

Mon 22 Sept	10:30-11:00am: Y6 visit from St Joseph’s Headteacher	
Tues 23 Sept	5:00-5:45pm: Y4 Curriculum Evening for Parents followed by Y4 First Holy Communion meeting at 5:45pm	
Wed 24 Sept	3:30-5:30pm: Y5/6 Boys Football Trials	5:00-5:45pm: Y6 Curriculum Evening for Parents
Thurs 25 Sept	12:30-3:15pm: KS2 Cross Country at Temple Park	5:00-5:45pm: Y3 Curriculum Evening for Parents
Tues 30 Sept	5:00-5:45pm: Reception Curriculum Evening for Parents	
Wed 1 Oct	2:30-3:30pm: Reception and Year 6 Buddy Assembly. Families of Reception and Year 6 welcome to attend.	
Thurs 2 Oct	3:30-4:30pm: Y5/6 Girls Football Trials	
Fri 3 - Wed 8 Oct	8:00-9:00am: Scholastic Book Fair - more details to follow	
Fri 3 Oct	9:30am: Reception vision screening	
Tues 7 Oct	3:30-5:00pm: Boys Football League 1	
Wed 8 Oct	5:00-6:00pm: Prospective Reception Parents Open Evening (For Reception 2026)	
Thurs 9 Oct	9:15am-12:15pm: Y6 RAP Event at South Shields Fire Station	12:30-3:00pm: Girls Football League 1
Fri 10 Oct	Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day 9:30am-12:00noon: KS2 Darts Festival	9:10am: Y2 Harvest Festival Celebration of the Word: Parents of Y2 are welcome
Mon 13 - Wed 15 Oct	Y5 YMT Residential	
Tues 14 Oct	Flu Immunisation Day—deadline for consent/refusal is 7 October	
Tues 21 Oct	3:30-5:00pm: Boys Football League 2	
Wed 22 Oct	Friends of St Matthew’s Autumn Discos 4:30-5:30pm: KS1 and 5:45-6:45pm: KS2	
Fri 24 Oct	10:30am: Whole School Mass in Church - all welcome	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM - RETURN ON TUES 4 NOV
Thurs 6 Nov	12:15-2:45pm: Girls Football League 2	
Fri 7 Nov	9:00-9:30am: Year 5 Remembrance Day Celebration of the Word	
Mon 10 – Fri 14 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week. Activities will be taking place in all classes.	
Tues 11 Nov	3:30-5:00pm: Boys Football League 3	
Fri 14 Nov	Children in Need Day	
Tues 18 Nov	09:30-10:00am: Y1, Y3, Y5 to Parish Mass	
Fri 21 Nov	9:15am-12:30pm: Y2 Mini Tennis Festival at Temple Park	
Mon 24—Fri 28 Nov	Parliament Week	
Tues 25 - Wed 26 Nov	Parents’ Evenings	
Wed 26 Nov	9:15am - 12:30pm: Y5/Y6 Sportshall Athletics	
Tues 2 Dec	9:30am-12:15pm: Reception Co-ordination Challenge at The Urban Factory	
Wed 3 Dec	9:00-11:00am: Y5/6 MMA Event Morning: Y2/3/4 Goldilocks and the Three Bears @ Customs House	Friends of St Matthew’s: Christmas Grotto night
Fri 5 Dec	9:15 - 12:15pm: Y1 Christmas Multi-Skills Event at Temple Park—wear a Christmas jumper	
Tues 9 Dec	9:00am - noon: Y5/Y6 Gymnastics competition 2:00-2:45pm: Reception Nativity	6:00pm: Y4 Reconciliation Service at St Matthew’s Church
Wed 10 Dec	Whole School Christmas lunch—Children can wear Christmas jumpers or a festive accessory today if they would like to	
Thurs 11 Dec	2:00-2:45pm: KS1 Nativity	
Fri 12 Dec	10:30am-12:30pm: Reception and Y1 ‘Help! I’ve lost the Christmas List’ @ the Custom’s House	
Mon 15 Dec	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas party	
Tues 16 Dec	Y3 and Y4 Christmas party	
Thurs 18 Dec	Y5 and Y6 Christmas party	10:00am: Whole School Mass in School
Fri 19 Dec	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT 1.15PM. WE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026.	



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Plea for Reception!

Our Reception team would love donations of any of the following please: conkers, pine cones, acorns, metal pots, metal pans, pebbles, metal plates, metal cooking utensils, metal tea pots, metal baskets, camping equipment, a kettle and a camping kettle. Thank you!

Headteacher News

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

September 2025

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 we are saying goodbye to our lovely Mrs Blackburn, who has been a part of the St Matthew’s family for 9 years. We wish her the very best as she moves on to her new role.

