

St Matthew's Newsletter

"Let Your Light Shine" – Matthew 5:16

16th January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the Spring Term of 2026! We hope you and your families enjoyed a peaceful and refreshing break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school full of enthusiasm, ready to reconnect with their learning, and eager for the exciting opportunities this term will bring.

This half term, our school value is **Inspiration**. We will be celebrating the people, ideas, and moments that spark curiosity and encouraging all children to aim high, persevere, and shine brightly in all they do. Through lessons, assemblies, and everyday interactions, we will be helping children recognise how they can inspire others—through their words, actions, creativity, and kindness.

We were delighted to start this new year together by welcoming **Bishop Anderson, the Bishop of Edmonton, to visit our school**. He truly inspired us by sharing his life story and reminding the children how education can open doors and transform future opportunities. The Bishop spoke with great warmth about the power of learning, determination, and faith in shaping a person's path. Having joined us for our Singing Collective Worship, he also left us beaming with pride when he said that our children were *the best singers he has heard in any of his school visits!* What a wonderful encouragement for our whole school community!



Bishop Anderson, Mrs Harris & Rev. Jeremy



Our **UNCRC Children's Right for this Half Term is Article 31**. This has been chosen by our RRS Ambassadors. Article 31 states that *every child has the right to rest, play, and take part in cultural and artistic activities*. This right is vital for children's wellbeing and development: play helps them build friendships, develop confidence, explore new ideas, and strengthen their emotional and physical health. Throughout the term, we will be encouraging children to make the most of playtimes, clubs, creative opportunities, and moments of rest—recognising that these are essential parts of their learning journey too.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that 2026 begins with joy, purpose, and inspiration for every child. We wish all our families a happy, healthy, and hopeful start to the year. Here's to a fantastic term ahead! Best wishes, *Mrs Harris*

Hot Chocolate with Mrs Harris

On the 9th January 2026, we had hot chocolate and biscuits with the headteacher, which we had won by collecting a small envelope at the Christmas Fair. The envelopes were pinned on a tree and only 6 lucky children got the prize. The lucky winners were Robi, Amaya-Louise, Seline, Hamza, Memphis and Emma. After we ate the biscuits and drank the hot chocolate, we all gathered around the table and played board games.

"We had a lovely time at the hot chocolate party" *Memphis*

"I really enjoyed playing the games with the other classes" *Emma*

Reported by Emma & Memphis



Our **Time to Shine** certificates are awarded weekly to 2 pupils in each class who have been recognised as great role model for our school values & children's rights. This week's awards were given to:

Class 1: Cynthia & Leroy	Calvary & Nana Yaa
Class 2: Dzhelyal & Firat	Levi & Karis
Class 3: Geonte & Nana	Shaniya & Samaa
Class 4: Halleluyah & Emmanuel	Amreen & Lilliana
Class 5: Caleb & Andzhelika	Jeriel & Petya
Class 6: Richmond & Kaiden	Joel & Emma

EYFS

This week in EYFS, we have been learning all about 'People who help us' in our community. As part of this topic, we were very lucky to welcome a doctor who came to visit our class and talk to us about her important job. The children were extremely excited and engaged as they learned about how doctors help to keep us healthy, the tools they use, and what happens when we visit a doctor. They asked lots of thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity through a wonderful hands-on learning experience for everyone. We also learnt about dentists, police, firefighters and paramedics throughout the week and we did lots of activities linked to these people.



Year 2

Year 2 have returned to school after the Christmas holidays with **fantastic enthusiasm** and have settled straight back into school life beautifully! I have been so impressed with how much they have remembered, especially in **maths**, where they have shown great confidence and focus.

This week, we have been busy strengthening our fluency in the **2, 5 and 10 times tables**, and the children rose to the challenge brilliantly. We made an exciting discovery that **repeated addition is the same as multiplication**, which helped us solve multiplication equations with confidence. This understanding became especially useful as we began exploring the **3 times table**.

