St Matthew's CE Primary School
Weekly Headteacher Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our Autumn 2 half term – I hope you all had a wonderful half term break!

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance winners this week are **Year 5 with 96.4%** - this is absolutely fabulous!
Punctuality winners were Nursery with no late marks this week!
Whole school attendance this week is 93.1%
Whole school attendance this year so far is 94.2% - let's keep it as high as possible!

Rock Steady – Monday 9th November

St Matthew's is partnering with Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons. These weekly sessions will take place in school and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun. It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time. Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills. Here's what else you need to know:

• There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
• Watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come.
• Children learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills, whilst playing songs they love.
• Children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London, without having to take a single exam.
• You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos. There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

To introduce the children to Rocksteady, workshops will be held in school on Monday 9th November, with lessons starting the following week. These will be fun and interactive sessions giving children the chance to try out the instruments and learn all about being a musician in a band. Please look out for a letter from Rocksteady, which your child will bring home with them after their workshop or visit www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents to sign up.

WW1 Soldier & Roman Gladiator Experience

Our history curriculum came alive this week with two unforgettable visitor workshops!
Year 4 had a thrill step back into Ancient Rome when a Roman Gladiator visited. The children learned about life in the Roman army, the gladiatorial games, and armour design, tying directly into their curriculum work on Roman Britain and ancient civilizations.
Meanwhile, Year 6 experienced a powerful, immersive session with a WWI Soldier. The visit provided a vivid perspective on life in the trenches, uniforms, and battlefield equipment, giving context to their historical study of early 20th-century conflicts and remembrance.
The children loved every minute, asked fantastic questions, and represented the school brilliantly. A massive thank you to our guest speakers for delivering such enriching experiences!

Year 5 Bikeability

A huge well done to all of our children who took part in Bikeability this week!
The instructors were incredibly impressed by how brilliantly the children engaged with the sessions, listened to safety instructions, and showed great enthusiasm on two wheels. Whether learning fundamental control skills or building confidence out on the roads, their behaviour and effort throughout the week were a real credit to the school.

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Children in Need – Friday 13th November



Next Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need! To help raise money for this fantastic cause, children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes for the day in exchange for a silver coin donation (e.g., 5p, 10p, 20p, or 50p). All donations collected will go directly to Children in Need to help make a real difference in young people's lives. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Great Athletes – Danny Butler – Wednesday 18th November

From the Peak District's edge to performing for the Queen at the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, Danny's journey is one of resilience and passion. Told he might never walk again, he pivoted from motorcycle trials to become a top cyclist, inspired by his father. With accolades including European Champion, five-time British Elite Champion, and UCI World #3, Danny has proudly represented Team GB for over a decade. Please see the video link to find out more!
https://greatathletes.org/athletes/danny-butler/
Danny will be visiting school to work with all children so please can all children come to school in PE Kit for this event. Children have also brought sponsor forms home linked to the event so please donate for a fantastic cause!

Poppies for Sale



Our Royal British Legion Remembrance items have officially arrived! A collection box is now available at the main reception, featuring traditional paper poppies, wristbands, keychains, and bag tags. Every donation goes directly to supporting servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans of the British Armed Forces. If your child would like to purchase an item, please send them in with a small cash donation so we can show our support and honour those who served.

After School Clubs – released tonight at 6pm on School Spider

Please see the below information about after school clubs for this half term. As always, we ask that children follow our three behaviour expectations at clubs; be kind, be ready, be safe. If a child does not follow this, their place will be revoked from the club for the safety of children and staff.

Club	Staff	Day	Year groups	Numbers
Choir	Mrs Gregory & Miss Costin	Monday	Year 1 - 6	25
Film Club	Mr Edwards	Monday	Year 1 - 6	25
Winter Crafts	Miss Hanley & Miss Sandbach	Tuesday	Reception, Year 1 & 2	25
Craft Club	Mrs Gregory & Miss Costin	Tuesday	Year 3 - 6	25
Board Games	Mr Edwards	Thursday	Year 1 – 6	25

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	**417**
Hope	**522**
Inspire	**515**
Nurture	**455**
Empower	**459**

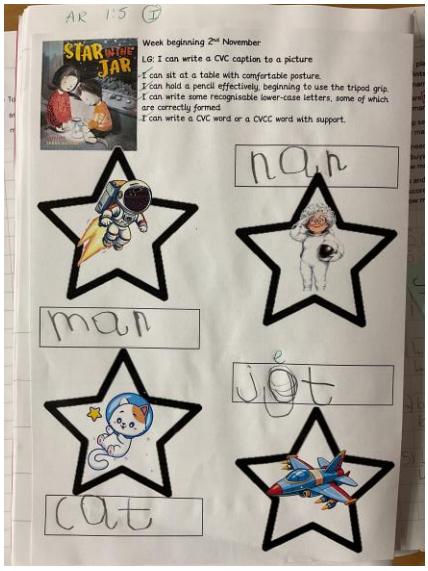
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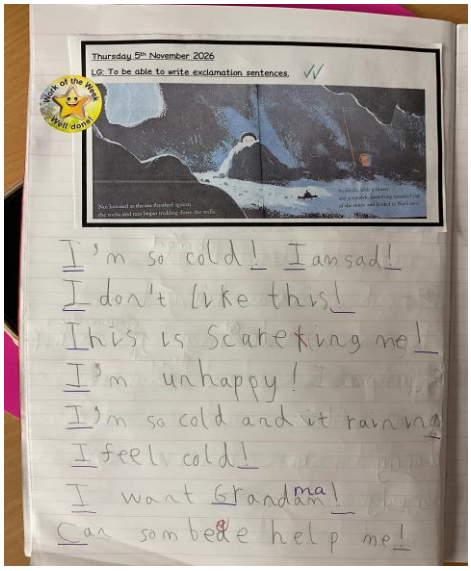
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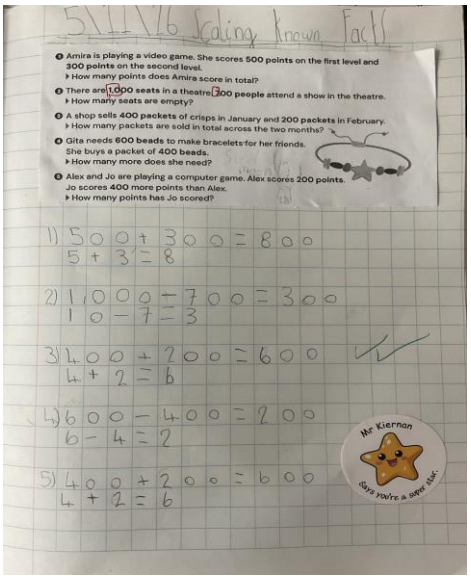
Work of the Week – 6.11.26

