

St Matthew's Newsletter

"Let Your Light Shine" – Matthew 5:16

13th February 2026



This week we have been actively engaging in activities which make us feel good about ourselves, as part of **Children's Mental Health week**. We have talked about our feelings and how to manage them, taken part in mindfulness sessions and identified the places we belong and feel happy.

This is particularly important to us right now, as over the last few weeks, we have experienced some issues in school which have stemmed from pupils not using social media safely or appropriately outside of school. Unfortunately, children have spoken differently to each other online than they would have done face to face. This has impacted on pupil's learning, as well as their wellbeing.



As you will be aware the Government are considering the idea of banning social media for under 16's. Whatever, your views on this, I urge you to make sure that you really understand what your children are doing online.

As a Rights Respecting School, the children know that they have the right to access information. However, it is really

important that we work together to help every child to understand how to stay safe online. **Please take time to chat with your child about how they use social media, check their privacy settings, reminding them to only connect with**

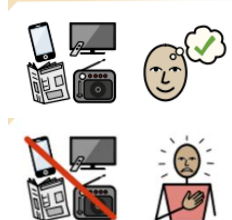
people they know in real life and to speak up if something online makes them feel uncomfortable.

Keeping our children safe and confident online is crucial for their safety and wellbeing.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



17 I have the right to get information in lots of ways, as long as it's safe



Children should be able to access information they can understand on TV, radio, in books and newspapers and on the internet.

Governments should make sure children are protected from things that could harm them.

To learn more about helping your child to keep safe on social media, please join us for a parent's information session Wednesday 25th March at 9am.

The following links may also be helpful:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> &

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Wishing you all a joyful and relaxing family time over the February half term holiday.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23rd February. Best wishes, *Mrs Harris*

Book Sparks Event – Thursday 5th February

On Thursday 5th February, all pupils from **EYFS to Year 6** took part in an exciting whole-school **BookSparks** event—a day designed to inspire curiosity and deepen children's confidence in choosing books.

Throughout the day, each class visited a colourful display of **age-appropriate books**, carefully selected to spark interest and open up new reading possibilities. Using their **BookSparks cards**, children explored covers, blurbs and illustrations while chatting with classmates about what caught their eye. The cards acted as gentle prompts, supporting informal book talk and encouraging children to think about *why* a book appealed to them. The atmosphere across the school was buzzing with curiosity and conversation. Children recommended books to friends, discovered new authors and proudly shared their choices.



As part of the event, **every child was able to select two books to take home, read and keep**. If they finish and would like to share their books with others, they are warmly invited to return them to our **Reading Shed book swap**, where they can exchange them for something new.

EYFS

This week, excitement filled our EYFS classroom as the children watched a video of the Gingerbread Man and his friends running past the school office! We went on a Gingerbread Man hunt around the school, but he was too quick to catch. Back in class, the children listened to the story and discussed whether he should trust the fox to help him cross the river. They made predictions about what might happen next in the story before finding out the ending.

Throughout the week, the story inspired learning across all areas of the curriculum. In art, the children designed their own gingerbread people and created models using playdough. In science, they carried out a "sink or swim" experiment using real gingerbread men, discovering that in water it sank and and expanded, but in Coca-Cola it floated thanks to the gas and bubbles!

It was a fun-filled week that sparked curiosity, creativity and lots of fantastic discussion.



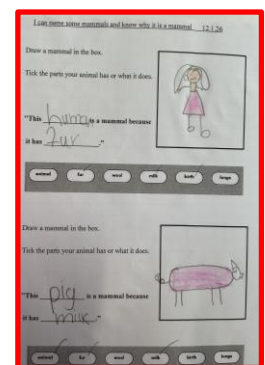
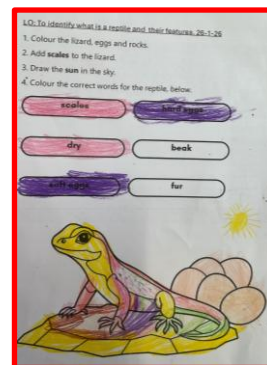
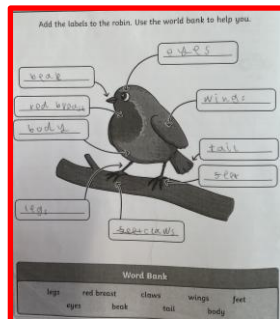
Year 1 – Science – Animal Groups

This term our class has been learning about different animal groups. We can confidently identify each animal group using different characteristics. The animal groups are Amphibians, mammals, reptiles, fish and birds. We even asked questions like "Do reptiles lay soft or hard eggs?" **Nikole**

We could also tell people about animals

"Amphibians can live in the water then on land"

"Fish have gills and lay eggs"



Money Masters in Year 2!

