

# St Matthew's Newsletter

Witnessing to Christ with our lives and learning

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



## Headteacher's Update

St Matthew's have been offered the exciting opportunity to be a trial school for the Department of Education's (DfE's) offer of a **free breakfast for all pupils**. This will run **during the Summer term from 8.15-8.45am**. Further details will follow; however, please note pupils must be **at school by 8.30am** in order to eat breakfast before their lessons start. This provision will be in addition to our existing paid breakfast club offer from 7.30am each day, which will continue to cost £2 for those pupils attending between 7.30am - 8.15am.

In order to organise this provision properly, we really need all parents to respond to our online survey by 4pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Please use this link: <https://forms.gle/HDSZZg1M7cSirajM6>

A few other important notices:

- **Important meeting for all Year 3 Parents** on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm in the school hall. This meeting will give you all the details you require about your children's residential trip for 3 days and 2 nights to Cuffley Camp in Year 4. As part of our revised curriculum, we plan to take all Yr 4 pupils to experience a range of outdoor and adventurous activities, including shelter building, laser tag, crate stacking, climbing and ziplining. It is character building & so much fun!
- **Save the date:** St Matthew's are taking part in the **Mini London Marathon** on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Hyde Park. It is a fabulous experience. More details to follow soon!
- Despite our Year 6 pupils' petitions and letters to the council and MPs requesting to **save Enfield libraries**, 7 local libraries within the borough are sadly soon going to be closed. We are fortunate that both Ponders End and Edmonton libraries are remaining open for now; however, it is really important that we use them. The children have really enjoyed their visits as part of World Book Day week. Libraries are free and it's not just the books! – for more info, read Reception's article.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, *Mrs Harris*

## FOSM

We are delighted to announce that the **Valentine's Disco** which took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February raised £422. As you can see from the photos, it is evident that the children all had a lovely time.

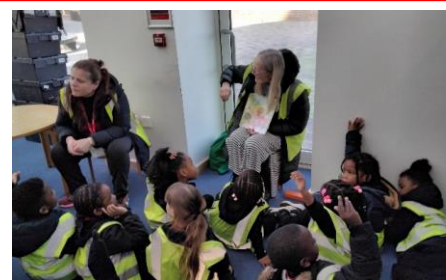
Thank you to everyone who purchased a Wonderlicious Bar for World Book Day. The **Golden Tickets** for class prizes were won by: Sharon (Y4) and Dzhelyal (Y1) for extended playtime ; Joshua-Cai (Y2) won his class Ice lollies and Isabelle (Y6) and Noah (Y4) won their classes a movie afternoon. The seven lucky children to win books were Rhea (Y6), Amayah (Y6), Dolcie-May (Y1), Elis (Y4), Damilola (Y2), Luenna (Y5) and Ayman (Y5).

The next FOSM event is the **Bingo Night** taking place next **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**– don't forget to buy your tickets!



## Reception

This week, Reception were excited to visit Ponders End Library as part of our World Book Day celebrations. The children got to choose a selection of books to bring back and enjoy at school. It was our first trip away from school and the children were all very well behaved. Mrs Palmer chose a book to read to the class. The children enjoyed their visit and are hoping that they can return to the library with their parents so that they can borrow some books for their own homes. Ponders End Library is one of four community libraries within the Edmonton Green Hub. The library is located at ground level, providing public use of eight PCs, scanner, photocopying and unlimited Wi-Fi access. It is free to borrow books from the library. We hope that our families can visit the library and access the free facilities on offer.



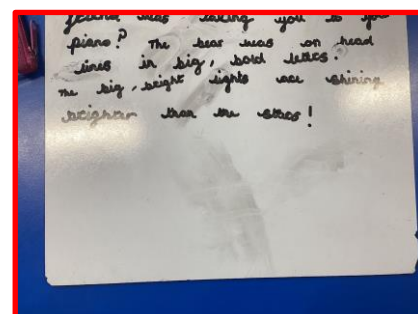
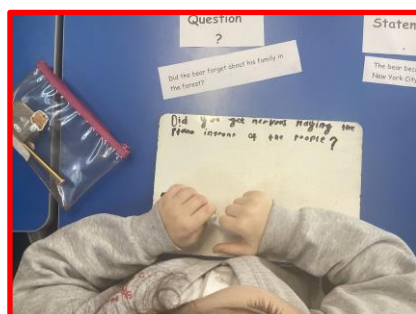
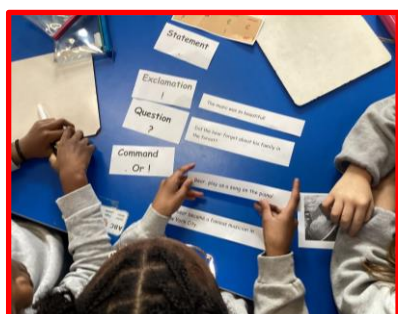
## Year 1's trip to the library

