

Stretton St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

'Work Together, Aim High, Shine Bright'

Friday 3rd October 2025



Harvest Prayer

God of all creation, we thank you for the beauty of the Earth
And the abundance of its fruits,
For the fertile land, the rich soil
And the skill you give us to work the land.

We pray for all who nurture the Earth-
For sunshine and rain, for health and strength in their labour.
Prosper the work of their hands
And grant them an abundant harvest to share.

Through your grace, may we use the fruits of the Earth rightly,
To your glory,
For our well-being,
And for the relief of those in need.

Amen

Dear Families,

We are now over halfway through our first half term and children have settled in beautifully; they have certainly set the bar for high standards of behaviour and engagement this year.

A big thank you to the parents and carers who were able to attend the meet the teacher sessions which took place last week. We hope that you found these sessions useful. It was lovely to see so many faces and if you have any further questions or queries please contact your child's class teacher.

The garden renovation is now complete, and we cannot wait to start using the space with the children! The area will feed into our design technology learning, and we want to provide each class with the opportunity to grow food. Thank you for your support and patience whilst we completed this project!

Supporting with Reading in School

If you have any time spare and would like to volunteer in school to support and listen to children reading this would be fantastic. We are always after additional adults to help the children establish a real love of reading and to support their learning.

If you feel you are able to offer any time you have spare, please talk to your child's class teacher and let them know. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Attendance

A polite reminder that children and parents continue to maintain a positive attitude to school attendance, so they do not miss any curriculum coverage or opportunities at school. Even missing a small number of school days can have an impact on children's education. In order for children to fully benefit from what school has to offer, high levels of attendance and punctuality are essential and important for children to ensure continuity of learning, establish a good work ethic and promote a sense of responsibility and serious commitment to school.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your child's attendance, please speak to your class teacher.

Swimming

Years 4 and 5 have made a fantastic start to their swimming sessions! We're only in week 3, but already we're seeing progress and lots of smiling faces. The children are really enjoying their lessons and always arrive full of excitement and enthusiasm. Well done, Years 4 and 5, for all your hard work so far! Thank you to their families for all of your help in supporting and preparing the children for these sessions.

A quick reminder:

- Goggles are required for the sessions.
- Swimming caps are recommended for keeping hair dry, especially as the weather becomes colder.

Wellbeing Ambassadors

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 Wellbeing Ambassadors whose roles are to support the children across the school at breaktimes and lunch times.

Our team has already delivered an outstanding worship, set up a rota and have started some lovely activities over break and lunch. They have also tried some sample paints on Kitty's shed, and this is in the process of being painted to give it the glow up it truly deserves. Well done Ambassadors!



Big Sing Workshop

Key Stage 2 were to delighted to welcome our special guest, Chip Kendall, from 'The Big Sing' last week. Year 5 and Year 6 loved getting involved in the workshop he delivered and are excited to see him again. Please watch out for further visits and exciting news of upcoming events as part of the Big Sing project.



National Teaching Assistant Day

Friday was National Teaching Assistant Day, and we want to say a huge thank you to all of our support staff for everything that they do to support us in school. We truly would be lost without them!

Our office team organise the diary, sort out trips and transport and are here to help out with any queries. Our kitchen team and middays work hard to serve the children with delicious lunches and also support the children playing at lunchtimes. Our teaching assistants support children's learning and help support children through group work and interventions.

A massive thank you for all that you do every single day we would be lost without you all!

Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey

Reading is one of the most important skills for our children and developing a love for reading at home plays a key role in their progress. Research tells us that reading not only plays a key role in children's attainment in English, but also across curriculum. At St Matthew's, we closely monitor children's home reading to make sure they are receiving the support they need. Children should be reading at least three times per week, ideally with an adult (depending on their age and stage). Please ensure that reading records are filled out and signed by an adult each time your child reads.

New Home Reading Bookmark Scheme

We are excited to launch our home reading bookmark scheme! Children can now work towards earning a special St Matthew's wooden bookmark. This is linked to a system of bronze, silver and gold. Each time your child reads at home, it will contribute to them reaching a milestone. When they reach the bronze, silver or gold milestone, a coloured tassel will be added to their bookmark, showing their dedication and hard work.



