

Stretton St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

'Work Together, Aim High, Shine Bright'



Friday 16th January 2026

Prayer

*Dear God,
Thank you for bringing us safely into this new term.
Help us to learn with curiosity, work with kindness,
and treat one another with respect and care.
Guide our teachers and staff as they support us,
and help our school community to grow together in confidence and joy.
May all that we do today be our best.
Amen.*

Welcome back

The new year is already well under way. It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life, approaching their learning with enthusiasm and focus. Classrooms have been busy with purposeful learning, and it's been great to see the children rising to new challenges.

We also have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks, with residential trips in the pipeline and a wide range of exciting opportunities and experiences planned to enrich the curriculum. It promises to be a busy and rewarding term for all.

New Staff

It has been lovely to welcome Mrs Ball and Mr Penny to Year 1 and Year 3.

They are very much looking forward to joining our school community and becoming valued members of the team.

We have also been pleased to welcome our new site manager Mr Wainwright, who is quickly finding his feet. He was the recent winner of our Smart Cup for doing such a fantastic job managing the challenging weather conditions and ensuring the site was safe and ready each day despite the snow and ice.

Birthday Celebrations at School

We would like to remind you that, as stated in the letter sent out last week, children should not bring cakes or sweets into school to celebrate birthdays. This is to ensure the safety of all our pupils, as some children have allergies and dietary restrictions and to support healthy eating in school.

Instead, we will celebrate birthdays in assembly/class, and children are welcome to wear their own clothes on their special day.

Snow

The children's first day back to school was extra special, as they were greeted by a blanket of snow! They had an amazing time, playing beautifully and making the most of their playtimes and lunchtimes in the wintery conditions.



Welcome Cheshire Sports Provision

Cheshire Sports Provision started at our school last week! They will be running a range of lunchtime and after-school clubs, giving children the chance to try new sports, stay active, and have fun.

The children have already had a fantastic time taking part, developing new skills, and enjoying being part of a team. We encourage everyone to continue getting involved and making the most of this exciting opportunity!

For more information, please visit <https://csp.ipalbookings.com>



Great Fire of London Performance

Year 2, 3, and 4 thoroughly enjoyed the Great Fire of London performance. The children were fully engaged from start to finish, loved the singing, and gained a fascinating insight into the events through the perspectives of different people at the time.



After School Clubs

There are lots of fantastic clubs taking place across school, and we are continuing to work on expanding our already amazing offer for pupils.

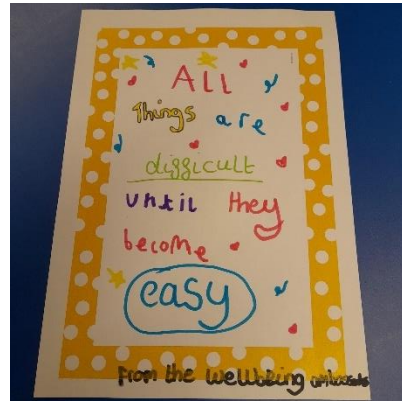
A big thank you to Mrs Reeves, who has just launched her new Clay Club. We are really excited to see the creative pieces the children will produce over the coming weeks.

Mrs Keller's Science Club is also going from strength to strength. This week, the children were busy exploring colours through hands-on experiments and investigations.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors continue to update the school's Positivity Quote of the Week, helping to spread kindness and encouragement throughout our community. Thank you to our Wellbeing Ambassadors for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication they bring to their role.



PTA "Yes Day"

The PTA are hosting a "Yes Day" in school on Friday 30th January, and it promises to be lots of fun!

On the day, children can be adventurous and enjoy wearing nail polish, temporary tattoos, fun or crazy hair, and bright socks or shoes. It's all about having fun while keeping everything safe and suitable for school.

The PTA will be raising funds towards musical equipment, helping to enhance our children's love of music and their experiences of music and performances within school.

Please donate by clicking the link below to show your support. Thank you for helping make this a fantastic day for our children!

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmatts-yesday-2026?utm_medium=CA&utm_source=CL

Year 6 Therapy Dog Visit

Year 6 were delighted to welcome a special visitor into school before the Christmas break. Ralphie, a therapy dog owned by our PE Leader, Mr Aspinall, came to visit the children. Ralphie is a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and was a huge hit with everyone.

The children really enjoyed spending time with Ralphie, finding the experience both calming and enjoyable. It was a lovely opportunity to support wellbeing and bring lots of smiles to Year 6.



Thrive Half Term Holiday Club

Mr Aspinall from Thrive will be running a half-term holiday club at our school on **Monday 16th February**.

He will also be running clubs during the Easter and Summer holidays. Please see the attached poster for more information on all the dates.