As part of Book Week, Year 1 visited Ponders End library. We enjoyed looking at the books, reading some together, listening to a story and bringing a selection back to school. We are looking forward to hearing these stories in class. Many of us now want to visit the library with our parents.



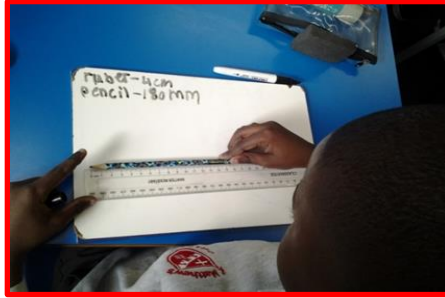
## Year 2

In Year 2 English, we have started to differentiate between a statement, question, command and exclamation and picked out things such as punctuation that would help us to tell the difference. We then used this knowledge to match them up to the examples related to book, 'The Bear and the Piano'. After, some of us started to create our own examples.



### Year 3

This week, Year 3 were using their knowledge of shape definitions to measure and calculate the perimeter of various shapes, along with the ability to measure, draw and compare lengths in metres, centimetres and millimetres. Children have also been experimenting with traditional colours and shapes to design their own hieroglyphic inspired artwork.



### Year 4 & 5 Campers

44 of our Year 4 & 5 pupils joined Mrs Harris, Mr Poxon, Mrs Tompkins, Mrs Hands and Miss Logan this week for 3 days and 2 nights of fun, adventurous and challenging activities in the outdoors at Cuffley Camp. We were really lucky to have great weather and an amazing group of children with such positive attitudes, who were willing to challenge themselves and showed fantastic levels of perseverance and resilience. Such super qualities! The staff were incredibly proud of them all for their achievements, as well as their great team spirit and encouragement for each other. They really all did achieve massive heights over the 3 days!



"Cuffley inspired me to step out of my comfort zone and taught me to "take risks" and "let your worries take flight" – **Precious Y5.**

## Year 5

In English, we have been looking at debate features and the structure of a debate. We planned a debate on "St Matthews should not have a school uniform". Children were split into two groups, agree and disagree. We had a great time debating this topic and everyone shared their own argument.

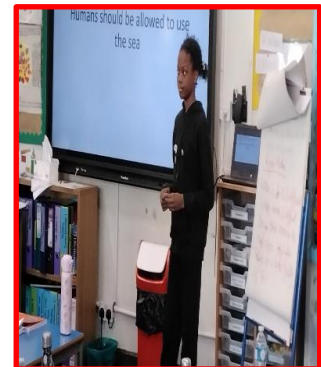


## Year 6 debate whether or not humans should be allowed to use the Sea

The pupils in Class 6 had a very interesting debate about whether or not humans should be allowed to use the sea, in preparation for them writing a balanced argument. Many interesting facts were divulged. Below are a couple of arguments for and against:

- Globally over 700 million people depend on fishing for their livelihoods. However, overfishing could lead to extinction.
- Tourism and recreation are a vital source of revenue for many countries. On the other hand, humans pollute the beach with plastic which can sometimes drift out to sea.

They concluded that there were many arguments both for and against and that it is imperative for our future well-being that we all look after the sea and treat it with the respect it deserves.



## Mental Health & Wellbeing Workshop for Years 5 & 6

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Year 5 and 6 had an assembly with two wonderful people from AnthroVision.

This was aimed at mental wellbeing, growing confidence and teaching children how they can take small steps to achieve their goals. They also listened to some stories about resilience, after people had been knocked back, yet still went on to achieve.



## Maintenance Fund Reminder

So far this year, we have received £1250 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.

Reminders!

## FOODBANK

Please remember we have a **school uniform and food bank**. If you require any support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Michael in the school office, in confidence. She can prepare you a bag of store cupboard foods and/or school uniform.