The children used a range of practical and visual strategies to support their learning. Some worked with **Numicon**, while others drew their own representations, helping them to fully understand and confidently use key mathematical vocabulary such as **multiplication, times, lots of, groups of, and repeated addition**



"2 lots of 5' can be written as '2 times (x) 5" - Amira

"2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 is repeated addition" - Firat

Year 3

Our new R.E topic is Judaism. We learnt that Abraham is an important figure in this religion as God created an important covenant with him. We looked at differences between a covenant and a promise and talked about its importance. We had a choice in small groups, to come up with a scenario of when a promise was broken and how to resolve it.

"A promise is something you said you will do" - Jordan

"I liked doing this because it was fun" - Melissa



Team 4 are poets

Team 4 have been exploring the genre of poetry. We discovered that there are many different genres of poetry. We analysed a range of different poems becoming familiar with their features. These included: acrostic poems, list poems, shape/ concrete poems, rhyming couplet poems, alternate line rhyming poems and performance poetry.

Last week, in English we were Word and Phrase Collectors. We learnt about different conventions used within writing including: powerful verbs, interesting adjectives, alliteration, onomatopoeia similes, metaphors and personification. We noticed that many of the features learnt appeared in the poems we analysed.

Inspired by British poet Benjamin Zephaniah, we set to work in teams to memorise and perform a range of **poems based on different global biome settings**. We considered intonation, prosody, volume and actions to help our poetry performances to be dynamic.

Team 4 love poetry!



Benjamin Zephaniah - Poet

Year 1 & Year 5

Before Christmas, Year 5 made toys in DT. Some toys were big, some were small, but the children worked extremely hard to create them from their own ideas. We then took the toys to Year 1, as they were learning about Toys in history. We showed them how they worked and let them play with them. We had a monster truck, a pizza in a pizza box, a noughts and crosses board and a doll house to name just a few.

"I learnt how to work in a group and Year 1 really enjoyed our toy". **Alicia, Year 5**

"We made a few mistakes so changed our toy. It ended up being a great toy and the children loved it."
Jeriel, Year 5

Year 1 got to play with toys alongside Year 5. They had a great time learning how they were made and how to use them.

The "Computer game" was Kaan's favourite.

"I liked the pizza game because I could deliver it." **Nikole, Year 1**

"I liked the car. I drove it!" **Gideon, Year 1.**



Year 6 have started writing a narrative about the house at 23 Maple Street

In Year 6 this week, we have been focusing on The House on Maple Street. We have been preparing and starting a narrative. We have been aiming to include our grammar foci: Dashes, Anaphora Active and passive. Here are some examples of some pupil's work.;

'The crows gave me a sinister look. The trees stared at me. My mouth dropped open. It was like I was in a different dimension.' **Sianna**

'Some sources of mysterious mist covered the entire eerie atmosphere, my hands were freezing, my teeth clattering, I was tense. "Maybe I should go back -" **Goshen**

'The house looked normal, or so I thought. Everything that normally felt dead felt alive tonight.' **Mary**

'The silhouette of the house was spine-chilling. I could have died in fear. I will forever remember this devilish sight ..." **Ayeyi**

'The wind protested; I left. Tired – desperate to get home
– I ignored the silent warning. Crows chuckled at warning.
Crows chuckled at my foolishness " **Tamina**

'There were ominous crows screeching at me and mocking warning
me to stay away' **Alimamay**

'I sat down on a nearby bench as trees reaching into the sky loomed
over me not knowing what was in the distance...' **I 'Shan**

'It was quiet, a bit too quiet...' **Sydelle**



Whole School Attendance

Today's attendance was 93.4%.

Our target attendance is 96.5% - please help us to achieve this!

Best attendance for last week was won by Year 5 with 96.3% and this week's winners are Year 4 with 96.3%.

For your children's benefit please make sure that you are getting your children to school every day and on time. Thank you

REMINDERS

- We will continue to have **Nursery places from September 2026** – if you have a child who is turning 3 before then, please get a Nursery application form from the school office.
- **School starts at 8.50am.** Please ensure you arrive on time so that your child is not missing out on their learning.
- Contributing to our **School Maintenance Fund** is an essential part of St Matthew's community. Please kindly pay your contribution if you haven't already done so. Many thanks.
- Please make sure your child brings their **water bottle** to school each day



St Matthew's C of E Primary school

Free Breakfast club

Start the day the best way!
Everyday from 8.15am-8.30am

All children from Reception to Year 6 are invited to join us for a tasty, energising start to the day!

