St Matthew's CE Primary School

Weekly Attendance Newsletter – 23.10.26

LET YOUR LIGHT Shine Matthew 5:16

Attendance Team
Miss Henry
Ms Burton
Mrs McDonald

School Times
Gates open: 8.40am
School Starts: 8.50am
Gates close: 9.00am

Gates open: 3.10pm
School ends: 3.20pm
Gates close: 3.35pm

Doors open: 8:50am Parents are responsible for the safety of their children until doors open and their child is in the school building.

Register closes: 9am
Any children arriving after 9am will need to sign in at the Front Office where they will be marked late.

Unauthorised Late: 9:30am
Any children arriving after 9:30am will be marked in as an unauthorised absence. This affects their full morning attendance mark.

UNAUTHORISED REASONS FOR ABSENCE
A cough, the common cold, birthday treat, tiredness, meeting relatives, sibling unwell, new baby, Mum/Dad unwell, holidays, too hot, not being able to bring your child to school. We do ask for more information other than just 'unwell'.

MY CHILD IS GENUINELY ILL
If your child is genuinely ill then, of course, they will need to remain at home. Please contact the school office before 8:50am to leave a message on our answerphone service, school spider or Study Bugs, with a reason that details their absence.

Year Group	Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	95.4%	95.1%	91.3%	95.4%	90.2%	90.5%	96.4%	93%
Late Marks	0	1	3	5	9	7	1	8

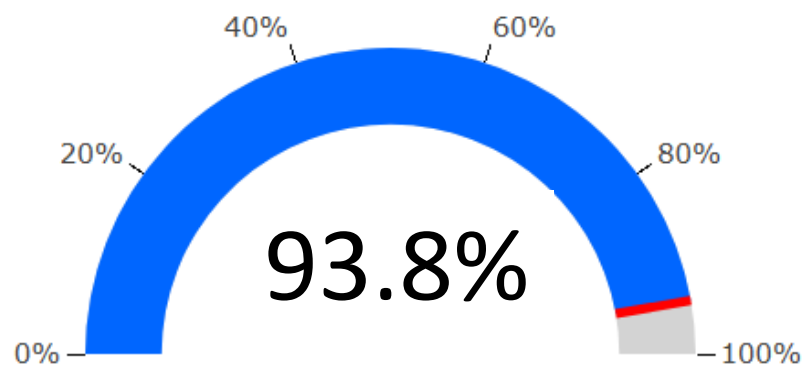
Punctuality

This time last year, the percentage of lateness was 2.91% - this year it is currently 1.91%. This is a huge improvements. 1% may not seem like a lot but it means that there are over 100 less late marks so far this year compared to last year. Lateness can affect confidence, academic ability and mean that children miss out of vital points of their learning. We know that lateness can occur on the odd occasion but persistent lateness really does have a negative impact. Thank you for working together with school to ensure that your children are in school on time as often as possible.

Support Partnership

We know that getting your child to school every day can sometimes feel overwhelming, but please remember that you do not have to navigate these challenges alone. Whether your family is struggling with transportation, managing health issues, or dealing with morning anxiety, our pastoral and support team is here to help. We view attendance as a partnership; our primary focus is working alongside you to identify and remove any barriers standing in the way of your child's learning, rather than issuing penalties. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please reach out to us so we can find a solution together.

Whole School Attendance this week! Our aim is 95%



School Attendance
94.2%

School Persistent Absence (PA)
21.1%

School Absence Rate
5.8%

National Average Attendance
94.34%

National Average Persistent Absence (PA) – last year
TBC

National Average Absence Rate
5.66%

New Attendance initiative – 35 to THRIVE!

As we head into the new term, we are excited to launch our brand-new attendance initiative: **35 to THRIVE!** We are challenging every student to aim for 35 days of continuous, top-tier attendance following the holidays. This is your child's chance to be a true **HERO –**
Here, **E**very day, **R**eady, **O**n time!
Arriving on time and ready to learn each day builds strong habits, keeps students connected with their friends, and ensures they don't miss out on vital learning moments. Let's work together as a school community to hit the ground running this term and show what it means to THRIVE!

