



## **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*As we come to the end of another busy week, we thank You for the learning, friendships and opportunities we have shared.*

*Help us to show kindness, patience and respect to those around us, and to care for one another in all that we do.*

*Bless our families, our staff and our whole school community. Keep us safe, especially during the warm weather, and help us to find joy in the days ahead.*

*May we continue to grow in wisdom, confidence and love.*

*Amen.*

## **Group Chats and Online Safety**

*As children become more independent, many use messaging apps and online platforms to stay in touch with friends. We would like to remind families of the importance of encouraging safe, kind and respectful communication online.*

*We encourage families to check the age ratings of any apps their child is using and to ensure that appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are in place. Regular conversations about staying safe online are one of the most effective ways to help children develop positive digital habits.*

*Please remember that WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook all have a minimum age requirement of 13 years. These platforms are not designed for primary-aged children, and parents should carefully consider whether they are appropriate for their child.*

*Written messages can easily be misunderstood, and content shared online can quickly escalate or be forwarded more widely than intended. We encourage all families to regularly check their child's devices and have open conversations about online behaviour, digital footprints and the impact that words can have on others.*

*Where concerns relate to activities outside school, including sports clubs or other organisations, these should be raised directly with the relevant coach, leader or organiser.*

*If an online issue has a direct impact on a child's safety or their ability to learn in school, we will, of course, support pupils while they are in school. However, incidents that occur outside of school, including those involving personal devices or private group chats, are the responsibility of families to investigate and manage, with support from the relevant organisation where appropriate.*

## **Water Bottles Reminder**

*We have noticed that an increasing number of children are coming to school without a water bottle. Please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle to school every day. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day and are encouraged to refill their bottles when needed.*

## **2027 Reception Showround Dates**

*We are delighted to welcome families who are considering joining our Reception class in 2027 to come and visit our school.*

*Our Reception showrounds provide a wonderful opportunity to look around our Early Years setting, see our learning environment, and find out more about life at St Matthew's. It is also a chance to meet members of our team and ask any questions you may have.*

*Our Reception showround dates are:*

- *Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – 3:30pm–4:30pm*
- *Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – 9:30am–10:30am*
- *Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – 3:30pm–4:30pm*

*We look forward to welcoming prospective Reception families and sharing what makes our school such a special place for children to begin their learning journey.*

## **Autumn term 1 After-School Clubs**

*Autumn Term 1 after-school clubs will go live on Monday 13 July at 9:00am. Please see the attached information for details of the clubs available this term, including the booking links for each club.*

*Clubs will run from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, from 3:20pm–4:20pm.*

*Please only book your child onto a club if they intend to attend, as places are limited and we want to ensure that all available spaces are used effectively.*

***Please note:*** *The club previously listed as Clay Club has now been renamed Art & Design Club. Please see the updated attachment included with this newsletter.*

## **Year 6 Bridgewater High School Transition Day**

*Our Year 6 pupils took part in their transition days at Bridgewater High School, giving them the opportunity to experience life at their new school.*

*The children enjoyed meeting staff and future classmates, exploring the school environment, and taking part in a range of activities.*

*It was a valuable experience that helped to build confidence ahead of their move to secondary school, and we are very proud of how well they represented St Matthew's.*

## **RockSteady Concert**

*Thank you to all the families who attended our recent RockSteady concert.*

*The children did an amazing job performing and were incredibly proud to showcase their musical talents. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow and to hear such brilliant live performances.*

*As always, we appreciate your support in helping to make these opportunities so special for the children.*

## Ethos Group

*The children enjoyed a wonderful worship, followed by a special sheep hunt around the playground. Each hidden sheep represented someone special and the activity reminded us of the importance of finding, welcoming and valuing every individual.*

*The children had great fun searching for the sheep and reflecting on how everyone is unique and valued within our school community.*



## Year 6 Grandparents Day

*Year 6 had a wonderful time celebrating Grandparents' Day, welcoming grandparents into school for a special morning together. One of the highlights was making bread, with the children and their grandparents working side by side.*

*It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the important role grandparents play in our children's lives and to create lasting memories together. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day such a special occasion.*





## EYFS End of Year Assembly

*Our Early Years children took part in a very special End of Year Assembly, celebrating all of their achievements throughout the year.*

*The children looked wonderful in their graduation gowns and proudly shared songs, memories and performances with their families. It was a joyful occasion that highlighted just how much the children have grown in confidence, independence and learning.*

*We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and wish them every success as they move into Year 1.*



*Mrs Griffiths also joined in the graduation celebrations and was presented with her own graduation gown and cap as she prepares to leave us at the end of this term. We would like to thank her for her dedication, care and commitment to our children and school community over the years. She will be greatly missed by everyone at St Matthew's.*



## Free School Meals Reminder

*We would like to remind families about the changes to Free School Meal eligibility. If you are receiving Universal Credit, your child will be eligible for Free School Meals. Even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives a free school meal through the universal offer, it is still important to apply if you think you may be eligible, particularly before your child moves into Key Stage 2. Please remember that you need to complete an application to check eligibility and ensure your child continues to receive support where applicable.*

### Free School Meals

#### Important Update

#### From September 2026

National eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) is expanding.

#### New rules

All households receiving Universal Credit will now qualify.

Current £7,400 income threshold removed.

#### How This Helps You

Families could **save up to £495 per child**, per year on school meal costs\*.

#### What You Need To Do

If you receive Universal Credit, you should **apply for Free School Meals before 30 September 2026**.

**Complete your application form**  
[www.warrington.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

\*According to the Department for Education



## CDAT Rounders Tournament

*Our Year 5 children recently took part in the CDAT Rounders Tournament, which was held at our school. We welcomed pupils from two other schools across the trust for a fantastic afternoon of teamwork, competition and fun.*

*The children represented St Matthew's brilliantly, showing great sportsmanship, enthusiasm and team spirit throughout the event. It was wonderful to see them working together, supporting one another and enjoying the opportunity to compete against other schools.*

*Well done to everyone who took part — we are very proud of you!*



## Year 5 Class Assembly

*Year 5 hosted a fantastic class assembly this week, featuring a fun and interactive quiz for parents. The children put together questions based on everything they have learned this year and even created some of their own for an extra challenge!*

*Parents took part enthusiastically, trying to answer around 30 questions to see how their knowledge compared with their children's. It was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate learning and enjoy some friendly competition between children and parents.*

*Well done to Year 5 for a confident and engaging assembly!*

## School Calendar 2025-2026

|                               |                       |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday                       | 14 <sup>th</sup> July | Y5/Y6 Production (2:00pm-3:30pm)                                       |
| Wednesday                     | 15 <sup>th</sup> July | Y5/Y6 Production (2:00pm-3:30pm)                                       |
| Thursday                      | 16 <sup>th</sup> July | Y6 Enterprise Day (Parents Invited)                                    |
| Friday                        | 17 <sup>th</sup> July | PTA Non-Uniform Day<br>(in exchange for children and grown-up tombola) |
| Saturday                      | 18 <sup>th</sup> July | PTA Summer Fair                                                        |
| Monday                        | 20 <sup>th</sup> July | St Matthew's Got Talent (children only)                                |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July |                       | Transition Day – Years R to 5                                          |
| Wednesday                     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | Y6 Leaver's Service in Church (2:30pm All Welcome)                     |
| Thursday                      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> July | School Closes – Summer – 2:00pm                                        |
| Friday                        | 24 <sup>th</sup> July | INSET DAY                                                              |