Tuesday 17 December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party
Weds 18 December	Years 5 and 6 Christmas party
Thursday 19 December	10am: Whole School Mass in school
Friday 20 December	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT 1.15PM. WE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025.



**St Matthew's Catholic
Primary School
Alnwick Grove
Jarrow
Tyne and Wear
NE32 5YT**

Tel: 01914898355

Website
www.stmatthewsrc.org
Email:
TMAoffice@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk

Inside this issue:

School Year Begins	1
Teacher of the Year!	1
Gold Active Mark	2
Friends of St Matthew's	3
Reading Rewards and Scholastic Book Fayre	3
FOSM News	3
Dates	4

Plea for Reception!

Our Reception team would love donations of any of the following please: non-fiction books, pebbles, conkers, metal tea sets, old mobile phones, child sized brooms and mops, sponges, decorating brushes and rollers, wooden dolls, wooden food, wooden dolls house furniture, wooden train sets and cars. Thank you!

Headteacher News

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

September 2024

Another School Year Begins!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We have all returned from the summer refreshed and ready to start another fantastic year.

This term is another busy one in the lead up to Christmas, with some exciting events happening which you can find on the back of this newsletter. We would love parents and carers to join us whenever possible.

Please can you ensure that your child is in full school uniform each day—no trainers or jewellery (including earrings please.) Please also ensure that children wear their school PE top, navy or black plain jogging bottoms and trainers (no branded sportswear) with hair tied back for PE days.

As the weather gets cooler, please remember to ensure your child always has a waterproof coat and is dressed appropriately.

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
Head Teacher

Prayer for the New School Year

Loving God,
At the beginning of this new school year, we ask you to bless us, the students, our teachers and staff of this school, that together we may grow in faith, hope and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son, Jesus.



her care is incredible and we are very lucky to have her as part of the St Matthew's family.
Well done, Miss Wiblin—you are amazing!

Teacher of the Year!

In July, some of our staff attended the Bishop Chadwick Staff Celebration Awards. The event is fully funded and there are a number of categories, which recognise the efforts of all staff across our Trust.

We were delighted to discover that Miss Wiblin had been nominated for the 'Teacher of

the Year' category and was one of three finalists. The excitement on the night continued when Miss Wiblin won the award!

We are sure you will agree that the award was very well deserved. Miss Wiblin's dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for all the pupils in

Improving Our School Facilities

As you will be aware, we have been having a great deal of building work taking place over the summer months. We have had a complete refurbishment of both the infant and junior toilets—the children have been so pleased with their new facilities and are trying hard to keep them clean and tidy!

We are also in the process of getting a new roof on the whole of the school, along with new fire doors and a refurbishment of the demountable classroom in October half term.

The scaffolding remains around school for the present time whilst the roof is completed so please do take care when walking around the school buildings.

We are very grateful to Mr Thompson for all his hard work in overseeing the works, along with our Estates Team and Trust for all their help.



Admissions/Open Evening

Applications for September 2025 Primary, Junior and Infant places are now open. **Applications close on Weds 15 January at 4.30pm.**

Applications for September 2025 Secondary School places are also now open. **Applications close on Thurs 31 October at 4.30pm.**

See <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/1494/Apply-for-a-primary-infant-or-junior-school-place#apply> for more details.

Our **Open Evening** for prospective parents is on **Weds 16 October at 5pm.**

Goodbye, Miss Suddick!

We were incredibly sad to say goodbye to our lovely Year 3 teacher, Miss Suddick, who left us in July to secure a permanent teaching post. She brought so much to the pupils of our school. She was always so cheerful and kind and we will miss her very much. We wish her the very best at her new school.



We welcome Mrs Surtees to Year 3 - we are delighted to have Mrs Surtees as part of the St Matthew's Family.

Gold Active PE Mark!

We are delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the GOLD 2023/24 School Games Active mark! At St Matthew's, we believe in providing pupils with the best possible sporting opportunities and aim to ensure that they develop their skills and talents in a wide range of sports, to truly 'let their light shine!'

We would like to thank all those who supported our sporting adventures last year—your kindness is very much appreciated. A special thank you also to Miss Wiblin, our PE Subject Leader, who gives up so much of her

time outside of school to ensure that our PE offer is outstanding across school.

Please see our celebratory video at <https://www.stmatthewsrc.org/reception/st-matthews-achieve-the-gold-mark-in-pe-for-23-24/> to see some of our achievements in PE last year!



cooking oil, soup, toiletries and biscuits by Thursday 3 October. Please see the letter previously sent for more information.

Harvest Festival Donations

Harvest time is almost upon us and it is a time to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This year, we are collecting for **Bede's Helping Hands**, a charity in

Jarrow which provides support for those in our area in need. We are asking for donations of tinned vegetables, tinned meat, cooking ingredients such as stock cubes and

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.

Can we also remind parents to stay with their child in the morning until a staff member comes to the gates at 8.40am. Children and parents must also remain on the pavement at all times for the safety of themselves and others. Please can we also ask those on bikes take care when coming into school and be mindful of pedestrians. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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. Please also note that, in line with new DfE mandatory guidance, Headteachers are now **unable to authorise any holidays** and that unauthorised holidays could result in a fine.

Our attendance across school so far this year is 96.7% - we have got off to a great start! Let's keep it up!

Each week we award the class with the best attendance a special trophy. Last week Year 1 had 100% attendance, which was amazing!

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



Friends of St Matthew's

Our Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM) is an invaluable and dedicated group of people who help to fundraise for our school and also provide pupils with amazing experiences.

We were very sad to say goodbye to our wonderful FOSM Chair, Tori Sheraton, at the end of the summer. Tori gave so much to St Matthew's for many years and was an absolute inspiration! As a parting gift, using funds raised by the support of our wonderful families, she managed to secure a shed for our playground and PE equipment—this has been an amazing

asset to our school and made such a difference to our play times. Thank you for everything, Tori!

We have taken the decision this year to close the charity aspect of FOSM. However, we are keen to still have an active Parent Teacher Association and have a meeting coming up shortly - more information to follow. All are welcome and we would love to see some new faces!

For more information, please email PTA_stmatthews@outlook.com

Arbor and Clubs

We are excited to tell parents that we will shortly be launching our Parent Arbor App, which will be used for our school communications.

We will also be using Parent Pay for parents to book clubs and wraparound provision after half term, which will help to make the booking system much more efficient and also significantly reduce workload for staff. More information to follow!

Reading Rewards and Scholastic Book Fair

Here at St Matthew's, we really love reading! Children start their reading journey as they begin in Reception Class, learning how to read in their daily SoundsWrite phonics lessons. We teach comprehension lessons across school using VIPERs to ensure that pupils understand what they are reading and we also aim to inspire a love of reading for pleasure.

One of the most important things you

can do to help your child is to ensure they read at home every evening, for **at least 10 minutes**. This year, our Friends of St Matthew's have funded some special reading rewards. When children read at home 50 times, they get to choose a special reward from our new prize box. When children read 100 times, they can choose a new book from our book basket! All children have **reading reward** squares in their reading diaries, so be sure to sign them when they read!

We also have a fantastic **Scholastic Book Fair** coming up, which allows children to buy new books but also give rewards to school with brand new books! The event was fantastic last year and helped to fund so many new books for our story time in class at the end of the day. This will take place the **week commencing 14 October 2024** and is ran by Mrs Longster. More information will follow shortly