To book a place or for more details, contact Andy Aspinall:

☎ 07834 372247 | ✉ andy@welcometothrive.co.uk

A fun and exciting day awaits – don't miss out!

thrive 

FEBRUARY HALF TERM SPORTING FUN
MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

A DAY OF SPORT, GAMES AND FUN COMPETITIONS

ENJOY A DAY OF SPORTING FUN TRYING SPORTS SUCH AS: FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, NONE CONTACT BOXING, ARCHERY AND FENCING ALONG WITH A RANGE OF COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES

WHERE: ST MATTHEWS COFE PRIMARY, WA4 4NT
TIMES: 9AM - 3:30PM
COST: £25/CHILD/DAY (25% SIBLING DISCOUNT)
AGES: 5 YEARS OLD - 11 YEARS OLD
WHO: CHILDREN MUST PRE-BOOK, NO WALK INS WILL BE ACCEPTED. CHILDREN FROM OTHER SCHOOLS WELCOME.
COACHES: MR THOMPSON & MR MOTTRAM TO LEAD SESSIONS



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FEBRUARY HALF TERM SPORTING FUN
MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

A DAY OF SPORT, GAMES AND FUN COMPETITIONS

We are pleased to announce a day of Sporting Fun on Monday 16th February 2025.

The day will be based on staying active and having fun, whilst the children get to grips with a range of sports, including Fencing, Archery, Ultimate Frisbee and Handball, along with some traditional sports too, including Football and Basketball

Players will benefit from working with our qualified coaches, Bayley Thompson and Lucas Mottram. Sessions will be themed around technical development and fun, with plenty of Christmas themed competitions and challenges, giving the children the chance to win prizes

The day will take place at the St Matthews COFE Primary. Children from all schools are welcome to attend. There are limited spaces so ALL participants must Pre-Book.

PLAYERS WILL NEED

- Suitable clothing for outdoor play
- Waterproofs
- Sun hat/Sun-Tan Lotion
- Inhalers/Medication as required
- Plenty to drink
- A packed lunch
- Exceptional Manners and Behaviour

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Andy Aspinall on 07834372247
- Email Andy andy@welcometothrive.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK

Contact Andy Aspinall to book direct and to receive your unique payment link.

Call or Text: 07834372247
Email: andy@welcometothrive.co.uk

Details required:

- Childs Name and Date of Birth
- Emergency Contact Name and Number
- Medical Details
- Any other relevant information that may help us support your child.

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HOLIDAY COURSE DATES 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

We are please to confirm holiday courses and fun days will take place at Stretton St Matthews on the following dates in 2026

EASTER HOLIDAYS

THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2026 (9AM - 3:30PM)
FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2026 (9AM - 3:30PM)

SUMMER HALF TERM

THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026 (9AM - 3:30PM)
FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026 (9AM - 3:30PM)

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

MONDAY 27TH, TUESDAY 28TH AND WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 2026
& MONDAY 24TH, TUESDAY 25TH AND WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST '26



Changes to Cookery Club Bookings

From Spring Term 2, we are introducing a new way to book places for Cookery Club. To book your child onto Cookery Club, you will now need to do this via ParentPay, and not through the cookery link.

Please note that no payment will be taken at this stage – this booking is simply to secure your child's place.

Once bookings are complete, the school will pass the information on to Hayley, who will then invoice parents directly for payment.

School Calendar 2025-2026

Spring 1 st Half Term		
Wednesday 21 st January		Bishop Julie Visit
		Y5 Cheshire Fire Visit (In school)
Thursday	22 nd January	Wicked Worldwide Sing Along
Wednesday	21 st – 23 rd January	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Tuesday	27 th January	Bag 2 School Collection (9:00am)
Wednesday	28 th January	Year 2 Class Assembly (Year 2 Parents Invited 2:30pm-3:00pm)
Thursday	29 th January	Y1/Y2 STEM Junior
Friday 30 th January		PTA "Yes Day"
		Y5 Residential Final payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
		Y6 Residential Fourth payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Monday - Friday	2 nd -6 th February	National Storytelling Week
Wednesday	4 th February	YR & Year 6 Pre-Measurement
Thursday	5 th February	Bridgewater to Visit Year 6
Friday	6 th February	NSPCC Number Day
Monday	9 th February	Parent Drop-in Session for Early Help (1:00pm-3:00)
Wednesday	11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday	11 th - 13 th February	Y5 Condover Hall Residential
Friday	13 th February	PTA Crazy Hair Day
Friday	13 th February	School Closes – Spring 1 – 3:20pm
Monday	16 th February	Thrive Holiday Club