



SCHOOL FAMILY NEWS

Awesome Autumn, St Matthew's!

St Matthew's has come to the end of the first academic half-term of 2025-2026 and what a busy half term it was! So let's look back together at what seems to have been a whirlwind of a half term. St Matthew's as always, you have been nothing short of awesome. I continue to watch you grow with us with such pride and cannot believe I am lucky enough to be your Headteacher!

Football bringing our community together

I'm excited to share a wonderful story of community spirit that's unfolded right here at our school! It all started at a recent kids' football match where a conversation with Andy sparked something truly special. One of our parents approached Mr Glinka about our children's football kit, querying why we no longer had one. As many of you might remember, our last kit was sponsored by Kickstart a few years ago, and over time, those kits gradually disappeared. We've been hoping to fundraise for a new kit, and what happened next is nothing short of amazing!

The parent who initiated this conversation didn't just stop at talking. They went ahead and started a GoFundMe page to support our football kit fundraiser. In an incredible show of support to the school, they've already raised £200 towards our goal! But the generosity doesn't stop there! Yesterday, a local Trees Estate resident, whose children previously attended St Matthew's, heard about our fundraising efforts. She was so touched that she's offered an additional £100 donation to the school. She'll be dropping this off tomorrow, further supporting our children's sporting aspirations. It's moments like these that remind me how wonderfully connected our school community is. What started as a simple conversation has turned into a collaborative effort to support our children's sporting dreams. We're truly grateful for the kindness and proactive spirit of our parents and community members. This is exactly what makes St Matthew's such a special place.

Year 6 at Robinwood - September 2025



Back in September, our Year 6 children went on their incredible residential trip to Robinwood in Todmorden. Over three days, our children embarked on an adventure that has clearly made a significant impact. Listening to their experiences has been an absolute delight. The range of activities they participated in has visibly boosted their confidence, with each child challenging themselves in ways that have pushed their personal boundaries. What stands out most is the transformation we've witnessed. The children have returned with a renewed sense of self-belief and enthusiasm. Watching them share their stories, you can see the growth - not just in their words, but in their demeanour and spirit. They've learned valuable lessons about teamwork, resilience, and personal challenges that extend far beyond the typical classroom experience.

St Matthew's Day

On Friday 26th September, we celebrated our annual St Matthew's Day. This was a huge success and children did themselves proud as they let their light shine within school and across Stretford.



Our Early Years and Year 1 children planted bulbs that were delivered to homes on the Trees Estate. Residents were pleased to receive these plants alongside a handmade card. Willow class had their litter pickers and bags at the ready and made sure our grounds and local area were clean and tidy. Year 5 produced prayer cards for the church harvest collection, to provide messages of hope to families. The Year 6 class were exceptional hosts as they held a coffee morning in the hall. They put smiles on many faces of the families who stayed for some cake and a conversation.

Mellow Yellow Day

On the 10th October 2025, we held our first World Mental Health Day of the year. It is important that we cover these types of events, so that St Matthew's children feel that they're not alone with their mental health when they are not ok and ensure that they have a bank of ideas to support themselves with when they do not feel ok. As always the day was a powerful reminder of our commitment to supporting the emotional and psychological well-being of every member of our school community. We believe that by openly discussing mental health, we can help reduce stigma and create a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and understood.



Decade Day

We cannot thank everyone enough for making our decade day such a huge success. It was definitely a day to remember as our children went back in time and learned about a variety of decades. The energy and enthusiasm throughout the school were truly remarkable. Our children transformed themselves, diving deep into historical periods from the 1940s to the 1990s. The commitment from our families was extraordinary - the effort and time that went into the children's costumes was simply incredible. Everyone looked amazing! This wasn't just a dress-up day; it was a rich, immersive learning experience. Our children had the opportunity to step into different historical eras, experiencing education and culture from decades before they were born. It was a unique chance to turn back time and learn in the same way as previous generations.



A special highlight was our 1980s Grange Hill Lunch, which added an extra layer of authenticity to our historical journey. The day was a testament to our school's commitment to creative, interactive learning. By allowing our children to step into different time periods, we're not just teaching history - we're helping them connect with the past and understand how education and society have evolved. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible - our dedicated staff, our incredible children, and our supportive families. Your creativity, enthusiasm, and participation made this decade day an unforgettable experience.