This week, Year 2 have been busy developing their money skills and have made fantastic progress with adding pounds and pence. The children explored different coins and notes, carefully combining amounts and working out totals with growing confidence. Through practical activities and problem-solving challenges, they learned how to add money just like they would in real-life situations, such as shopping and paying for items. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, focus, and pride as they showed how money-smart they are becoming. Year 2 are well on their way to being confident, money-literate learners!



Year 3

In Science, our science topic has been Forces and Magnets. In this lesson, we were given the opportunity to explore around the classroom and look for magnetic and non-magnetic items. We used bar magnets. We knew that some objects had some magnetic material inside them and some did not.



Harlie "If you put the magnets, south and south, they do not attract, they repel"

Nana "Magnet materials are iron, nickel and cobalt."

Milenna "We learnt that magnets can be strong and can only be attracted to magnetic materials"

Team 4's Mental Health Week

On Monday the 9th of February it was the start of Mental Health Week and we made mood stones out of clay.

We painted our mood stones and each colour represented an emotion:

- **Pink** showed happiness
- **Purple** showed love
- **Light Blue** represented being cheerful and energetic
- **Dark Blue** showed calmness and peace
- **Green** represented being neutral
- **Yellow** represented nervous and anxiety
- **Black** represented being uncertain and fearful



During the making of those stones, some members of team 4 wrote gratitude messages to each other in flowers. We also had hearts where we wrote messages to ourselves about self-love.

On Wednesday the 11th of February, two members of Team 4 displayed the flower and heart messages onto a display board, while some of us painted our mood stones. We included **dark blue**, **red** and **green** glitter on our mood stones.

Team 4 reporters: Isabella and Annabelle



Whole School Attendance

Today's attendance was 93%

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

Best attendance for last week was won by Year 6 with 100% and this week's winners are Year 4 with 98.6%.

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

Year 5

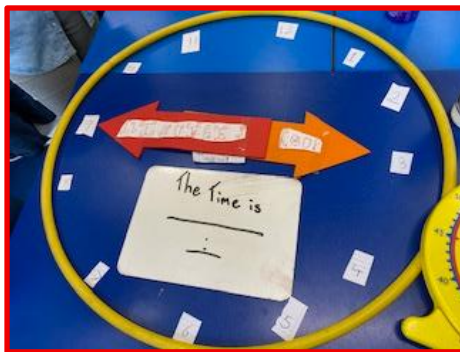
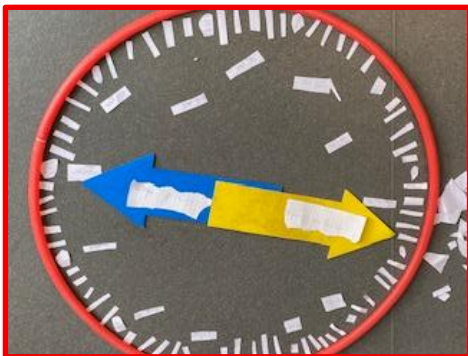
This week in Year 5 we have been learning about Time. We have learnt how to tell the time on an analogue clock, on a digital clock and how to answer SATS type questions based on Time.

Caleb: "One hour is sixty minutes and each number on the clock is equal to 5 minutes which we call 5-minute intervals".

Iris: "We learnt quarter past, half past, quarter to and o'clock first. Then we learnt 5 minute-intervals and then 1-minute intervals".

Giovanna "We learnt the timeline method for questions which have a start time and end time".

We then checked we understood how a clock works and what a clock looks like by making one using equipment.



Year 6 writing narratives about 'The Runaway Children of Chennai'

Year 6's class reader is about children living in the poorest slums in India and their struggle to survive. The characters manage to ward off hunger with their inventive and daring activities until tragedy strikes, and life can never be the same again. They have been writing narratives about a particular event that happened in the story and here are some examples of their writing:

"Rish and Shaur knew it was their chance to pick up the fish that had been left behind. Rish found some small, measly mackerel, but Shaur wanted something bigger and better. He noticed a big green fish with black spots and proudly exclaimed "I've found the biggest fish!" Rish had a bad feeling about this...."

Alimamy

"A discarded lighter! It opened up a world of opportunities for them. "Should we play catch with it?" suggested, Shaur. No we should have a competition to see who can find the biggest fish to cook." Rish replied. They went looking for fish. Shaur searched the beach and found a big yellow one with green spots".

John A



THE DADS' HUB

Relax. Recharge. Relate.
Because fatherhood is better when it's shared.

Calling All Dads!

Join our brand new fathers' group - a weekly meet-up created for you. Whether you're a new dad, a seasoned pro, or somewhere in between, this is your space to connect with other local fathers, through social catch-ups, fun activities, and real conversations.

