

St Matthew's Newsletter

Together we let our light shine bright

2nd October 2026



Dear Parents & Carers,



As a Rights Respecting School, we teach all children about their rights through the globally ratified UNCRC (United Convention Rights of the Child). We believe that learning about children's rights in school helps children to understand that they are valued, respected and protected. It supports their wellbeing, confidence and sense of belonging, while teaching them how to treat others fairly, responsibly and with respect. Through learning about rights, children develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to thrive as positive, active members of their school and wider community.

Article 42 of the UNCRC states that children and adults should know and understand children's rights. Parents and carers have an important responsibility to support, respect and uphold these rights, helping children to recognise their own rights while also respecting the rights of others through their words, actions and relationships. Please see full information on children's rights at end of this newsletter

Attendance



It is essential that every adult supports every child in attending school every day and on time, to **respect children's right to an education** (article 28). Currently our whole school attendance is 92% in comparison with the national average of 96.3%.

Over the past few years, our attendance has been around 96%, I am concerned that children's lateness and non-attendance is significantly impacting on their education and development. Please kindly remember that children are expected to come to school with a sniffle and a cold. If you are uncertain whether your child is well enough for school, please contact the school for advice or see the poster attached.

Please ensure your child is in school every day and on time to prepare them for a successful future.



Parent Governor

We are looking to appoint a Parent Governor to become a member of our Governing Body who oversee the school. Any appointed parent will have an important role to play in representing parents' views about the school to the Governing Body. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to become more involved within our School. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the role further, please do not hesitate to come and see me. An email was sent out earlier this week with details on how to apply. Closing date Friday 9th October 2026.

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day – Friday 9th October

On Friday 9th October, children are invited to wear something Yellow along with their school uniform to school to celebrate World Mental Health Day.

REMINDERS:

- **Happy School Bag Collection** – collection bags will be sent home On Monday 5th October. Please fill these bags with clean unwanted clothes, paired shoe etc. and bring back to school on collection day which is **Wednesday 14th October**. Many thanks.
- **City Harvest Festival** - please bring in any donations into school from Monday 5th to Tuesday 13th October. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.
- **Secondary School Transfer** application forms need to be submitted by 31st October 2026.

Wishing you all a lovely week ahead. Very best wishes, Mrs Harris

Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been introducing the children to some early mathematical concepts through fun, practical and playful experiences.

Shape Hunters! The children enjoyed exploring our outdoor area with their shape hunters, looking carefully for different shapes in the environment. They were encouraged to notice and talk about the shapes they could see around them.

Can you go on a Shape Hunt at home? Walk around your home with your child and see what shapes you can find:

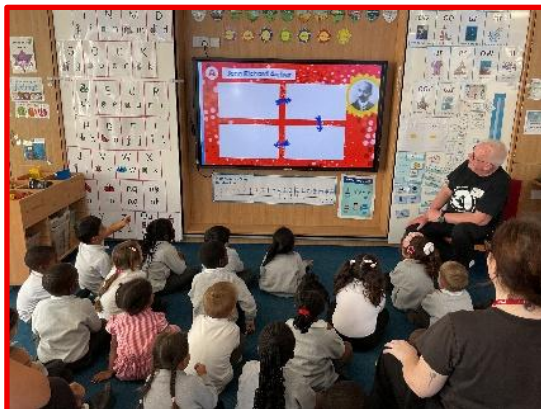
- What shapes can you see?
- Can you find a circle?
- Can you find a triangle?
- Can you find a square or rectangle?



Encourage your child to tell a grown-up about the shapes they have found. Have fun exploring and discovering shapes together!

Reception

In Reception, we have been enjoying making music together in the garden. We have also had the opportunity to meet some special visitors as part of the school's Black History Month workshop, learning, listening and celebrating together. We have also loved getting messy and creative in the mud kitchen, using our imaginations as we played and explored together.



Year 1 - How Have Toys Changed Over the Years?

This week, Year 1 had lots of fun exploring toys from the past and present. The children were invited to bring in a toy from home and loved sharing them with their friends.

We explored the materials toys are made from and used our Science knowledge to spot differences between old and modern toys. We discovered that some toys, such as marbles, are still enjoyed today, even though toys have changed over time.

"Old toys are made from wood because they are crafted by someone." - Elijah

"My robot is electronic and it can move by itself." - Muntaha

"You have to touch the old toys so that they can move." - Zayah

"New toys are made from plastic and they are bright." - Amaya-Louise

The children showed great responsibility when looking after their toys and demonstrated fantastic sharing and turn-taking skills.



