



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing us back together for a new school year.

Help us to be kind, caring and patient with one another.

Give us the courage to try new things, the strength to overcome challenges and the wisdom to make good choices.

Bless our children, families and staff, and help our St Matthew's family to grow together in friendship, love and faith.

Amen.

A Wonderful Start to the New School Year

We are now a few weeks into the new school year, and it has been lovely to see our school community settling back into routines and enjoying the start of a new year together.

There has been a positive and welcoming atmosphere across school, with children getting to know their new teachers, reconnecting with friends and engaging enthusiastically in their learning.

We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new families, especially those joining us in Reception. We are looking forward to a happy and successful year filled with lots of exciting opportunities and memorable moments.

Communication with School

We wanted to share a little information with families about communication with the school office.

As you can appreciate, our school office can be a very busy place, with lots happening throughout the school day. This means that we are not always able to pick up and respond to emails straight away.

Please be assured that we do read all emails and will respond as soon as we can. We kindly ask that you allow us a few days to respond, as we work through messages alongside the many other things that need our attention each day.

With regard to requests for meetings with teachers or the Headteacher, please be aware that we may not always be able to arrange an appointment straight away. Meetings need to be scheduled around staff availability, teaching commitments and other responsibilities, so appointments do need to be arranged in advance.

We will always do our very best to arrange a suitable time as soon as we are able to, and we appreciate your understanding that staff may not always be available at short notice.

Thank you, as always, for your patience, kindness and continued support. We really do appreciate it.

Introducing Mrs Ball, our SENDCO

As we begin a new school year, we are delighted to introduce Mrs Ball, our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO).

Mrs Ball works closely with children, families and staff to ensure that each child's individual needs are understood and that appropriate, inclusive support is in place. She spends time across the school supporting staff, getting to know our children and working in partnership with families.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's individual needs or the support available, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Ball. She will be very happy to arrange a telephone call or meeting with you.

Contact: inclusionteam@stmatthewsprimary.com



Morning Drop-Off

Just a gentle reminder to families that children in Year 5 and below should not be dropped off at the school gates and left unattended before the gates open.

For the safety and wellbeing of all our children, please ensure that children remain with an adult until the school gates are open and they are able to enter the school.

School cannot take responsibility for children until they have been handed over to a member of staff at the classroom door.

Colder Weather

As the weather is becoming colder and wetter, please make sure that your child brings a coat to school each day, so they are warm and comfortable when they are outside.

We would also ask that you check your child has everything they need for the school day, including their water bottle, lunch box and any other items they may need.

PE Kit Reminder

We would like to remind families about our PE kit expectations.

Children should have the following PE kit in school:

- Coloured House T-shirt
- Black shorts or black joggers
 - Black hoodie

We have noticed that some children are coming into school wearing brightly coloured hoodies for PE. Please ensure that PE hoodies are black, in keeping with our school PE kit.

A Fantastic Start in Reception

The children in Reception have had a fantastic start to their first few weeks at school. It has been wonderful to watch them grow in confidence as they become familiar with their new surroundings, routines and classmates.

We have been busy getting to know one another and celebrating what makes each child special. The children have created self-portraits, drawn pictures of their families and enjoyed talking about their favourite hobbies and interests.

Our story focus has been The Gingerbread Man, which has been a big hit! The children have loved joining in with the story and bringing it to life by making their very own gingerbread men. Of course, the best part was getting to enjoy them afterwards!

We are so proud of the children and the positive attitude they have shown during their first few weeks. We are excited to see their confidence continue to grow as they embark on their Reception journey.



Swimming Lessons

This week, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have started their swimming lessons. The children have made a fantastic start and are enjoying developing their swimming skills, water confidence and safety awareness.

We look forward to seeing their confidence and abilities continue to grow throughout the remainder of the sessions!

Starting School in September 2027

Is your child due to start school in September 2027? We would love to welcome you to St Matthew's Primary School for one of our schools showrounds.

Our showround dates are:

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

To book a place, please contact the school office on 01925 730371 or email stmatthews_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing you around our wonderful school!



ParentPay

As we start the new school year, we would like to remind families to please keep a regular eye on your child's ParentPay account and ensure it is topped up as needed.

Our current prices are:

- *Toast: 30p per slice*
- *Juice: 35p per carton*
- *School meal: £3.20 for children who are not entitled to free school meals*

We would also like to remind families that there is an £8 account restriction. Once the balance reaches this amount, your child will no longer be able to purchase snacks from the kitchen until the balance has been cleared.

We kindly ask that you check your child's account regularly and top up accordingly to avoid any disruption.

Free fruit is also available in school for children to enjoy
<https://app.parentpay.com/>

Residential Trip Payments

A little reminder for families of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 that payments for our residential trips are set up on ParentPay.

You can either pay the full amount in one payment or choose to pay in instalments. If you choose to pay in instalments, please keep your payments up to date.

The payment dates are:

- **Payment 1 due:** 28/08/2026
- **Payment 2 due:** 30/09/2026
- **Payment 3 due:** 30/10/2026
- **Payment 4 due:** 30/11/2026
- **Payment 5 due:** 30/12/2026 (final payment)

<https://app.parentpay.com/>

If you have any questions or need any help, please get in touch with the school office.