Each week the session offers something new;

- Fitness Sessions
- Parenting Talks
- Flight Simulators
- Casual Hangouts
- Tech Repair

NO JUDGEMENT, NO PRESSURE.
JUST REAL DADS, REAL TALK, REAL COMMUNITY

Day Thursdays

Time 7:30pm-9:30pm

Address 39 St James Chambers, Edmonton, N9 0UD

Follow us

ABC Parents

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Every Parent and Child

epc_uk

Every Parent Child

Contact Info

For more information contact:

- dadshubenorthsideyouth.co.uk
- 07355 674131 (ABC)



THRIVE OUTSIDE

FREE!

Explore green spaces, try new sport, and take part in fun team-building sessions that build confidence, fitness, and resilience.
(Our staff are trained in supporting children with diabetes.)

Location: Lee Valley Athletics Centre
61 Meridian Way
London N9 0AR
Day & Time: Sunday 1-3 pm
Start date: 8 February 2026
Cost: FREE Open to all ability
Age: 11-18

Scan to Sign up



Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

☎ 07486 046938 info@mbcommunitycic.com

Community News



Supported by











SIGN UP FOR FEMALE FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Tottenham Hotspur Foundation are launching a dedicated football hub focused on empowering women and girls to play with confidence, develop their skills, and thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Sign up today and take your next step towards a stronger, more confident you.

Programme Details

Every Monday, starting from 23rd Feb.

Session Times:

- Lily's Little stars | 5:00-6:00pm - age 5-7
- Next Generation | 6:30-7:00pm - age 12-17
- Women's Walking Football | 6:00-7:00pm - age 30+

Venue: Southbury Leisure Centre inside Astro pitch, EN11 1YP

To find out more email: Demand@tottenhamhotspur.com

SCAN TO SIGN UP





Stronger Relationships

For parents and other adults coming together to support. For Bedford Fathers and Male Carers Only. Group starting on Wednesday 11 February at 7:30pm.



- Do you want to get some real ideas to help you as a father parent?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and relationships?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with you as with other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning all a little more about you?



4 online sessions



4 group discussions



Certificate on completion

What to expect...

- Information on strategies to identify and reduce arguments.
- Hear from other parents and adults.
- Downloadable worksheets and handouts.
- Videos, games and interactive activities.
- Six sessions at a time that works for you.
- Weekly support from our online experts.

Topics covered...

- Healthy relationships.
- Identifying and managing disagreements.
- Understanding how conflict affects your children.
- Improving parent-child relationships.
- Managing stress, anger and emotions.
- Strategies to resolve conflict and make a parenting agreement.

Group discussion...

1. Specialist to meet expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have.
2. Talk about how the challenges are going at home.
3. Address other difficulties regarding your relationships.
4. Hear from others about what works for them.

Find out more and sign up for this community learning for UK London residents on a 4-week online course at www.bedsfathers.com






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

- Class 1: Thayla & Nikole
- Class 2: Chyna-Rose & Savannah
- Class 3: Geonte & Isaiah
- Class 4: Halleluyah & Lucas
- Class 5: Whole Class for Class Assembly
- Class 6: John A & Prince

St Matthew's C of E Primary School Diary Dates

February

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

Wednesday 25th February – Y1 Phonics Screener Meeting for Parents

Thursday 26th February – Choir to All Soul's Place

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

March

Tuesday 3rd March – World Book Day

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

Monday 9th March – Year 3 Music Partnership Festival

Thursday 12th March – FOSM Mother's Day Tea – 2.30pm to 3.20pm

Tuesday 17th March – Choir to Proms Praise

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

Monday 23rd March – Year 5 trip to The Royal Festival Hall

Wednesday 25th March – Internet Safety Meeting for Parents at 9am

Wednesday 25th March – FOSM Easter Fair – 3.30pm to 5.30pm

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

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

April

Monday 13th April school opens for all children

Friday 17th April – FOSM Yrs 5 & 6 Bingo Night – 5pm to 7pm

Friday 24th April – Year 3 commence weekly swimming programme

May

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

Saturday 9th May – Joint FOSM & St Matthew's Church Family Fun Day "Picnic In The Park"

Friday 15th May – FOSM Movie Night – 3.30pm to 5pm

Wednesday 20th May – Cultural Day – 2.30pm to 5pm

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

June

Friday 19th June – FOSM Father's Day Games Day- 2.30pm to 3.20pm

Friday 26th June – FOSM Summer Fair - 3.30pm to 5pm

July

Monday 13th July – FOSM Year 6 Leavers Disco - 5pm to 7pm

Monday 20th July - INSET Day (No pupils)