

St Matthew's Newsletter

Witnessing to Christ with our lives and learning

4th April 2025



Headteacher's Updates

Last week, we were incredibly blessed to receive a visit from a past, and now famous, St Matthew's pupil, **Femi Koleoso**, the drummer and lead of the very successful jazz band, Ezra Collective. It was a truly inspiring morning, as you will read in the article below.

I was also incredibly proud last week to have the honour of watching our **dance team** perform on stage at the Millfield Theatre. They were confident, professional and wowed their audience – very well done team; you were amazing! Many thanks to Miss Petris, Mrs Hind & Mrs Burey for choreographing and organising the team.

Please remember to book your child's **Summer term Parent Consultation** meeting via SchoolCloud (*emails have been sent to all parents*), being held in school on Monday 28th April 3pm to 5.30pm (*please note school closes at 2.40pm for children on this day*) and Wednesday 30th April 3.40pm to 6.30pm (*normal 3.20pm close*).

Please also look at the following documents attached to today's newsletter email:

- New summer term lunch menu
- Kids Eat Free over Easter flyer

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, I wish you all a happy and restful break, filled with peace, love and quality time with your families. Very best wishes, *Mrs Harris*



Brit Award Winner visits St Matthew's

On Monday 24th March, we were delighted to welcome back a former pupil of St Matthew's, Femi Koleoso, now part of the Brit Award winning jazz quintet, Ezra Collective.

Femi led our morning assembly, engaging the children with a drum demonstration and inviting one child from each year group to have a go! The children also had the opportunity to ask Femi questions about his career and his time as a St Matthew's pupil. They were very excited to find out that some of the staff that taught him, are now teaching them!

Femi's kindness and values really shone through, as he shared his journey in the arts and connected with and inspired all of the children...and staff! It was clear just how much his visit meant to the whole school community. He kindly donated a drum kit to the school, along with a very generous offer of paying for a drum teacher to come in and teach the pupils drum lessons.

"I like the music, so I would like to have a try at playing the drum" - Aiden Y1

"The drums were cool, and I really want to be a musician and he inspires me" - Minay Y4

"Giving me the opportunity to play the drums made me feel excited and jubilant!" - Matthew Y6



Reception

This week in Reception, as part of our learning on Travel and Transport, we went on a 'Transport Survey Hunt'. We sat outside the breakfast club entrance and counted the different types of vehicles that drove past us. We were very excited to see four buses and five motorcycles drive past. We even saw a real London taxi. We learnt about tally charts and kept a count of most of the vehicles that drove past. Unfortunately, we lost count when some sped past us, as we saw over one hundred cars! Some drivers beeped their horns and waved at us as they went past.



Year 1

In Design and Technology this term we have been finding out about different fruits and how we might make a smoothie. We practiced safely cutting and juicing different fruit before tasting some. This helped us prepare for the Smoothie bike this week, when we all were excited to ride it for the first time. Most of us enjoyed the flavour and many went back for seconds. We finished off the week by writing instructions of how we made the smoothies.



Year 2

In DT, Year 2 have been excited to finish off their purses. They showed resilience and patience when sewing their running stitch and decorated it in time for their Mother's Day gift. They were very proud of the new skill of sewing and evaluated what they enjoyed, what they found difficult and what they would do differently next time.



Year 3

The Ancient Egyptians used papyrus plants, cut into thin strips, soaked and pressed together to create a writing surface. Year 3 have been creating their own versions of these to write their own scrolls by using paper strips soaked in PVA glue. When these were dried they wrote on them using the Ancient Egyptian alphabet.



Year 4

Year four have been learning about rivers and the water cycle. This week we have carried out a number of experiments to learn more about evaporation and condensation.

"On the 3rd April 2025, Year 4 went on a trip to the River Lea. Before we went Mrs Burey showed us all of the dangers that there could be. When we were on our trip, we saw big and small boathouses and wildlife like geese, swans and birds. We stopped next to the river to draw pictures. Miss Wheeler told us that the Year 4's last year took 31 minutes to walk from Lea Valley Athletics centre back to St Matthew's. Sadly, we lost by 1 minute because we took 32 minutes. However, we had an amazing time. Thank you to the parent helpers who went with us on the trip".

Elis and Grace



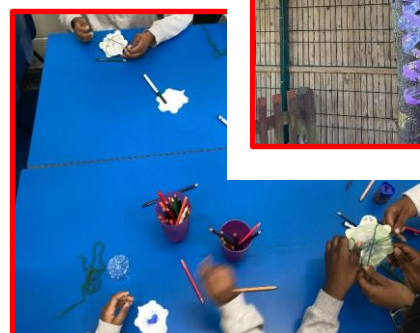
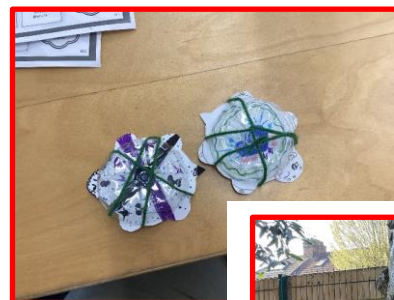
Year 5

This term in Year 5, we have been learning about Plastic and the impact that it can have on the environment. We have researched the properties of plastic and how and why it is used. We also researched the positive and negatives of using plastic.

We were extremely lucky to have EcoActive visit us to deliver an inspiring and informative workshop on plastic and how their charity aims to promote the reuse and recycling of plastic.

Our class made some turtles using the ends of plastic bottles as these creatures are severely impacted and harmed from plastic pollution.

With the remaining bottles we made some wind spinners which we have hung up around the playground.



