

<b>Monday 26 September</b>	5.30pm: Year 5 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Tuesday 27 September</b>	5.30pm: Year 6 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Wednesday 28 September</b>	5.30pm: Year 1 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Thursday 29 September</b>	5.30pm: Year 2 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Friday 30 September</b>	9am-10am: MacMillan Coffee Morning organised by the Friends of St Matthew's. All adults welcome. Cake donations gratefully received—please drop any off at the office in the morning.
<b>Monday 3 October</b>	5.30pm: Year 3 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Tuesday 4 October</b>	5.30pm: Year 4 First Holy Communion Programme Parent Meeting in school hall 6pm: Year 4 Curriculum Information Session
<b>Wednesday 5 October</b>	Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations
<b>Thursday 6 October</b>	2.15pm: Buddy assembly to meet the new Reception children-Reception and Year 6 parents only. Reception parents may then stay following this for the Reception Curriculum Information Session. Children will be supervised in school and can be collected after the meeting.
<b>Friday 7 October</b>	Harvest Feast Day led by the Mini Vinnies. Donations for the People's Kitchen welcome.
<b>Monday 10 October</b>	Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day
<b>Wednesday 19 October</b>	5pm: Open Evening for Prospective Parents
<b>Thursday 20 October</b>	4.30pm-5.30pm: Autumn Disco-Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 5.45pm-6.45pm: Autumn Disco-Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
<b>Friday 21 October</b>	10.30am: Whole School Mass at St Matthew's Church - all welcome Break up for October half term holiday. Children return to school on TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022
<b>14 - 18 November</b>	Anti - Bullying Week. Activities will be taking place in school for all classes.
<b>Tuesday 15 November</b>	2.30pm: Remembrance Liturgy: Year 5. Parents of Year 5 welcome.
<b>Monday 5 December/ Tues 6 December</b>	Parents Evenings-more information to follow in due course
<b>Wednesday 7 December</b>	The Big Sing—information to follow in due course
<b>Thursday 8 December</b>	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Parent Read session - parents are invited to join us in the hall to read to their child and share some festive sweet treats with us! Year 3: 2-2.30pm. Year 4: 2.40-3.15pm
<b>Friday 9 December</b>	Non-uniform for chocolates for the Christmas Craft Fayre
<b>Tuesday 13 December</b>	2pm: Reception Nativity - Reception parents/carers welcome.
<b>Wednesday 14 December</b>	2 pm: Years 1/2 Nativity—KS1 Nativity Performance. Years 1 and 2 parents/carers welcome.
<b>Thursday 15 December</b>	Whole School Christmas lunch—children can wear Christmas jumpers or a festive accessory today if they would like to. 3.20pm: Christmas Craft Fayre
<b>Monday 19 December</b>	Reception, Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party
<b>Wednesday 21 December</b>	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party
<b>Thursday 22 December</b>	Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
<b>Friday 23 December</b>	10.30am: Whole School Mass in School
Educational visits and sporting events this term to be confirmed-letters will be sent out in due course. Information regarding Friends of St Matthew's events also to follow. Any other events added throughout the term will be placed on the website and texts will be sent.	



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**Plea For Books and  
Helpers**

We are currently developing our library space. We would like to request books (in good condition) to add to our collection. Please send these in to the office.

We are also looking for volunteers to help to develop our library and also for adults to hear children reading 1:1—please get in touch if you think you could help!

# Headteacher News

*Welcome to our happy school, where everyone is valued and given the opportunity to 'let their light shine.'*  
**School Mission Statement**

## Welcome Back!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back after the summer holidays - Year 6 had a great week at Thurston last week and we have welcomed our new Reception starters, who have settled in beautifully! All children are working hard across school in their new classes and settling back into routines beautifully.

We welcome Mrs Traynor-Richardson to the School Office - she will be providing support as Administrative Assistant in the office each morning. We also welcome Miss Jackson to Year 5.

You can catch up with all that is happening at St Matthew's on our website, [www.stmatthewsrc.org](http://www.stmatthewsrc.org).

Please follow us on Facebook, too.

On the back page are key dates for this term. We would love you to join us whenever you can.

Remember, if you have any questions whatsoever or would like to make an appointment with any member of staff, please just contact the office. We would also love to hear your ideas for anything you would like included in future newsletters and hear your good news stories.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Alderson  
Head Teacher

September 2022



**A Prayer on the Death of Her Majesty, the Queen**

Gracious God,  
We give thanks for the life of your servant, Queen Elizabeth, For her faith and her dedication to duty.  
Bless our nation as we mourn her death,  
And may her example continue to inspire us;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## Rest In Peace, Queen Elizabeth II

We have all been extremely saddened by the passing of Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II.

In school, we joined together in prayer in our classes and also as a whole school to pay our respects to our late Majesty. We also paused our Social

Media content during the mourning period.

In addition, we will be creating a whole school display as a tribute to Queen Elizabeth. We would like to offer families the opportunity to write tributes.



We are sending home a crown template for each family to write a tribute on if they would like to - please neatly cut this out and return it to school by Friday 30 September.

## Reading Rocks!

Here at St Matthew's, we think reading rocks! We loved seeing your photos over the summer of you reading - well done to all who carried out their challenges! Parents, listening to your child read each night is one of the most beneficial things you can do to help them achieve their full potential. We have invested in a new systematic phonics scheme, Sounds Write, and are also ensuring reading skills are taught across school, whilst also providing additional support for those children who may need a little extra help with their reading. We are also ensuring that high quality texts are shared by teachers in class and children are given opportunities

for independent reading time.

We are revamping our library and investing in high quality reading books for all with some of the fundraising from school events such as our discos last year—thank you!

