

St Matthew's Newsletter

Witnessing to Christ with our lives and learning

13th June 2025



Headteacher's News

This week we are celebrating the hard work of all those children in Years 1, 2, 4 & 6 who have been taking part in National Statutory Assessments over the last month. I am very proud of them all for being so focused and showing such positive attitudes – very well done to you all!

Our School Vision & Values Update: Inspired by the children's love for the song *My Lighthouse* and the valuable feedback gathered from children, parents, staff, and governors throughout the year, we have been led to embrace a powerful guiding principle for our revised vision. The Bible verse, *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16), beautifully encapsulates what we wish for our St Matthew's children—a message of encouragement, purpose, and the celebration of each child's unique gifts. This verse feels especially fitting as it aligns with our shared hope that every child will recognise their talents and qualities, using them to inspire and uplift those around them. It is an accessible and meaningful message that resonates with children and adults alike. We look forward to further developments, and we encourage you to share your thoughts as we shape this vision together!



When I initially advertised our **free Breakfast Club**, over 75 children were signed up as showing an interest to attend. To date, there's been a maximum of 38 children attend. Sadly this is creating food wastage, as we have been purchasing breakfast for all who signed up. This goes against our school aim of reducing food waste through supporting the Felix Project. If you initially signed up and have changed your mind, please kindly email the office as a matter of importance so that we purchase accordingly. Otherwise please send your children in at 8.15am. As my flyer says – **What's not to love about having an extra 30 minutes to yourself each morning!**

Important Notices:

- We are now on **social media!** Please follow our **Instagram** page at **st_matthews_school** to keep up to date with our news.
- A big thank you to Kirsty for organising another FOSM event almost single-handedly – our Plant Sale raised £52.50! It would be great to see an increase in parents supporting the organisation of school events please. **Your help is really needed for our FOSM Summer Fair.** Please play your part & volunteer to help with planning or setting up / clearing up or running a stall.
- Following our RSHE meeting for parents last week, I would like to draw your attention to the **NSPCC programme**, further down in the newsletter, which the children will be participating in.
- The newsletter article **"Schools in Enfield implement smartphone-free policy"** & attached letter are an essential read, as no smartphones will be allowed in primary schools from September 2025.
- Join us to celebrate National Best Friends Day on Monday - Friendship Bracelets will be available to make in school and buy after school.
- Please make sure that you note **next year's term dates** in your calendars!

Enjoy the sunny weekend & please ensure that your children are equipped with water bottles, sun hats/caps and sun cream for next week's weather. Many thanks, *Mrs Harris*

Reception



Reception have been learning about caterpillars. We have watched our caterpillars growing bigger and have been finding out about the lifecycle of a caterpillar. We have read the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

"The caterpillars will turn into butterflies" – *Sapphire*

"They like eating" – *Cynthia*

"The wings are growing" – *Clive*

In the story the "caterpillars eat all the food" - *Gideon*



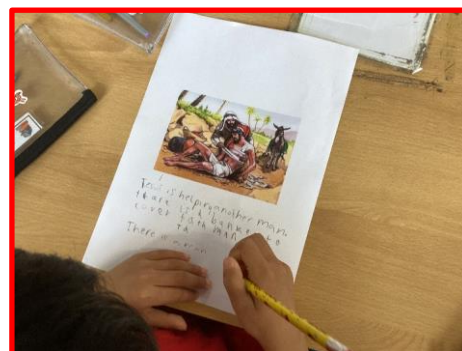
Year 1

In Year 1 we started our new RE topic: Why did Jesus tell stories? We talked about our favourite stories and why we liked them.

Ava likes Elmer because of all the rainbow colours.

Karis likes Goldilocks, especially when Goldilocks eats the bears' porridge.

We then looked at some pictures and wrote down what we could see. We also wrote down some questions we wanted to ask about what was happening in the pictures. Next week, we will find out about some of Jesus' stories and their message to Christians.



Year 2

In Year 2 Art, we have had fun exploring with the different ways to mould our clay and used the tool to mark and cut it. Afterwards, we used these new skills to make our own creative pieces!

"We had to be quick with creating our models because the clay dries super fast!" - *Leyla*



"I made a self-portrait clay. I flattened it with the palm of my hands and used my nail to make the eyes and mouth" – *Shaniya*

Year 3

Year 3 children took part in an engaging and educational Carbon Monoxide Safety Workshop where they learned about the dangers of carbon monoxide, how to stay safe at home and the importance of having a CO alarm.