Thank you for continuing to support your child's reading journey at home.

Staff Carpark

Can we please ask that parents / carers do not use the staff car park when dropping off or picking up your child - whether it is for the link club at breakfast or after school or for an extra-curricular club after school.

As a school we are extremely lucky to have parking at either side of the building and the footpaths around the front of school lead to these car parks and are a much safer way of children entering or leaving our site - reducing the risk of vehicular accidents.

The staff car park has a lot of traffic before and after school - we arrange engineer visits; have regular deliveries at those times, and staff are also moving their cars in the morning and after school. With such a heavy movement of vehicles we are really concerned when we see children are being walked across the carpark to and from their parents' cars.

We appreciate your consideration and co-operation.



Harvest service Reminder

Just a reminder that it is our Harvest Service on Thursday 9th October and we would love to see you there. We are also collecting donations for Warrington Food Bank and donations can be sent into school. Item examples include tuna, long life orange juice, UHT milk (green), tins of meat, pulses, vegetables, tomatoes, spaghetti, fruit, jam and toiletries. Many thanks in advance for your kind donations.



This year, as part of our Harvest Church Service, we are asking for donations for Warrington Food Bank.

"Did you know that over 90% of the items distributed by the foodbank are donated by the public? That's why your donations are vital to us, so every family referred receives what they need..."

Please donate what you can in preparation for our Harvest Service on Thursday 9th October 2025.

Don't worry if you cannot donate in that time, we will be collecting vital donations for Warrington Food Bank until the week commencing Monday 20th October 2025.

On behalf of Warrington Food Bank and the Ethos Group at Stretton St Matthews, thank you for your continued support.

STRETTON ST MATTHEW'S

Warrington Foodbank
Together with Trussell

This Autumn, Warrington Food Bank are running short of...

- Instant coffee
- Tea bags
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Long-life milk
- Washing-up liquid
- Shampoo
- Deodorant

Images: A jar of instant coffee, a tin of meat, a tin of fish, a tin of milk, a bottle of washing-up liquid, a bottle of shampoo, and a bottle of deodorant.

New Intake Show Rounds

Please see below a flyer for our new admissions show round dates should any new starters want to have a look at our school!

If you can't make these dates, please contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time.



STRETTON ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING PROSPECTIVE PARENTS TO LOOK ROUND OUR SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
9:30PM - 10:30AM

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER
TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
3:30PM - 4:30PM

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE SCHOOL

STMATTHEWS_PRIMARY@CECH.WARRINGTON.GOV.UK

01925 730371

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

TOUR FROM OUR CHILDREN

Q AND A WITH EYFS STAFF

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THESE DATES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BOOK IN FOR A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE SCHOOL.

WORK TOGETHER,
AIM HIGH,
SHINE BRIGHT.

Images: A group of children in school uniforms, a group of children playing in a garden, and a teacher holding a book.

Our New garden

Now our garden is complete we are hoping to grow a variety of flowers, plants, herbs and food.

All classes will have an opportunity to grow items, care for them and harvest it ahead of their food technology units. The idea will be that they learn about seasonal foods that can be grown, watch these grow and care for these and then create some tasty food with their produce.

We have been made aware of several families that grow in their own gardens / allotments that are kindly offering our new garden some plants.

If you are able to provide any plants that could get us started, that would be a huge help.

Please send an email into school or pop into the office to let us know what would be able to donate. We would sincerely appreciate this and look forward to seeing how our garden becomes a fabulous space for science, design technology and much more!