Public Hall Trip



On **Wednesday 15th October**, we had an exciting whole school adventure we recently experienced at Stretford Public Hall. Our children, from Nursery through to Year 6, embarked on a wonderful educational journey exploring this historic building and its significant community role.

During our visit, our children were immersed in learning about the building's rich history and the incredible range of community events that take place within its walls. The morning was filled with discovery and engagement, with each child having the opportunity to participate in a wonderfully creative activity - designing and colouring their own window tiles.

Show Racism the Red Card

On **Friday 17th October**, we held our Show Racism the Red Card Day. It was a remarkable day of reflection and learning. Our children approached the discussions with remarkable maturity and thoughtfulness. They demonstrated exceptional respect while exploring complex themes of equality and fairness. Each child listened carefully and contributed meaningfully to conversations about how we can create a more inclusive and compassionate world, this aligns with our Peace Mala and Rights and Respecting work perfectly!

Let Your Light Shine

The visual impact of everyone wearing red was striking, symbolising our collective commitment to standing against racism. Throughout the day, our children explored how we can show respect to one another and understand our fundamental right to be treated equally.



Hello Autumn Event

Our 'Hello Autumn' event was a magical celebration of the season, bringing our entire school community together in the most delightful way. Our children and their families embarked on an exciting Autumn Hunt across our beautiful school grounds on the 18th October, exploring every corner from the den building area to the field and playgrounds. Armed with maps, they discovered hidden pumpkins and embraced the spirit of exploration. It was heartening to see such enthusiasm and curiosity. As the hunt concluded, Children were treated to hot chocolate with marshmallows and a sweet popcorn surprise. The day's final delight was revealing the cook's special choice which could only be revealed when the children collected all of the letters from the pumpkins: which was pumpkin soup. Many thanks to all of the staff who gave up their weekend to support this lovely event and the wonderful families who joined us on the day!

Myro Artwork

Myro, a talented artist, returned to school this week to complete a stunning mural in our school hall that truly captures the essence of St Matthew's. The artwork is a vibrant celebration of our school's spirit, adding a bright burst of colour to our learning environment. This beautiful piece not only transforms our space but also visually represents the qualities that make our school special. It's a wonderful testament to creativity and the importance of artistic expression in our educational journey. A huge thank you has to go to our FAF (Friends and Families of St Matthew's) who have completely funded this artwork!

This mural serves as a daily reminder of the unique character and values that define St Matthew's CE Primary School, creating an inspiring backdrop for our children's learning and growth.



Let Your Light Shine

Fire Fighter Visit

On Thursday afternoon of this week, we welcomed a team of local firefighters from Stretford Fire Station to school. We had the fantastic opportunity to go outside, look inside the fire engine, and even have a go at using the water hose! They talked to us about fire safety, particularly with Bonfire Night and Halloween approaching. We learned important safety tips such as:

- *Always keep a safe distance from fireworks and bonfires.*
- *Never play with matches or lighters.*
- *Stop, drop and roll if your clothing catches fire.*
- *Make sure an adult always supervises any fire or firework*



Attendance

In light of the big push by the Government and Trafford on attendance, we continue to monitor our closely and need to share our attendance with you and as you will already know. The goal is to get our classes to 97% - 100%, as you can see on the table for our last week at school, this is something that is definitely improving in most year groups and we are now much closer to National Standards(97%). Well done everyone!

Class	Attendance %
Nursery	100
Reception	95
Year One	93
Year Two	94
Year Three	98
Year Four	97
Year Five	97

Year Six	94
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Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Cronin!

We say goodbye to our wonderful SENDCO, Mrs Cronin, today as she leaves St Matthews. Whilst it is always difficult to say goodbye to such a valued member of staff, we are also incredibly proud of her as she moves on to a well-deserved promotion. Mrs Cronin will be greatly missed, but I am sure you will join me as we wish her every success and happiness as she continues to develop her leadership at her new school.

Weduc and Key Dates

Just a reminder that all key information is sent out to our school family via Weduc. Please keep an eye on messages and notices coming out via the app! Key dates for the term are attached and will be added to the Weduc calendar.

We ***Let Our Lights Shine Brightly Every Day*** at St Matthew's and have had fabulous learning experiences! We cannot wait to see what the next half term brings. Have a lovely rest over the break. We look forward to seeing you all at the gate on Tuesday 4th November!

Enjoy yourselves and spend some much needed time with your loved ones!

Miss Lynton