## This Week's Attendance Winners

Best attendance for last week was jointly won by Years 2 and 5 with 100%! This week, best attendance was won by Year 3 with 98.6%!

**AMAZING!!**

**"My mummy saved my life"**

You can save a life too!

**Free first aid courses for families**

- Gain life saving skills
- Learn about child health
- Get to know us and more services in your area
- Free childcare during sessions too!



"Practising on the dolls was great! I feel much more confident now"

ABC Parents  
Haringey & Enfield



Follow us on



Scan QR code or contact us:

Telephone: 07977 076099

Email: northmid.abcparents@nhs.net

Website: www.northmid.nhs.uk/abcparents



**FREE FAMILY FUNDAY**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Come along any time 10am - 3pm  
Music corner | Biscuit decorating | Games  
T-shirt design | Treasure hunt | And more...

For children aged 0-11 (and their adults)  
Packed lunches available for £1.50

St Matthew's Church,  
South Street, EN3 4AL

www.pondersend.church  
jeremy@pondersend.church



All the National College, our stakeholders guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Expertly reviewed by National Crime Agency. These guides have a dedicated online help and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The very new e-guides with that has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on video media, dictations in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**  
Before integrating technology, consider the types of text used in your program. While text on an e-reader, digital reading pens can assist by opening and closing pages, these tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties and can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. Digital reading and practice are helpful, but they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**  
Many devices allow users to customize text for better readability. Reducing font size and background color can significantly enhance readability for low-vision students. A dark background is the easiest to see, whereas white text is best for dyslexic students. Text designed to help those who are struggling. Reading software can be personalized to suit each student's needs and reading level, making it more comfortable and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**  
Many reading devices include built-in tools designed to support students. These features can be found in settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-voice, speech-to-text and magnification. Reading software often includes digital reading pens that are especially helpful for students with reading difficulties. These tools can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**  
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, highlighting and highlighting. These features can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**  
Many video games offer digital literacy tools. These tools can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**  
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to improve reading skills. An option within their YouTube channel or video player, they can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**  
Audiobooks are an excellent way to improve reading skills. They can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**  
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words and sentences into a device. This feature can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**  
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for students to read. This feature can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
While social media provides opportunities for reading, it also presents risks. Parents and educators should use parental controls to monitor their children's online activity. This feature can be used to preview text before the start of their reading sessions. While digital tools are helpful, they can be spread over time and reading practice.

Meet Our Expert  
Cristina Davis is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She has worked in the field of special needs for over 15 years. She is a member of the National Association of Special Educational Needs (NAS) and has a wealth of experience in supporting students with learning difficulties, autism, and other special needs. She is passionate about helping all students achieve their full potential and is a regular speaker at conferences and workshops.

WakeUp Wednesday  
The National College

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## Diary Dates for 2024-25

### March 2025

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March – St Matthew's Church Family Fun Day – 10am to 3pm**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Usborne Book Fair in school all day**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm – Year 3 Parents meeting for Yr 4 Residential 2026**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 5pm to 7pm - FOSM Bingo Night for Yrs 5 & 6 and Parents**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 9am – Parent Reps Meeting**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 9am – Year 2 Class Assembly – *Y2 Parents Invited***

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 School trip to The British Museum**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – School Racial Equity Review – *Parents welcome 9am***

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Governing Board meeting 7pm – *FGB members only***

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm – Year 5 Parents meeting for Yr 6 Residential 2026**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm to 3.15pm – FOSM Mother's Day Tea**

### April 2025

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 3.30pm to 5.30pm – Easter Fair**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – 9am – Easter Service at St Matthew's Church**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – EASTER HOLIDAYS – School Closed**

### May 2025

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April am – Mini London Marathon – all pupils welcome to sign up!**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 SATS week for Year 6 pupils**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 Class Assembly – *Y3 Parents Invited***

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – World Cultural day pm – *All families invited***

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

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – May Half Term**

### June 2025

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Multiplication Tables Check for Year 4 pupils**

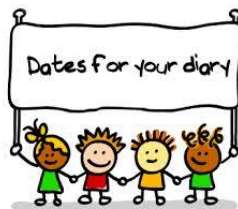
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Phonics Screener Tests for Year 1 pupils**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Residential**

### July 2025

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Y1 Class Assembly – *Y1 Parents Invited***

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – last day of 2024/2025 term**



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