Team 2 Mathematicians – Explore the number 8

Team 2's number of the week is 8. We used Numicon to help us explore and investigate different ways to make 8. To begin with, we worked out that there are many ways to make 8 using 2 numbers. First, we found the Numicon which represented 8. Then, we chose another piece of Numicon that represented a number lower than 8. We then counted and matched the missing piece. After, we made a list of addition number pairs totaling 8 on our whiteboards.

$7 + 1 = 8$	We noticed that when we swapped the numbers around in our number sentence, they still made 8.	$1 + 7 = 8$	$4 + 4 = 8$
$5 + 3 = 8$		$3 + 5 = 8$	Because 4 has been used twice, we couldn't swap the numbers so the number sentence stayed the same.
$2 + 6 = 8$		$6 + 2 = 8$	
$8 + 0 = 8$		$0 + 8 = 8$	
$4 + 4 = 8$			

Here are some photographs of this part of our exploration.



$$8 + 0 = 8$$



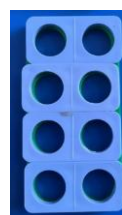
$$5 + 3 = 8$$



$$1 + 7 = 8$$

Next Step:

Some of us used our knowledge of part-whole models and realised that 8 could be made using more than 2 numbers. Here are some photographs of our findings.



$$2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 8$$



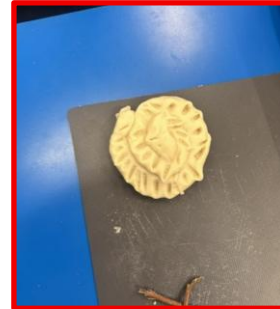
$$2 + 2 + 4 = 8$$



$$2 + 1 + 3 + 2 = 8$$

Year 3

In Year 3, our science topic is fossils, rocks and soil. This lesson we learnt how fossils are formed. Using salt dough and outside items like twigs, rocks and leaves or little dinosaur toys and using the iPad as research, we had our own opportunity to create our own fossils!



Year 4 – Ancient Greece

During our History lesson, we experienced a traditional Olympics which was invented in Ancient Greece and is still around today. We discussed the difference in different types of equipment and activities.

"They used to race chariots pulled by horses around a track" **Joel Y4**

"They used long spears for javelin and small rocks for shot putt" **Dorian Y4**



Whole School Attendance

Today's attendance was 91.2%

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

Best attendance for last week was won by Year 6 with 97.3% and this week by Year 3 with 99.2%

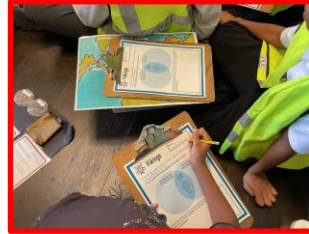
For your children's benefit please make sure that you are getting your children to school every day and on time. Thank you

Year 5's visit to Bruce Castle

This week, Year 5 visited Bruce Castle Museum, where they took part in an exciting workshop to create their own Viking shields. This experience linked closely to our History and English learning, as well as the class novel we are currently reading, Anglo-Saxon Boy.

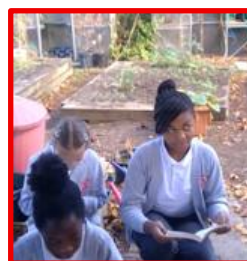
The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were particularly enthusiastic about designing and creating their own Viking artefacts, which they were able to display in class and take home.

During the workshop, the children also learned how to write their names using Viking runes and had the opportunity to see a fascinating primary source of evidence: a piece of a Viking ship discovered at Bruce Castle. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that brought our learning to life and deepened the children's understanding of the Viking era.



Year 6 - Inference based on dialogue and dialect

In English this week, Year 6 have been investigating how to characterise through dialogue. We discussed the difference between formal and informal language and practised analysing speech. We then wrote our own scripts and performed our scenes.



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. Last week's awards were given to:

- Class 1: Zante, Muntaha & Mohammad
- Class 2: Whole Class & Jack
- Class 3: Artuhan &, Dzhelyal
- Class 4: Damilola, Shaniya & Dorian
- Class 5: Annabelle & Amreen
- Class 6: Alicia, Elis & Grace