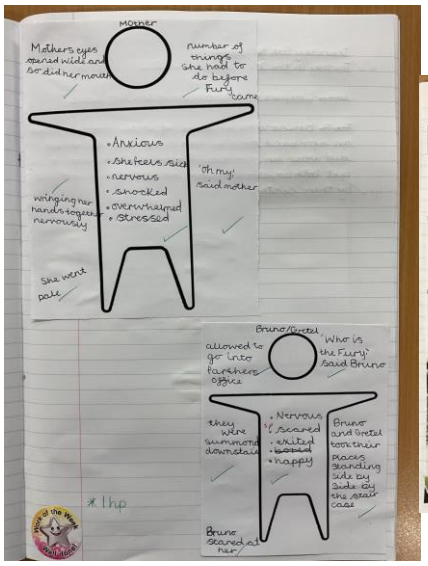
Well done to our amazing work of the week children – we are so proud of you!

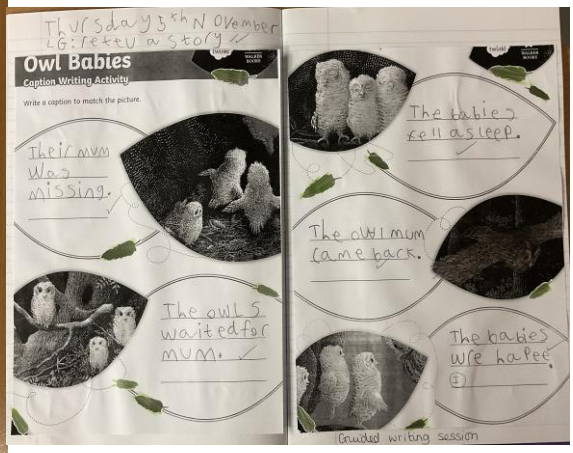
Reception		**Sumayyah**	
Year 1	**Ralphie**	Year 2	**Cali**
Year 3	**Molly**	Year 4	**Arya**
Year 5	**Rylee-J**	Year 6	**Lola**

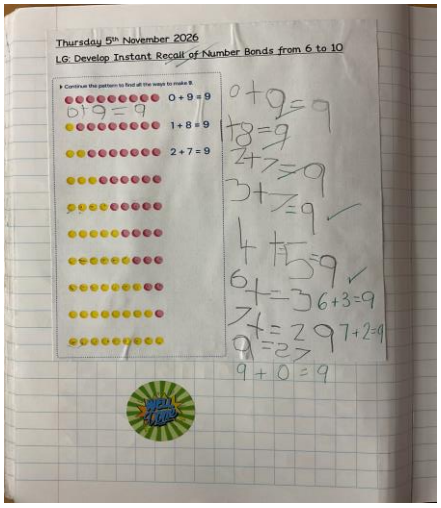












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Weekly Reflection

Embracing Compassion

This week, we are reflecting on the warm and gentle value of compassion - the ability to see when someone is hurting or struggling and feeling a deep desire to help. Compassion is empathy in action; it is putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, listening with care, and offering a comforting hand or a kind word right when it is needed most. At St Matthew's, compassion reminds us that we are all interconnected. When we show gentle understanding to others, we build a supportive, loving environment where everyone feels safe, held, and truly understood.

A Prayer for Compassionate Hearts

Dear God
Thank you for loving us with a gentle, endless heart. Fill us with compassion so that we may notice when a friend or classmate needs comfort, care, or understanding. Teach us to speak words of peace, to listen with patience, and to offer help willingly to anyone who is hurting. May our St Matthew's family always shine as a beacon of Your tender love and grace.
Amen.

Future Dates

Monday 9th November – Rock Steady Assembly & workshops – 9am onwards

Tuesday 10th November – Year 6 Remembrance Service in Church – 2.30pm

Tuesday 17th November – Y5/6 Football Tournament at the Power League – 1pm onwards

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

Wednesday 18th November – Inspirational Athlete Visit – all children to wear PE kit

Friday 20th November – Year 5 Light Cinema Trip – 9am onwards

Friday 20th November – Year 3 start their Forest School Sessions – 1pm onwards

Friday 20th November – Year 6 at Crucial Crew – 1pm onwards

Wednesday 25th November – Parents' Evening – 3pm onwards

Thursday 26th November – Year 4 Light Cinema Trip – 9am onwards

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

Tuesday 1st December – Christmas Story Trail for KS2 at Stockport Baptist Church

Wednesday 2nd December – Year 5 at Stockport Academy for Moana Performance

Thank you for your continued support, as always.



Mrs Rachel McDonald

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