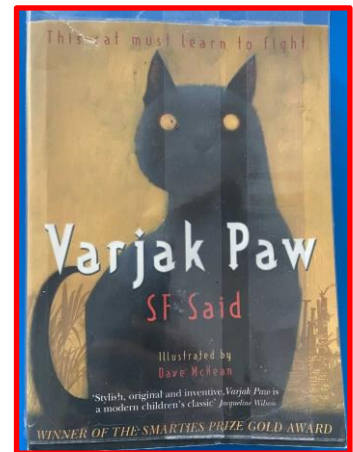
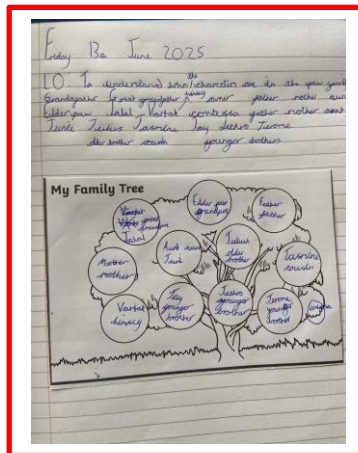
"When cooking, I learnt that good fire is blue and bad fire is orange" - *Annabelle*



Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been thoroughly enjoying *Varjak Paw*! We've explored Varjak's feelings as he steps into the Outside world for the first time, from fear and confusion to bravery and curiosity.

The children have made thoughtful predictions about what might happen next and have shown great insight into Varjak's emotions. It's clear they're fully engaged in the story and excited to continue the adventure!



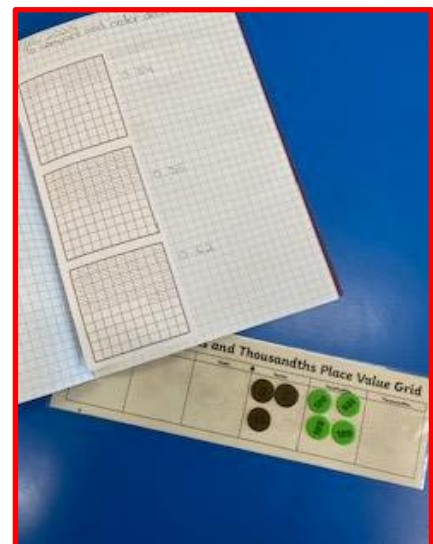
Year 5 - Fractions and Decimals

Over the last two weeks in Maths, we have been studying fractions and decimals. We have learnt them separately and explored the relationship between them. We use lots of concrete resources such as place value charts, counters and Numicon. We have drawn them on hundred squares and plotted them on number lines. The children have made great progress over the last two weeks!

Well done, Year 5!

"I have found the Maths a lot easier because it has been broken down into smaller parts." *Emma*

"The way it was broken down made it easier for me to understand and now I can convert fractions and decimals" *Luenna*



Year 6 - Authors

We were given this amazing opportunity to write and publish a book with the help of Toyin Owoseje. After spending 12 weeks on writing, drawing and editing, we created a masterpiece called '**Trapped at School**'. We collaborated with 4 Year 5's: Maramawit, Natasha, Nabhan and Ayeyi. It was a sentimental experience and something to cherish for the rest of our lives.

Thank you to Toyin Owoseje and Mrs Halil for this remarkable activity.

Aioke, Amayah, Aisha and Rico



"Schools in Enfield implement smartphone-free policy"

Smartphone-free schools are becoming increasingly common as more schools and communities recognise the potential negative impact of smartphones on learning, mental health & well-being. Therefore, **Enfield council and Headteachers have produced a letter explaining our decision and reasons for banning smartphones in primary schools and Year 7 from September 2025. Please take the time to read this and the letter attached to this newsletter email**

St Matthew's already have a no smartphone policy; however, this is not completely respected by all families. I urge your cooperation with making the decision to support this policy, in the best interest of your children and their wellbeing.

What is the reason for this?

Smartphone-free environments reduce distractions from notifications, risks from cyberbullying, help to boost learning, increase face-to-face interactions and protect students' mental health and well-being.

The "**Smartphone Free Childhood**" movement encourages parents to delay smartphone purchases for their children until they are at least 14 & to delay social media access until 16.



NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe* Programme

We are pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. Programme*** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children in Years 2, 5 & 6. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Parents and carers are asked to let school know if their child may have experienced anything (in the past or happening now) which may mean they need extra support before, during or after taking part in this programme.

If you'd like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Feedback survey for pupils aged 7-11

The NSPCC would like to gather feedback from pupils aged between 7-11 about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme to gauge their learning. **This will be voluntary and children can still take part in the programme if they don't take part in the survey.**

- All survey questions are multiple choice and focussed on the programme.
- The survey is anonymous and confidential. However, if in the process of completing the survey, a teacher becomes concerned for a pupil's welfare (e.g., through something a pupil says) we will follow our school's safeguarding procedures.
- If you **do not** want your child to take part in the **survey**, please let Mrs Tridgell know.
- If you have agreed that your child can take part in the survey but your child changes their mind on the day, that is also okay

Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe:

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.