PTA

Please meet our new PTA members:

Chair – Miss McGuire and Miss Woodgate

Vice Chair – Mr Middleton

Treasurer - Mrs Nicholson

Secretary - Mrs Baird and Mrs Holdsworth

We would like to thank say a massive thank you to our Former PTA:

Chair - Mrs Grundy

Treasurer – Mrs Taylor

Secretary - Mrs Roberts

School Calendar 2025-2026

Autumn 1 st Half Term		
Tuesday 7 th October		Y4/Y5 Swimming
		New YR Parent Showround (3:30pm–4:30pm)
Wednesday	8 th October	New YR Parent Showround (9:30pm–10:30pm)
Thursday	9 th October	Harvest Church Service (2:30pm – All Welcome)
Friday	10 th October	PTA Meeting (9:00am-10:00am)
Tuesday 14 th October		Y4/Y5 Swimming
		Year 6 Cheshire Military Museum Trip https://app.parentpay.com/
Monday	13 th October	Y5/Y6 CDAT Football Tournament (In School)
Wednesday 15 th October		New YR Parent Showround (9:30pm–10:30pm)
		YR Reading/Phonics afternoon for Parents (2:30pm)
Monday	20 th October	Y2 Martin Mere Trip https://app.parentpay.com/
Tuesday	21 st October	Y3/Y4 Big Sing – Audacious Church Project (In School)
Friday 24 th October		Year 5 Football Competition
		Y4 Residential Deposit due https://app.parentpay.com/
Friday	24 th October	School Closes – Autumn 1 – 3:20pm
Thursday 30 th October		Y5 Residential Deposit due https://app.parentpay.com/
		Y6 Residential Deposit due https://app.parentpay.com/
Autumn 2 nd Half Term		
Monday	3 rd November	School Opens – Autumn 2
Tuesday	4 th November	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Wednesday	5 th November	Chip Visit – Assembly and Book Signing
Monday	10 th November	Year 1 Phonics Talk to Parents (2:30pm)
Tuesday 11 th November		Y4/Y5 Swimming
		Parents Evening (Face to Face) (time tbc)
Wednesday	12 th November	Parents Coffee Morning in School (9:00am –10:30am – with Miss Calder, Mrs Watson & Early Help representatives)
Thursday	13 th November	Parents Evening (Virtual) (time tbc)
Tuesday	18 th November	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Wednesday	19 th November	Year 6 Class Assembly (Year 6 Parents Invited 2:30pm-3:00pm)
Thursday	20 th November	Year 3 Norton Priory Trip
Friday	21 st November	Y4 Residential Second Payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Monday	24 th November	Year 3 Class Assembly (Year 3 Parents Invited 2:30pm-3:00pm)
Tuesday 25 th November		Y4/Y5 Swimming
		Y3/Y4 Big Sing – Audacious Church Project (In School)
Thursday	27 th November	YR-Y6 Flu Immunisation
Friday 28 th November		Scholastic Book Fair (2:30pm-4:00pm)
		Y5 Residential Second payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
		Y6 Residential Second payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Saturday/Sunday	29 th /30 th November	Christmas Tree Festival at Church
Monday	1 st December	Scholastic Book Fair (2:30pm-4:00pm)

Tuesday	2 nd December	Y4/Y5 Swimming
Friday	5 th December	Musical Evening in Church (time tbc)
Saturday/Sunday	6 th /7 th December	Christmas Tree Festival at Church
Sunday	7 th December	Y3/Y4 Big Sing Concert
Monday	8 th December	Christingle (2:30pm – All Welcome to Church)
Tuesday	9 th December	Y1/Y2 Nativity (9:30am - Y1 Parents) Tickets on sale shortly
Wednesday	10 th December	YR Nativity (9:30am) Tickets on sale shortly
Thursday	11 th December	Y1/Y2 Nativity (9:30am - Y2 Parents) Tickets on sale shortly
Tuesday	16 th December	RockSteady Concert (9:30am – RockSteady Parents Welcome)
Wednesday	17 th December	Y4 Residential Parent Briefing 8:20am in the hall
Friday	19 th December	Y4 Residential Third payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Friday	19 th December	School Closes – Autumn 2 – 2:00pm
Tuesday	30 th December	Y5 Residential Third payment due https://app.parentpay.com/
Spring 1st Half Term		
Monday	5 th January	School Opens – Spring 1

We appreciate your understanding that school tries to provide a wealth of experiences and at times due to staffing or unforeseen circumstances, diary dates need to change.