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, in line with our policy —no trainers or jewellery (including earrings.) 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.stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk) 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 the ladies in the office who are always happy to help.

Best wishes,  
Mrs E Alderson

**Prayer for Hope**

God, our loving Father, in this jubilee year, You remind us of our call to love creation. Help us to work together to replant, repair and renew. Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

**Amen**  
**A special visit!**



We were delighted to welcome Bishop Stephen to our lovely school earlier this month. Bishop Stephen blessed our RE ambassadors: York, Imogen and Lily and visited each class.



We are also pleased to inform parents that we will be funding all buses for sporting events from our PE sports premium funding, to encourage participation for all.

May we also thank Miss Wiblin, our PE Subject Leader, and all those who have supported with our sports.



## SHINE VALUES

This year, we are embedding our new 'SHINE' values linked to our mission statement across school.

Our values are to

*Strive to be the best we can be*

*Help others and ourselves*

*Inspire through our actions*

*Nurture each other and our world*

*Excel in all that we do*

We have a new house points rewards system where children will receive house points for actions linked to these values, along with



special 'Values Ambassador' certificates which will be awarded for living out our values.

We also have a beautiful new SHINE poster which will be displayed around school. Pupils entered beautiful designs for this and our School Council then voted for the winning design, by Leah in Year 4. Well done to Leah and all who entered!

## Admissions/Open Evening

Applications for September 2026 Primary, Junior and Infant places are now open. **Applications close on Thursday 15 January 2026 at 4.30pm.**

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

Our **Open Evening** for prospective parents is on **Wednesday 8 October at 5pm.**

Applications for September 2026 Secondary School places are also now open. **Applications close on Fri 31 October at 4.30pm.**

## Forest School

This year, we are very excited to announce that all pupils will be taking part in our very own 'Forest School.'

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular lessons outside. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Mrs Dejonge attended extensive training last year and is now a fully trained Forest School practitioner.

All classes will take part in one forest school session each half term. In these sessions, children will carry out activities such as outdoor crafts, wellbeing activities, den building and cooking. The sessions will take place on Friday and pupils will need to wear warm, comfortable old clothing and wellies when they have their Forest school lessons.

Feedback from the children so far has been fantastic! Grace in Year 2 said, 'I love forest school—it is so much fun and I can't wait for the next one! I loved our Gruffalo adventure.'



## Live Simply Award and Harvest Festival Donations

This year, we are working towards the 'Live Simply' CAFOD Award. As part of this, we will be carrying out lots of faith inspired actions to help others and our world. As part of

this, for our Harvest Festival 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 cooking oil, soup, toiletries and biscuits by Friday the 10th October, thank you!

## Safety Notices

As you are aware, the road outside school is very busy and parking is an issue. We have had some complaints from residents about parking. 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 Mr Thompson comes to the gates at 8.40am and be mindful of safety.

At home time, please could parents also stand in the allocated places on the yards and keep a distance from classes so teachers are able to see parents clearly and dismiss the pupils safely.

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 last year was 95.51%, which did not meet our target of 97%. However, our attendance so far this year is 97.42% - we have got off to a great start! Let's keep it up!

Each week we award the class with the best attendance. Look out for some special rewards coming soon!

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 group who help to fundraise for our school and also provide pupils with amazing experiences.

We were very sad to have said goodbye to our lovely Amy Miller. Amy was an original FOSM member, she will be a really big miss. We would like to say a great big thank you to Amy for all the time and effort she put in over the years.

What an amazing year we had last academic year! From lively school discos and magical Christmas grottos, to exciting raffles and bouncy castle fun, it really was a year to remember. Thanks to the wonderful support

of our families, staff, and community, we were able to raise fantastic funds that go straight back into enriching the experiences of our children.

A huge welcome as well to all our new families starting in Reception — we're so excited to have you join the St Matthew's community!

For those who don't know, the money raised helps pay for things such as Metro passes, Year 6 leavers' hoodies, playground equipment, and so much more for our lovely children. Every penny raised makes a difference, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who volunteers, attends events, or simply buys a raffle ticket. Your support truly makes it all possible.

We have lots planned for the academic year ahead, so watch this space! If you'd like to get involved, keep your eyes peeled for details of our next AGM meeting — we'd love to see you there.

## Junior Leadership Team

We have a newly appointed Junior Leadership team (JLT)! Upholding our British value of democracy, Year 6 pupils prepared speeches and the whole school voted for our new JLT. Well done to all those who carried out speeches and to our new JLT—Imogen B (Head Girl), York (Head Boy), Zachary and Imogen C (Deputies), Luna and Carter (Assistants).

## 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**. Our wonderful Friends of St Matthew's fund our 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 from **3rd—8th October** and is ran by Mrs Longster. More information will follow shortly.