Our reading reward square in the home diaries allows children to receive rewards and be placed on our 'Hall of Fame' for reading at home at least 10 minutes every evening. Parents, please just remember to sign and date each square every evening when you hear your child read.

Let's get reading, St Matthew's!



We were delighted to receive our GOLD Active Mark award in the summer term. As part of this, we make a commitment to be an 'Active 30' school, where all children are active for at least 30 minutes per day.

Miss Wiblin, our dedicated PE Subject Leader, has devised an exciting 'Daily Mile' reward scheme this year. All children will take part in the Daily Mile and will receive stamps on a card, which then equates to rewards as the year goes on. Keep on running, St Matthew's!

## Admissions

Applications for September 2023 Primary, Junior and Infant school places are now open. **Applications close at 4.30pm on Monday 16 January 2023.**

Applications for September 2023 Secondary School places are also now open. **Applications close at 4.30pm on Monday 31 October 2022.**

If you need to speak to someone about school admissions, please contact the School Admissions team on 0191 424 7767 / 7706 / 7705 or [school.admissions@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@southtyneside.gov.uk).

See [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/36365/Primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/36365/Primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions) for more details.

## Open Evening

There will be an open evening for prospective parents of new Reception class starters for September 2023. This will be in the school hall on **Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 5pm**. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the Headteacher, Early Years staff and Governors. This will be followed by a chance to look round school. Please could parents spread the word to anyone who may be considering St Matthew's for their child next year.

We also currently have places available in Reception, Year 1 and Year 3. Anyone interested in taking up these places should contact the school office.

## Healthy Minds Team

We are passionate about emotional wellbeing at St Matthew's and consider this a priority. We are fortunate to have the support from the Healthy Minds Team this year. The team aims to help children and young people at the earliest possible stage, in order to support children, young people and families to develop skills and promote positive wellbeing and reduce the risk of further distress. We also have the support of Mrs Dawn Robson, a trained Counsellor.

We are taking part in the **'Wear Yellow for Mental Health Day' on Monday 10 October**. Please encourage your child to wear something yellow on this day.



## Harvest Feast Day 2022

On Friday 7 October we are celebrating our Harvest Feast Day. Our Mini Vinnies will be leading a liturgy for the rest of school that day and we are also taking **donations for the People's Kitchen**

**charity.** A volunteer from the charity will collect the food. A separate letter will follow regarding the items which can be sent in shortly.



We are delighted to be able to offer **wraparound care provision** this year. We acted upon feedback received from the parental survey regarding the provision to create the best offer possible. **Breakfast club and tea time club are £4 per session, or £3 for siblings.** Breakfast club runs from 7.30am to 9am and tea time club runs until 5.30pm (5pm on Fridays).

The provision is led by Mrs Carmichael and Miss Conner, who have been doing a wonderful job! Children carry out a range of activities, such as arts, crafts, sports and reading. There are still a few places available - please email [childcare@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk](mailto:childcare@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk) to book a place for your child.

In order to ensure we have the most up to date information in school for your child, we are sending out a new contact details form. We would be very grateful if you could complete this and return it to school by Friday 30 September 2022.

We will also be emailing out a home-school agreement, so we can continue to work together and understand the roles and responsibilities we all have, together with our 2022 safeguarding policy and our Walk to School Policy. Please ensure you read these documents and contact school should you have any queries or comments.

We have an incredibly dedicated, proactive and kind **'Friends of St Matthew's'** (FOSM) Parent Teacher Association. They held a number of fantastic events last year, such as our Summer Fayre, an Easter Egg Hunt, film nights and a Platinum Jubilee celebration.

This year we are starting with a **MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday 30 September at 9am** - all welcome!

FOSM are always looking for new volunteers and committee members – they would love to hear your ideas and suggestions so if you can spare some time or expertise to help, please get in touch! Please contact FOSM directly via Facebook or email [fosmjarrow@gmail.com](mailto:fosmjarrow@gmail.com) for more information.

## Attendance and Punctuality

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, we have a history of excellent attendance and are very proud of our children and families for their determination to attend school every day, on time.

We will be announcing the class with the best attendance each week in our Star Assembly and will keep parents updated with our whole school attendance figures.

Please could parents help us with this by **ensuring your child gets to school on time each day and by trying to arrange medical appointments before or after school**

**whenever possible.** All requests for leave should be carried out by completing the school form available from our school office. Please note that **leave can only be granted for exceptional circumstances.** In line with government policy and advice from the Local Authority, unfortunately headteachers **cannot authorise absence from school during term time for a family holiday.** Please see [Holidays in term time - South Tyneside Council](#) for more information.

We appreciate your continued support with attendance and punctuality.



## Cost of Living Crisis

We are aware that the rising energy prices and cost of living crisis is causing financial pressure for so many people at present. We aim to be mindful of this, particularly as we head towards Christmas. Our Trust, the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, has also been exploring ideas of helping to ease the financial burdens for families across our schools.

Please be reminded that, should we carry out any fundraising activities or non-uniform days, **contributions are always entirely voluntary.** We are considering these events,

together with the costs of educational visits, across the year to try to reduce costs where possible.

Our new uniform policy which we are currently updating aims to define clearly to parents which items of uniform require a logo and which can be purchased from any high street store. We are also intending to make **second hand uniform items** available to parents throughout the year.

We are also politely asking parents **not to send sweets/cakes into school on their child's birthday.** This can put pressure on other

children to do the same and we also have a number of allergies/dietary requirements across school to consider. All children receive a birthday card in assembly and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' - so we ensure their birthdays are always special!

Finally, we have discussed as a staff how to ease the burden a little at Christmas. We would like to request that, this year, **instead of sending any gifts to staff, families may wish to donate a food bank item to school,** which we will then hand to our local food banks. We hope this makes things a little easier for all of our families. ☺