

St Matthew's CE Primary School

Weekly Headteacher Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another lovely week at St Matthew's – lots of things to celebrate and special events for the children.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance winners this week are **Nursery 98.7%** - this is absolutely amazing!

Punctuality winners were Nursery and Reception with only 3 late marks this week!

Whole school attendance this week is 94.2% - it's going back up!

Whole school attendance this year so far is 94.5% - let's keep it as high as possible!

Ms Burton – a sad goodbye!

At the end of this half term, we will be saying a bittersweet goodbye to our Inclusion Mentor, Ms Burton. Ms Burton is moving on to embark on an exciting new role at a school closer to home. During her time with us, she has made a wonderful impact on our school community, supporting both students and staff with dedication, kindness, and skill. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time working with us and will be greatly missed by everyone. Please join us in thanking Ms Burton for all her hard work and wishing her the very best of luck in her next venture!

Year 5 Chester Cathedral Trip

Our Year 5 pupils had a fantastic time on their trip to Chester Cathedral! The children fully immersed themselves in all the activities and represented our school brilliantly with their exemplary behaviour throughout the day. Well done, Year 5!

Year 6 Hockey Tournament

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 Hockey Team, who delivered an outstanding performance at the tournament today at Bredbury St Mark's CE Primary School! The team played brilliantly, demonstrating great determination and teamwork to achieve an impressive 2nd place overall. A special shout-out to Holly, who was named Player of the Match for her hard work and skill on the pitch. Fab effort by everyone involved!

Year 5 Bikeability

During our first week back after the break in November, Year 5 pupils will have the exciting opportunity to participate in Bikeability training, learning valuable skills to ride safely and confidently. Please keep an eye out for further details regarding this event on school spider.

- **Bikes:** Can be provided by the training company if your child does not have one available.
- **Helmets:** Helmets are compulsory for all participants and can also be provided by the company.

Grapes in lunch boxes

Please remember to always cut grapes in half **lengthwise** (from stem to bottom, not across) before packing them in your child's lunchbox. Whole grapes are roughly the same size as a child's airway and, because of their smooth skin, can easily form a tight seal that blocks breathing if swallowed whole. Cutting them lengthways makes them much thinner and significantly safer to eat. Thank you for helping us keep all our children safe at mealtimes!



House Points – WINNING HOUSE IS INSPIRE

The house point collection continues! Well done to everyone for continuing to work so hard and showing our SHINE values, alongside following the school expectations.



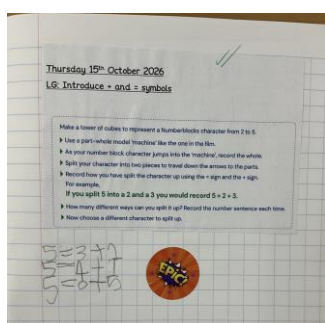
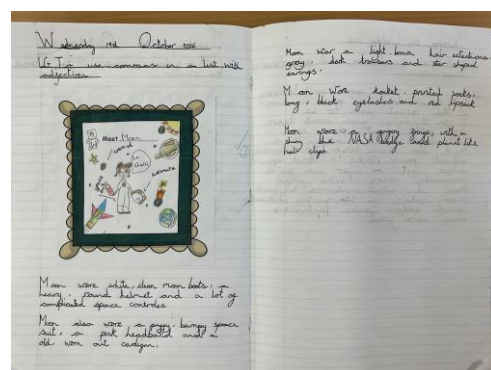
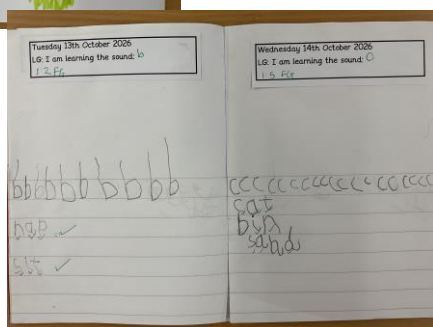
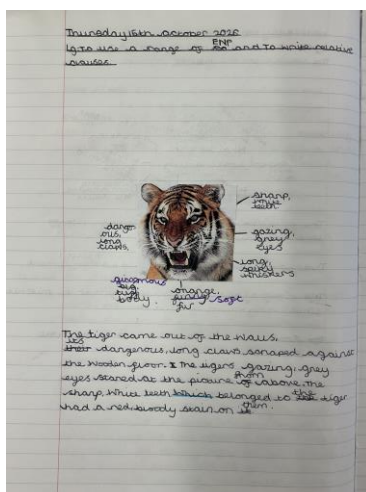
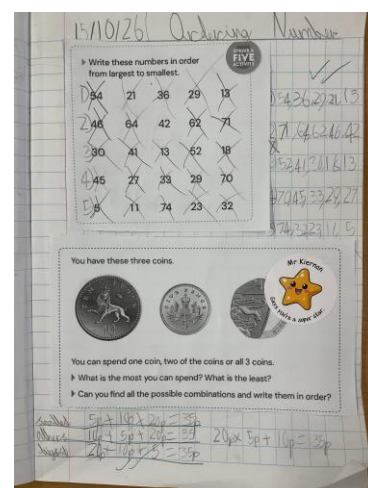
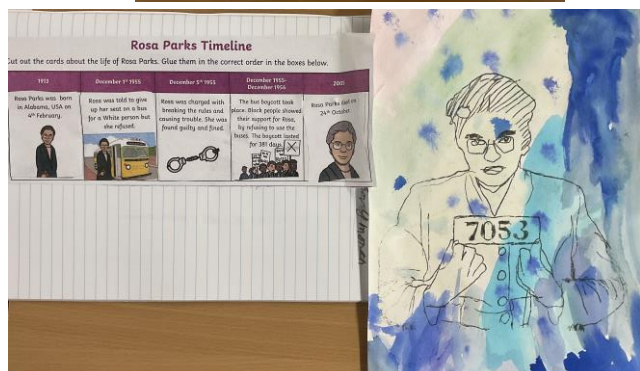
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Hope	1634
Inspire	1798
Nurture	1730
Empower	1737



Work of the Week – 16.10.26

Well done to our amazing work of the week children – we are so proud of you!