Year 6 – Playscripts

Our class reader is a book called *The Girl Who Stole An Elephant* and we have spent this week writing playscripts based on different pages of the book. We worked together on our first draft and then acted out our playscript to the children in our class. This enabled us to understand the importance of the different elements in this genre of writing.



Enfield Dance Festival @ Millfield Theatre

We were very honoured to represent our school in the Dance Festival at the Millfield Theatre. Our theme was Broadway, and we performed the musical, *Matilda*. We had two dress rehearsals on the big stage, before performing in front of 300 people. We were very proud of our performance because we worked so hard and it was amazing!



Maintenance Fund Reminder

So far this year, we have received £1270 of parental contributions towards the Maintenance Fund. This is only **15% of the potential amount**. This fund is a part of deciding to send your child to a Church school and goes towards the maintenance of the building, which has recently included improving our drains and repairing our hot water supply to the toilets.

What parents don't pay has to be taken out of the curriculum resources budget, so please kindly contribute what you can, as this makes a difference for your children.

Many thanks for your support.

Location:
34 The Market Square,
Edmonton, N9 OTZ
07984450644

Marisa Spence
Community Support Advisor

Community SUPPORT

Our Services :

- Information Guidance and Advice
- Mini Foodbank
- Benefits, Housing, General paperwork/form filling, debt management
- Parent Support & Advocacy
- Referrals to other services
- Safeguarding Hub- safe space with trained staff to support anyone in danger or threat of harm



Opening times:
Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm
Fridays 10am-12pm
Walk-in and appointments

✉ marisa.spence@northsideyouth.co.uk
www.northsideyouth.co.uk

Community Games Easter 25

@ DURANTS PARK - MONDAY 14TH 11AM - PLAYGROUND

@ PONDERS END PARK - TUESDAY 15TH 11.AM - CHANGING ROOMS

TREASURE EASTER EGG HUNT @ THE QUBE - 11AM SUNDAY 20TH

Easter School Holiday
Futsal Club Enfield in the Community
Friends of
Durants & Ponders End Parks




hosted by:


Successful Start to Secondary School

- Is your child in **Year 6?**
- Are you worried about their transition to secondary school?
- Would you like a space to talk or to learn how to help them, through support strategies?

Join us and representatives from Education, Health and Social Care to work together for a successful transition

- Thursday 12th June 2025
- Enfield Cineworld
- 10am - 2:30pm



Limited Places!

- Face to face sessions delivered by professionals from the Enfield SEND Partnership
- Get practical tips and resources to support your child through transition
- Join us in meeting services and other parents/carers

SIGN UP!

SCAN ME



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens - with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive "stories", broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app - and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, often uses text and video to interact with users, which often results in it can blur boundaries for young users, who may chat with or send content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The live-stream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers - or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that can embarrass, humiliate, or engage in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive, and not always consensual, pictures while watching.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's new app for public text-based conversations. Posts from threads appear on users' Instagram feeds and can be shared to text, share, and comment on public content directly with anyone. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be reposted or forwarded.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's new ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive unsolicited messages in their DMs throughout the school day even before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact, being uninvited, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often leads to low self-worth. There's a real risk that this can lead to increased self-harm and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in safety controls help parents monitor Instagram time. They can limit screen time on the app, restrict "seen" accounts and private by default, and other options to help manage their child's Instagram use. Parents should ensure their child understands how to use these tools when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram - and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about likes, body images, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to seek online approval or chase "likes" to be valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Schools, too, should be helping to help children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as an opportunity to talk about the difference between genuine and sponsored content and to discuss how to spot fake news and other persuasive content that might impact their beliefs.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Hayward is an experienced education and IT specialist who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has also carried out research for the Australian government concerning screen use and wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.




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Diary Dates for 2024-25

April 2025

Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April – EASTER HOLIDAYS – School Closed

Tuesday 22nd April – School re-opens for all children

Saturday 26th April am – Mini London Marathon – all pupils welcome to sign up!

Monday 28th April – 3pm to 5.30pm - Parent Consultations – Please note that School closes at 2.40pm for all children on Monday

Wednesday 30th April – 3.40pm to 6.30pm - Parent Consultations

May 2025

Monday 12th- Thursday 15th May – KS2 SATS week for Year 6 pupils

Friday 16th May – Year 3 Class Assembly – *Y3 Parents Invited*

Tuesday 20th May – Happy School Bag collection

Wednesday 21st May – World Cultural day pm – *All families invited*

Thursday 22nd May - Governing Board meeting 1-3pm – *FGB members only*

Monday 26th – Friday 29th May – May Half Term

June 2025

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th June – Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 pupils

Monday 9th – Friday 13th June – Phonics Screener Tests for Year 1 pupils

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th June – Year 6 New Forest Residential

July 2025

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th July – Secondary Transfer Days for Year 6

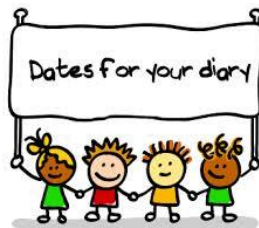
Friday 11th July – Y1 Class Assembly – *Y1 Parents Invited*

Friday 11th July – Reports out to Parents

Monday 14th July pm – Transition afternoon – all children visit new class & teacher

Monday 14th July 3.20-4pm Open Evening – Discuss reports /meet next year's teacher

Friday 18th July – last day of 2024/2025 term



This Week's Attendance Winners

Best attendance for the last week was won by Year 4 with 100% and this week the winners were Year 5 with 96.5%.

AMAZING!!

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