

# SCHOOL FAMILY NEWS

2nd April 2026

## St Matthew's Spring Spectacular

As we come to the end of Spring 2, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly memorable half term here at St Matthew's. It's been a period filled with wonderful moments, both big and small, that our children and families will treasure for years to come.

This half term has certainly tested us in different ways. We've navigated some significant staff absences, which presented us with real challenges in maintaining the continuity of learning and care that our children deserve. I'm incredibly proud of how our team rose to meet these challenges. Despite the disruptions, we managed to keep learning consistent and meaningful for every child in our school. This simply wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents and carers, who understood the situation and worked alongside us to ensure our children continued to thrive. Your flexibility, understanding and encouragement made all the difference, and we are truly grateful.

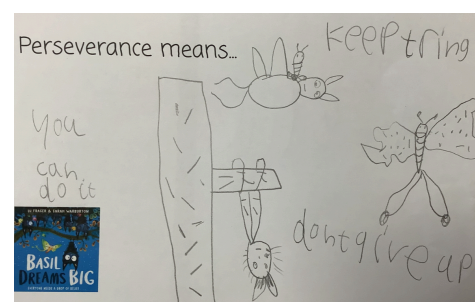
I must also extend my heartfelt thanks to our supply staff who joined us during this period. They stepped into our St Matthew's family with such dedication and worked tirelessly for our children. Their commitment to maintaining our high standards and creating a nurturing learning environment was exceptional, and we are so appreciative of everything they contributed.

### World Book Day

What makes World Book Day so special is not just the stories themselves, but the way they bring our school community together. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of books and imagination, and as always we had such a memorable day.

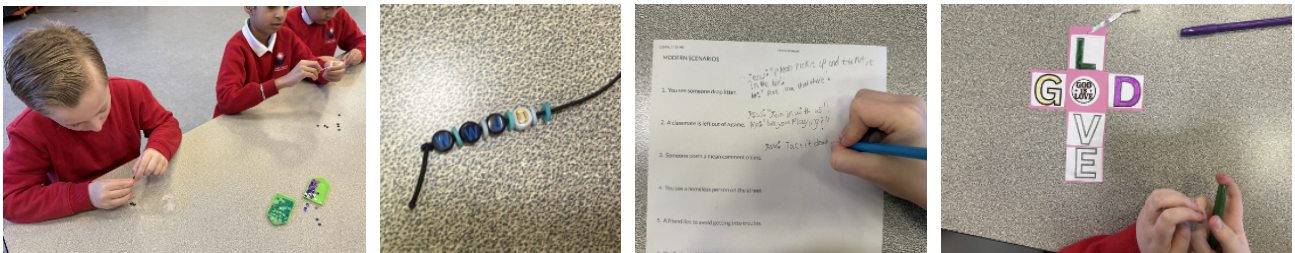
This year, our theme was 'Books that Build Character'. Throughout the day, we explored how stories help us learn about important values. Each class focused on a different book that highlights one of our school values:

- Respect – characters who learn empathy or fairness
- Kindness – helpers, friends, or caring heroes
- Aspiration – dreamers, inventors, and explorers
- Perseverance – characters who never give up



## Year 5 Church Workshop

This half term, Year 5 had their Church workshop held in school, and this focused on their RE topic for this half term, 'What Would Jesus Do?' During the workshop, they began by thinking about the values that are important to them. They then linked these values to stories from the Bible and explored how Jesus demonstrated them in his actions and teachings. The children had a great time making their own 'WWJD' bracelets. Working in groups, they looked at different scenarios and discussed what choices they might make when thinking about the question, 'What Would Jesus Do?' To finish the session, they created a cross using the words 'God' and 'Love', reminding them of the message at the heart of their learning. A big thank you to Rev Kate and our governor, Francine, for leading the workshop and generously volunteering their time!



