St Matthew's CE Primary School
Weekly Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great final week of Autumn 1 at St Matthew's – lots of things to celebrate and special events for the children.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance winners this week are **Year 2 97.4%** - this is absolutely amazing!
Punctuality winners were Nursery with no late marks this week!
Whole school attendance this week is 93.2%
Whole school attendance this year so far is 94.1% - let's keep it as high as possible!

Appropriate Clothing

As the weather turns colder and wetter during the autumn and winter months, please ensure your child comes to school prepared for all outdoor activities and breaks. We recommend dressing in warm layers - school jumper or cardigan, and a lined, waterproof coat with a hood to keep dry during outdoor play. Warm accessories like hats, gloves, and scarves are also strongly encouraged for frosty mornings. For footwear, children should wear sturdy, waterproof shoes or boots with good tread to prevent slipping on wet or icy playground surfaces. If your child wears wellies or boots to school, please send them with a pair of standard, comfortable indoor school shoes or black plimsolls to change into for classroom learning. Please also remember to clearly label all coat tags, boots, and winter accessories with your child's name to help us quickly return any misplaced items!

Attendance Prizes and treats

We want to send a huge thank you for your ongoing support with school attendance this term! Attendance is the best it has been in YEARS! Our children have worked exceptionally hard to be a true **HERO**—**H**ere, **E**very day, **R**eady, and **O**n time. Due to a busy calendar of school events leading up to the break, our official attendance prizes and the winning class treat will now take place shortly after half term. We want to ensure that our pupils' dedication and brilliant effort receive the full celebration and recognition they truly deserve. Thank you for helping your children start each day ready to learn, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements together after the half term holiday!

Freddy Fit

We were delighted to welcome the **Freddy Fit** team to school today for an energetic, action-packed series of fitness workshops! The children thoroughly enjoyed taking on the physical challenges, pushing themselves through fun circuit training, and learning key tips about how to keep their bodies healthy, strong, and active. It was fantastic to see every year group getting involved with such determination, teamwork, and huge smiles—showing incredible effort to stay fit while having a great time together. A massive well done to all our pupils for working so hard today, and a big thank you to Freddy Fit for inspiring us all to keep moving!

CDAT
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Year 5 Bikeability – 2nd November

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.

House Points – Autumn 2 running total

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.

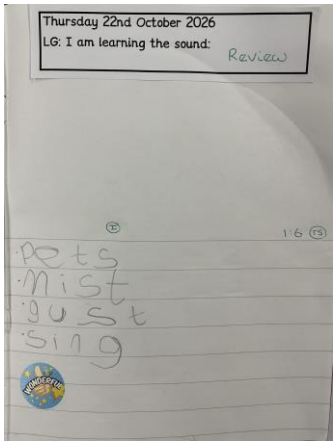
Succeed	**213**
Hope	**255**
Inspire	**292**
Nurture	**250**
Empower	**238**

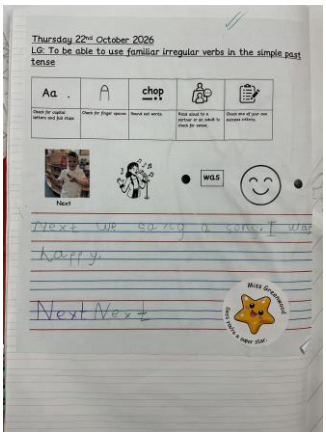
Work of the Week – 23.10.26

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

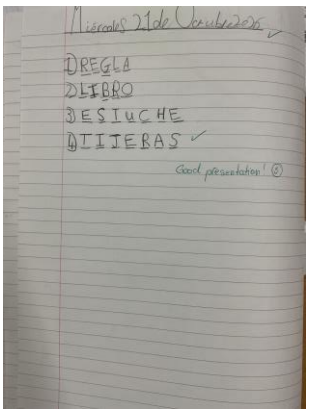
Reception		**Nathan**	
Year 1	**Ellie**	Year 2	**Archie**
Year 3	**Violet**	Year 4	**Italiyah**
Year 5	**Freddie & Zak**	Year 6	**Neymar**

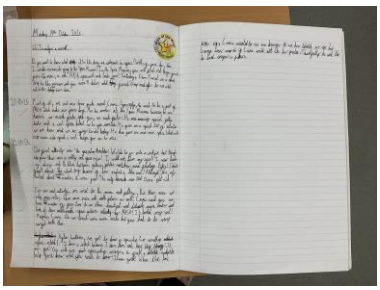


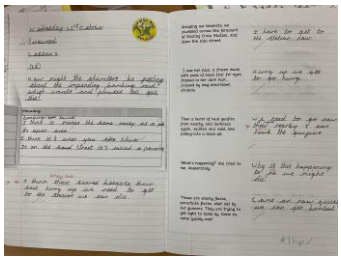


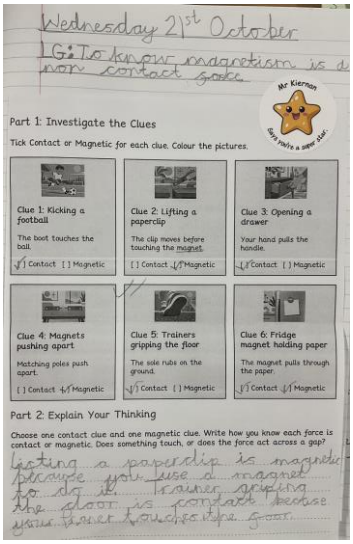












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Reading – Home and School Partnership

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.



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Weekly Reflection

Courage and Bravery

This week, we are reflecting on how courage and hard work go hand in hand to help us bloom. Courage is the inner strength that allows us to step into new challenges, raise our hand when we aren't sure of the answer, or try again when something doesn't go right the first time. Hard work is the quiet dedication that keeps us going—putting in the time, practice, and heart needed to grow every single day. At St Matthew's, we know that great achievements are rarely born from luck; they come when brave hearts choose to persevere. When we combine a brave spirit with a willing attitude, no mountain is too high to climb.

A Prayer for Brave Hearts and Willing Hands

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us minds to learn and hearts capable of great bravery. Grant us the **courage** to face difficult challenges without fear of making mistakes, and the perseverance to put in our very best **hard work** each day. When tasks feel tricky, remind us that You are by our side, helping us to grow stronger with every effort. May our St Matthew's family continue to strive with determination and support one another in every step of the journey.
Amen.

Future Dates

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

Friday 20th November – Year 3 start their Forest School Sessions

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

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