Reception		Arlo M	
Year 1	Isaac	Year 2	Charlotte
Year 3	Kauan	Year 4	Mya & Jack
Year 5	Malaya	Year 6	Anaya



Reading – Home and School Partnership

Reading builds brighter futures and empowers our children to let their light shine! As parents, you play a vital role in your child's learning journey. Reading at home isn't just about completing a book—it's about creating a positive, relaxed, and shared experience that sparks curiosity and confidence. Please see the information leaflet below that outlines ways you can help your child at home.



Home Reading

Together we can make a difference

Reading builds brighter futures and helps our children to let their light shine.



What good home reading looks like

Good home reading is not just about reading a book – it's about creating a positive, relaxed and encouraging experience. It looks like:

- ★ Reading regularly (at least 3 times a week).
- ★ A quiet, comfortable space (without distractions where possible).
- ★ A choice of books that your child is interested in.
- ★ Talking about the book – not just the words, but the pictures, characters, ideas and feelings.
- ★ Enjoying the time together!

Any time spent reading is time well spent!
♥



The parent role

You play a vital role in supporting your child's reading journey.

- ★ **Set a routine** – aim for 3 times a week (even if it's just 10–15 minutes).
- ★ **Be positive and encouraging** – celebrate effort and progress.
- ★ **Show an interest** – ask questions and listen to their thoughts.
- ★ **Provide the right environment** – quiet, comfortable and free from distractions where possible.
- ★ **Keep it enjoyable** – it should be a positive experience, not a battle.
- ★ **Communicate with school** – let us know how it's going and any concerns.

Your support makes a huge difference!



What your child needs to do

Your child can help too! They need to:

- ★ **Read at home at least 3 times a week** (even if it's just for 10–15 minutes).
- ★ **Bring their book and reading record** to school (when needed).
- ★ **Try their best** and have a go – reading is a skill that gets stronger with practice.
- ★ **Share what they have read** – this could be a summary, a favourite bit, a question or a feeling.
- ★ **Let us know** if they find the book too tricky or too easy (so we can support them).

You are a reader,
You are a learner,
You are amazing! ☆



Tips for reading with your child

Here are some simple ways to make reading time more effective and enjoyable:

- ★ **Ask questions** – e.g. What do you think will happen next? How do you think that character feels?
- ★ **Talk about new words** – explain them or find the meaning together.
- ★ **Encourage expression** – let them read aloud, or read in turns.
- ★ **Make connections** – link the book to real life, other books or your own experiences.
- ★ **Use different formats** – comics, magazines, audiobooks and e-books all count!
- ★ **Keep it relaxed** – there's no right or wrong way to read.

Small conversations make a big impact! ♥



Reading Incentive in School

We love to see your child reading at home! To celebrate their efforts, we have a **weekly reading raffle**.



Each week, one lucky reader will win a prize!

Read • Record • Win!

Our school motto

Reading helps us to let our light shine

Thank you for your support and for being a **reading** role model. Together we can help every child discover the joy of reading and reach their full potential.



Weekly Reflection

Feeling Inspired

This week, we are taking time to reflect on what it means to be **inspired**—allowing our hearts and minds to spark with curiosity, creativity, and hope. Inspiration often begins when we pause to notice the extraordinary details in the world around us: the wonder of creation, the beauty of art and music, or the quiet courage of remarkable people, past and present. At St Matthew's, we encourage every child to look up, wonder, and let their imagination soar, knowing that each one of them has the potential to inspire those around them.

A Prayer for Wonder and Hope

Dear God,

Thank you for filling our world with so much beauty, discovery, and wonder. Ignite a spark in our hearts to dream big, to explore with joy, and to use our unique talents to make a positive difference. May our St Matthew's family always be a place where creativity flourishes and where we encourage one another to reach for the stars.

Amen.

Future Dates

Thursday 22nd October – Bible Encounters Assembly

Friday 23rd October – Freddie Fit – all children to come to school in PE Kit

Friday 23rd October – House Point Treat for INSPIRE (Winning House)

Friday 23rd October – Attendance Treat for Year 6 (Class attendance winner)

Friday 23rd October – school closes for half term

Saturday 31st October – Year 7 High School Application Deadline

Monday 2nd November – school reopens after the half term break

Monday 2nd November – Year 5 Bikeability all week – more info via school spider

Friday 4th November – WW1 Soldier & Gladiator Visit for Year 6 and Year 4

Monday 16th November – Y5/6 Football Tournament at the Power League

Wednesday 18th November – Year 4 trip to Chester – Roman Experience

Wednesday 18th November – Inspirational Athlete Visit

Friday 20th November – Year 5 Light Cinema Trip

Wednesday 25th November – Parents' Evening

Thursday 26th November – Year 4 Light Cinema Trip

Thursday 26th November – NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Workshops – Year 2, 5 & 6

Thank you for your continued support, as always.

Warmest Regards,



Mrs Rachel McDonald
Headteacher