NBA Mini Hoopers

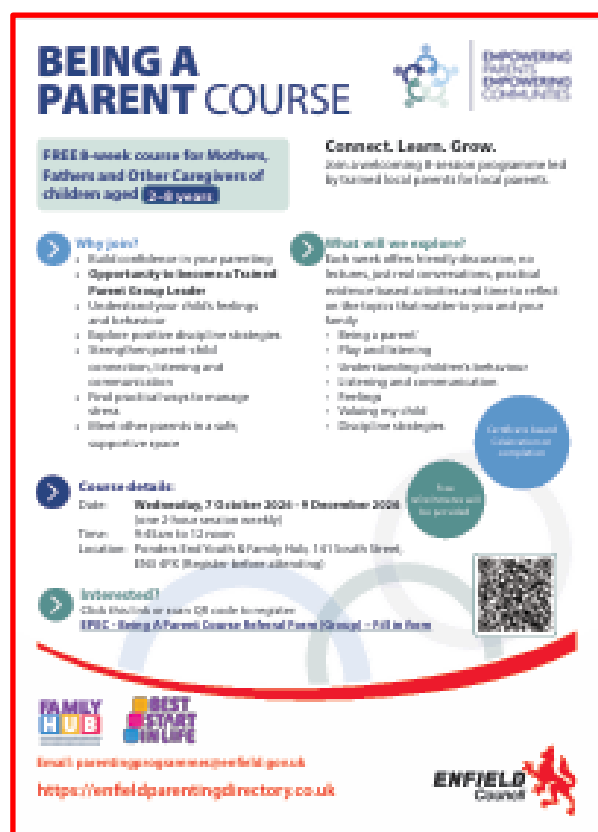
BASKETBALL SESSION

CALLING ALL MINI HOOPERS TO THE COURT : COME & JOIN US FOR OUR SESSION LAUNCH ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AT SOUTHBURY LEISURE CENTRE!

2-3 YEARS | 4:30-5:15 PM
4-6 YEARS | 5:15-6:00 PM

SESSIONS RUN EVERY TUESDAY: BOOKABLE VIA THE BETTER UK APP

BETTER



BEING A PARENT COURSE

FREE 8-week course for Mothers, Fathers and Other Carers of children aged 2-8 years

Connect. Learn. Grow.
Join a welcoming 8-session programme led by trained local parents for local parents.

Why join?

- Build confidence in your parenting
- Opportunity to become a **Trained Parent Group Leader**
- Understand your child's feelings and behaviour
- Explore positive discipline strategies
- Strengthen parent-child connections, listening and communication
- Find practical ways to manage stress
- Meet other parents in a safe, supportive space

What will we explore?

- Each week offers friendly discussion, no lectures, just real conversations, practical evidence-based activities and time to reflect on the topics that matter to you and your family
- Being a parent?
- Play and learning
- Understanding children's behaviour
- Listening and communication
- Feeling angry/child
- Discipline strategies
- Children's basic educational competences

Course details:

Date: **Wednesday, 3 October 2024 - 8 December 2024**
 (over 2-hour session weekly)
 Time: **10:00am to 12:00pm**
 Location: **Parents' Unit/Youth & Family Hub, 141 South Street, EN1 4PC (Register before attending)**

Interested?
 Click the link or scan QR code to register
EPCC - Being a Parent Course: Referral Form (Group) - Fill in Form

FAMILY HUB **BEST START FOR LIFE**

Email: parenting@enfield.gov.uk
<https://enfieldparentingdirector.co.uk>

ENFIELD Council

Community News



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.



LEAPFROG

GOOD NEWS! WE'RE COMING TO ENFIELD/WALTHAM CROSS

Award-winning multi-sports classes for Children aged 2-7.
 Our new venue is secured and ready for you.

FREE TRIAL SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

It's going to be amazing, with a different sport each week! Your child will burn off energy, build balance, agility and co-ordination, and gain confidence in a fun, pressure-free class.

Led by our incredible coach **DANIELLE SMITH**.