Thrive Holiday Club – October Half Term

We're pleased to let you know that Thrive Holiday Club will be running again during the October Half Term.

If you would like to book a place, please use the link below to secure your child's place.

<https://thrive.hivelink.co.uk/>



OCTOBER HALF TERM SPORTING FUN

WEDNESDAY 28TH AND THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2026

SPORT, GAMES, COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

ENJOY 2 DAYS OF SPORTING FUN PLAYING SPORTS SUCH AS:
FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, CRICKET, ROUNDERS AND HOCKEY

CHILDREN COULD ALSO TRY:
NONE CONTACT BOXING, ARCHERY, FENCING, TABLE-TENNIS
LACROSSE AND DANISH LONG BALL

CERTIFICATES, MEDALS AND OTHER PRIZES ON OFFER

WHERE: ST MATTHEWS COFE PRIMARY, WA4 4NT

TIMES: 9AM - 3:30PM

COST: £30/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





OCTOBER HALF TERM SPORTING FUN

WEDNESDAY 28TH AND THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2026

SPORT, GAMES, COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

We are pleased to announce two days of Sporting Fun on:

- Wednesday 28th October
- Thursday 29th October

The days will be based on staying active and having fun, whilst the children get to grips with a range of sports, including Fencing, Archery, None Contact Boxing, Danish Long Ball and Lacrosse, along with some traditional favourites such as Football, Basketball Cricket and Rounders. There will also be a range of Competitions and Games to enjoy.

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 opportunities to win some 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

HOW TO BOOK

Use the QR Code to book your child's place or visit <https://thrive.hivelink.co.uk>



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Introducing Our New House Captains

We are delighted to introduce our new House Captains for this school year!

Our House Captains have been chosen to take on this important role and will be working hard to represent their houses, support their fellow pupils and help to bring everyone together across the school.

We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing them take on their new responsibilities with confidence and enthusiasm.

Well done to all of our new House Captains — we know you will do a fantastic job!

Red House



Green House



Blue House



Yellow House



Meet Our New Well-being Ambassadors

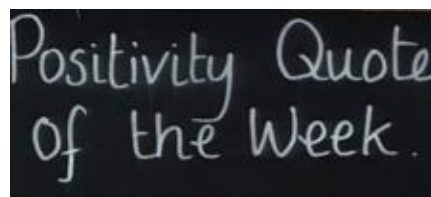
We are delighted to introduce our new Well-being Ambassadors, who have been busy completing their training with Mrs Watson and have now officially started their new roles.

This week, our Well-being Ambassadors received their yellow caps and badges and looked very smart! During assembly, they proudly introduced themselves to the whole school and told everyone a little about their new responsibilities.

Kitty's Shed is now up and running, with a new rota in place for lunchtime duties. The Well-being Ambassadors have already started making a wonderful contribution around school, helping to lead games on the playground, encouraging others to join in and supporting children who may need a little extra help or someone to talk to.

They have also created a "Quote of the Week" for their notice board, sharing positive messages with our school community.

Well done to our Well-being Ambassadors! We are incredibly proud of you and think you have made a fantastic start in your new roles. We are looking forward to seeing all the exciting things you will share with us throughout the year and the positive difference you will continue to make across our school community.



School Calendar 2026-2027

Autumn 1 st Half Term		
Wednesday 30 th September		New YR Parent Showround (3:30pm–4:30pm) Y4, Y5 & Y6 Residential Payment Due https://app.parentpay.com/
Friday	2 nd October	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Friday	9 th October	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Thursday	8 th October	Harvest Church Service (2:30pm – All Welcome)
Tuesday	13 th October	Year 6 Cheshire Military Trip https://app.parentpay.com/
Wednesday 14 th October		New YR Parent Showround (9:30pm–10:30pm) YR Reading/Phonics afternoon for Parents (2:30pm)
Friday	16 th October	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Monday	19 th October	Y2 Martin Mere Trip https://app.parentpay.com/
Wednesday	21 st October	New YR Parent Showround (3:30pm–4:30pm)
Friday	23 rd October	PTA Crazy Hair Day
Friday	23 rd October	School Closes – Autumn 1 – 3:20pm
Autumn 2 nd Half Term		
Wednesday/Thursday	28 th /29 th October	Thrive Holiday Club - Booking Form
Friday	30 th October	Y4, Y5 & Y6 Residential Payment Due https://app.parentpay.com/
Monday	2 nd November	School Opens – Autumn 2
Monday	9 th November	Year 1 Phonics Talk to Parents (2:30pm)
Tuesday	10 th November	Parents Evening (Face to Face) (3:30-6:10pm)
Wednesday	11 th November	Remembrance Service in Church 10:30am (All Welcome)
Thursday 12 th November		Parents Evening (Virtual) (3:30-6:10pm) Y2/Y3/Y4 Trunk Theatre – Great Fire of London
Friday	13 th November	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Wednesday	18 th November	Y6 Class Assembly (2:30pm)
Friday	20 th November	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Thursday	19 th November	Year 3 Norton Priory Trip