Parent/Carer support Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. www.nspcc.org.uk/parents	Activities to extend learning at home Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe. www.nspcc.org.uk/activities
Online Safety Hub For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety	Childline – under 12's Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7) www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)
Talk PANTS with your children Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants .	

St Matthew's C of E Primary School
are supporting the DfE Free Breakfast Clubs



What's not to love about 30 minutes of free childcare AND a free breakfast to start your child's day?!




Disability Advice Network Enfield

Disability Advice Network Enfield (DANE) is a new FREE advice service for people with disabilities, offering:

- Friendly advice about your rights and support options
- Help using digital tools and getting online
- Access to assistive technology
- Local events, drop-ins, health and wellbeing and community support

Who we are:
 DANE is a partnership between Enfield Citizens Advice, Age UK Enfield, Edmonton Community Partnership, and Wellbeing Connect Services.

How to get in touch:
 ☎ 03333 440 034
 ✉ dane@Enfieldcab.org.uk
 🌐 www.citizensadviceenfield.org.uk

Opening Times:
 Monday to Friday
 9.30am - 5pm



A Brilliant Gift from AQUILA Children's Magazine



Join our BIG Summer Read Now!

Dear Family,

Here is a great idea we thought you would love: something to keep children reading right through the summer – whether they are on a plane, train or just chilling in the back garden.

To keep them interested in learning over the holidays, this generous give-away offers families FREE ACCESS to award-winning AQUILA, a magazine that's carefully designed for curious kids of 8 - 14.

All this included:

- Free access to AQUILA's Digital App from June to September
- View over 100 brilliant topic-based magazines, all packed with serious facts, fun puzzles, science and quality creative content
- Perfect for holidays or travel – just download to work offline
- Totally free: no cost, no commitment or automatic renewal

To get started right-away:

- Go to: aquila.co.uk/summerdigital
- Enter the code: SUMMERPASS
- Fill in your details: no payment or card details will be taken
- That's it! AQUILA will guide you through the rest. So what are you waiting for?

Happy reading – and make sure to tell all your friends!

All through the long summer days... Children can immerse themselves in thoughtful, top quality writing. Your free subscription will expire 90 days from sign-up. The last order date for this offer is 30/06/23.

Big Ideas for Inquisitive Kids AQUILA.CO.UK



MUSIC LESSONS FOR AUTUMN 2025

Book by Tuesday 1st July!

The deadline to book lessons and instrument hire for the Autumn term 2025 is Tuesday 1st July 2025.

Lessons need to be booked by visiting <https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore>. If you have any questions, please visit the [FAQs](#) section which provides up-to-date information on all EMS services or call 020 8807 8881.



This Fortnight's Attendance Stars

Best attendance for week ending 6th June was won by Year 5 with 95.3% and this week was won by Year 3 with 97.6% - **WELL DONE TO YEARS 5 & 3!**

Just a reminder that it is expected for all pupils' attendance to be 96% or more... please make sure you are getting your children in to school and on time.

Diary Dates for 2024-25

Monday 16th June 3.20pm – **Friendship Bracelet Sale for National Best Friends' Day**

Wednesday 18th June – KS2 Sports Day 9am @ Ponders End Park

Thursday 19th June – Rec & KS1 Sports Day 9am @ Alma Primary

Thursday 19th June – KS2 District Sports competition at Lea Valley (*for selected pupils*)

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

Wednesday 25th June 9-10am Nursery Stay & Play

July 2025

Tuesday 1st July – Year 3 taking LAMDA exam

Thursday 3rd July 9-10am – Reception & Nursery 2025/26 starters Stay & Play session

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

Friday 11th July 3.20 – 5.30pm – Summer Fair

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

Tuesday 15th July – **2.30pm FOSM Annual General Meeting – *all parents invited***

- **3.45pm – Year 6 Production of "Aladdin"**

Wednesday 16th July - Governing Board meeting 5-7pm – *FGB members only*

Thursday 17th July at 9am – End of Year Thanksgiving Service in St Matthew's Church

- *All Parents & Families Invited*

Friday 18th July 2pm finish – last day of 2024/2025 term



Matthew's C of E Primary School Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term

Monday 1st September - INSET Day (No pupils)

Tuesday 2nd September to Friday 19th December 2025

Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th October - INSET Days (No pupils)

Half Term - Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025

Friday 28th November - INSET Day (No pupils)

Christmas Break – Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term

Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March 2026

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

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

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

Summer Term

Monday 13th April to Monday 20th July 2026

May Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May 2026

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

Monday 20th July - INSET Day (No pupils)

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Email: office@st-matthews.enfield.sch.uk