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL

AGED 2-4 **AGED 5-7**

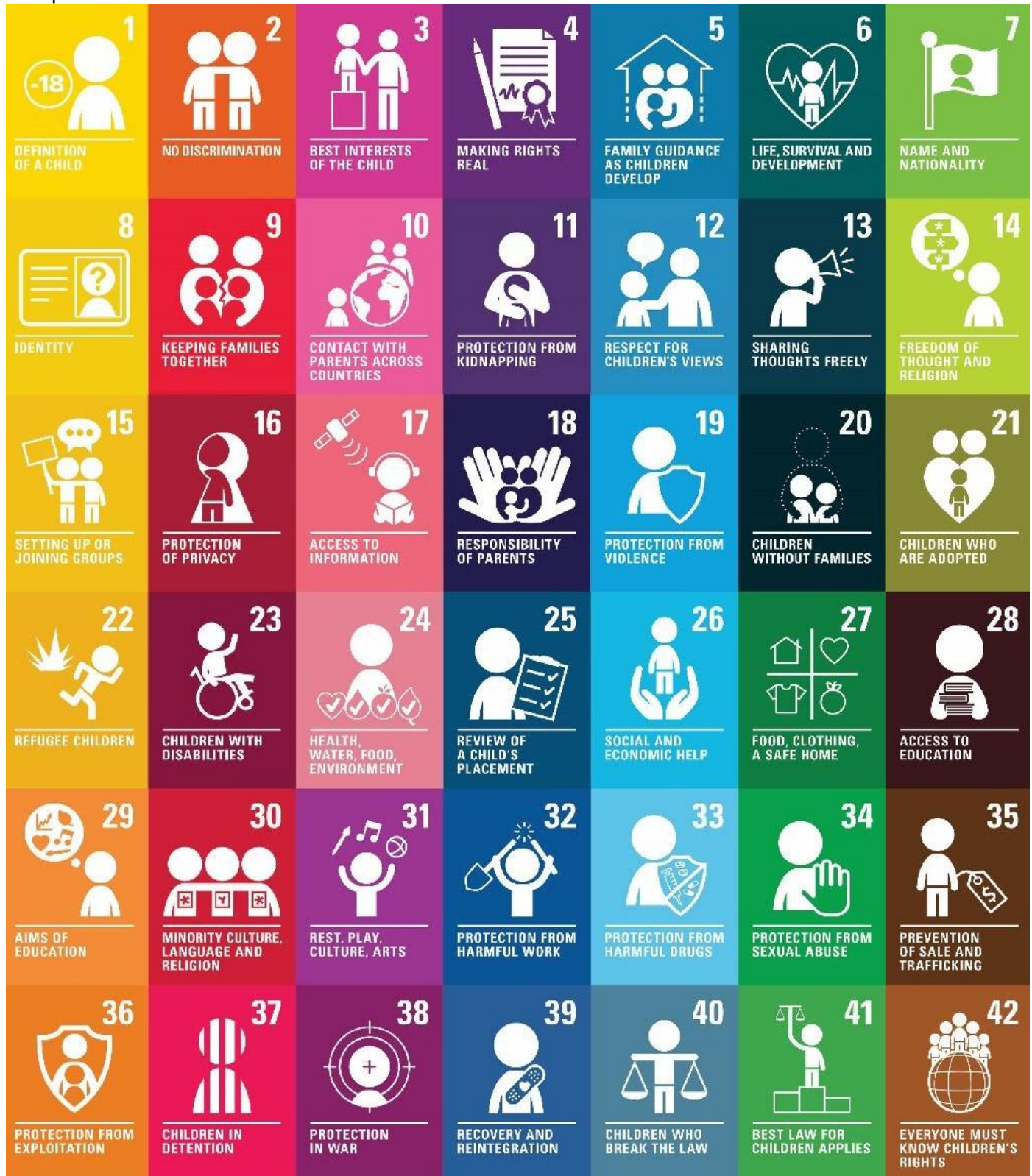
We'd love to see you there!

Powered by **SUPER STAR SPORT**

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Teaching children about their rights through the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** helps them to understand that every child is valued, protected and entitled to be safe, healthy, heard and able to learn. Learning about rights also encourages children to develop respect, responsibility and empathy for others.

Article 42 of the UNCRC states that children and adults should know and understand these rights. Parents and carers play a vital role in helping children learn about their rights and how they can uphold the rights of others through their everyday actions, relationships and choices. By working together, home and school can empower children to become confident, responsible and compassionate citizens.



St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Diary Dates for 2026-2027

October 2026

Monday 5th October – Year 1 Trip

Thursday 8th October – Year 6 meeting regarding one week residential @ 3.30pm

Friday 9th October – “Hello Yellow” World Mental Health Day – children to wear yellow along with their school uniform

Monday 12th October – Year 3 Trip

Tuesday 13th October – Harvest Festival in Church @ 9am

Wednesday 14th October – Happy School Bag Collection

Wednesday 14th October – Year 5 Swimming

Thursday 15th October - Little Wandle Meeting for EYFS and KS1 parents @ 3.30pm

Friday 16th October – Year 4 class assembly

Monday 19th October – Year 5 Trip

Wednesday 21st October – Individual School Photographs

Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October – INSET DAYS (no pupils)

Half Term - Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026

November 2026

Wednesday 4th November – Year 3 Trip

Monday 9th November - Parent Consultation Evening - 3pm to 5.30pm - School closes at 2.40pm

Wednesday 11th November - Parent Consultation Evening - 3.40pm to 6.30pm

Monday 16th November – Year 6 Trip

Tuesday 24th November – Flu Nasal Spray – Years R to 6

Friday 27th November – INSET DAY (no pupils)

December 2026

Friday 12th December – Year 3 Class Assembly

Christmas Break – Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2027

Spring Term

Monday 4th January to Thursday 25th March 2027

Half Term - Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Easter Break – Monday 30th March to Friday 9th April 2027

Monday 3rd May – May Bank Holiday (No pupils)

Summer Term

Monday 12th April to Wednesday 21st July 2027

May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2027

Half Term - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027