- ✦ Drop your child off and let them enjoy a delicious, healthy breakfast with friends before school.
- ✦ The perfect way to fuel their bodies and minds ready for a day full of learning and fun!

Just drop off at the Breakfast club entrance on South Street. There's no need to book.



St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Let your light shine

We warmly invite the families of children born between September 2021 and August 2022 who are due to start primary school in September 2026, to join our headteacher, Mrs Harris for a talk and tour of our small, nurturing, family school.

Tours at 9.45am:
 Tuesday 4th November 2025
 Friday 14th November 2025
 Monday 24th November 2025
 Wednesday 10th December 2025
 Thursday 8th January 2026

Please call us on 0208 804 1666 or email office@st-matthews.enfield.sch.uk to book a place to visit us, or ask any questions.

We very much look forward to meeting you and your child.

www.stmatthews-enfield.co.uk

Being a parent

A free 8 week programme run by parents, for families with children 2-4 years old.


Learn how to get the most out of family life through exploring a variety of topics such as, being a good enough parent, understanding your child, discipline strategies, coping with stress and listening and communication.

Date: 21/01/2026 until 18/03/2026
(no session on 18/02/2026)

Time: 9.30am until 12.30pm


Location: Eldon Family Hub, St Peter's Road, Edmonton, London, N9 8JP

For more information or to book on please contact:
Katrina Bray
 Family Support Worker
 07356320406
Katrina.Bray@enfield.gov.uk






Small changes, big differences.



Triple P for Baby – A positive start for babies and parents

Aims to prepare parents-to-be and parents with a baby up to 12 months old make a positive transition to parenthood. It promotes sensitive and responsive care before and after birth, up to baby's first birthday.

Delivered in groups, parents will learn ways to cope with frequent crying, set up good sleep habits, read baby's cues, look after themselves, adapt to changes in family life, and more.

Topics covered includes:



Session 1: Positive parenting	Session 4: Partner support
Session 2: Responding to your baby	Sessions 5-7: Implementing parenting routines
Session 3: Survival skills	Session 8: Ways to maintain changes

WHEN? Mondays, 23 February – 11 May 2026 at 12:30pm-2:30pm; (except 30 Mar & 6 April)


WHERE? Craig Park Youth & Family Hub, 2 Lawrence Road, London N18 2HN

HOW TO BOOK ONLINE? [Triple P Baby Referral](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION: ParentingProgrammes@enfield.gov.uk

[Parenting Directory | Enfield Council](#)



St Matthew's C of E Primary School Diary Dates

January - 2026

Tuesday 20th January – Year 2 Parents Maths Workshop @9am

Monday 26th January – Year R Hearing Test

Monday 26th to Friday 30th January – Mystery Reader Visits

Tuesday 27th January – Year 1 Parents Maths Workshop

Thursday 29th January – Year R Parents Maths Workshop

Friday 30th January – Book Sale @ 3.20pm

February

Friday 6th February – Year 5 Class Assembly @ 9am

Thursday 12th February – LDBS Service at St Paul's Cathedral

Friday 13th February – Happy School Bag Collection

Friday 13th February – FOSM Valentines Disco

Half Term - Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026

Friday 27th February – Year 3 visit to The British Museum

March

Wednesday 4th March to Friday 6th March – Year 4 two night Residential

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 20th March – Year 2 Class Assembly @ 9am

Wednesday 25th March – FOSM Easter Fair

Friday 27th March – Easter Service at St Matthew's Church @ 9am

April

Easter Break – Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

Monday 13th April to Monday 20th July 2026

Friday 24th April – Year 3 commence weekly swimming programme

May

Monday 4th May – May Bank Holiday (No pupils)

Half Term - Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Monday 20th July - INSET Day (No pupils)