## St Patrick's Day

In March, we celebrated St Patrick's Day. The children learned all about St Patrick's Day in a special assembly, where they learned that many Irish Catholics attend Mass on Saint Patrick's Day to honour the patron saint of Ireland and to celebrate their faith. They also learned about how Irish music and dance play a significant role in St Patrick's Day celebrations. They heard that many cities and towns host concerts, céilís (traditional Irish social gatherings with music and dancing), and performances featuring Irish musicians, dancers, and bands.



Let Your Light Shine

## Eid Mubarak!

We celebrated Eid in style this year and it was such a joy to see so many of you joining us to celebrate this important occasion with our school community. The children were utterly engaged in arts and crafts and it was a beautiful opportunity to share in the traditions and customs that are so meaningful to our families. In EYFS, our youngest learners had a particularly memorable experience as they learned about using prayer mats, dressed in traditional clothes and jewellery, and immersed themselves in the celebration of Eid. It is important to us as a Rights and Respecting school that every child had the full experience of the celebration and really brought the day to life. These moments of cultural celebration are truly at the heart of what we do at St Matthew's, and it is wonderful to see our community coming together to honour and learn from one another.



## We took our hope for World Peace to Parliament

Our Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors travelled to London to hold a workshop on the importance of the Peace Mala with Members of Parliament in the Houses of Parliament. I cannot tell you how incredibly proud I am of these children. They demonstrated such courage, passion, and eloquence in sharing their message about peace with such important figures. What struck me most was that these children understood something really significant – that no matter your age and size, if your message is an important one, people will listen. This is such a powerful lesson for all of us. Our Peace Mala Ambassadors have shown that young voices matter, and that when we have something meaningful to say about making our world a better place, we have the power to be heard. They are an absolute credit to themselves, their families, and St Matthew's.

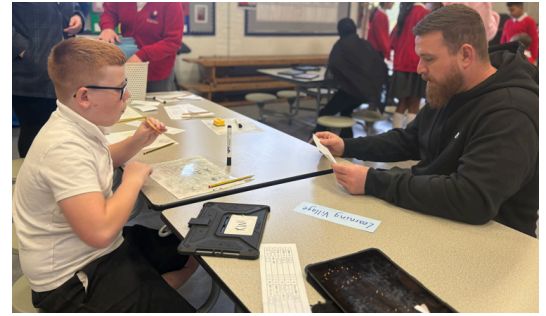


Let Your Light Shine

## Year Six Parents and Carers as Partners

Year 6 children took centre stage this half term as we held our Year 6 Parents as Partners event. This is always such a special occasion in the school calendar, giving parents and carers the opportunity to step into their child's learning environment and experience what a typical day can look like in Year 6. Ms Charles had prepared a variety of activities that we use at this time of year to help support the children's understanding of the types of questions they may encounter in their upcoming SATS

assessments. What I particularly loved about this event was seeing the children confidently and proudly share how they learn with their grown-ups, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the strategies and approaches we use in the classroom.



## Easter Performance

With Good Friday tomorrow and Easter Sunday just days away, we would like to wish all of our families a happy Easter! I'm sure you'll agree that our children in Willow Class and Year 4 led our Easter performance amazingly well at St Matthew's Church last week. They retold the Easter story with such confidence and passion. A huge thank you to all the children and staff involved in preparing for this performance and to all involved in making the school trip to church happen. Easter is such an important part of the year in the Christian Calendar and it was lovely to see so many of our families joining us at the church.



## Our Early Years Learned the Easter Story

Our children in Woodlands learned all about the Easter Story! In a simple retelling of the first Easter in a language that is accessible to small children, they used props to act out the story. According to the gospels, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, entering the city riding a donkey. The children acted out this fabulous story and Jesus was greeted by a crowd, acclaiming him by waving palm branches and laying their cloaks on the ground to honor him. The children watched as Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper and then joined him as he broke bread and ate with his friends, to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed. They stopped to pray at the cross and then went to see the tomb and where he lay only to discover the empty tomb. This was a fantastic way of the children using props as memory hooks for our children to understand the Easter Story. So they understand the story and are able to retell the story themselves, even if they cannot read.



## Woodlands Easter Performance and Easter Egg Hunt

The children looked absolutely adorable dressed up as little bunnies, hopping about with such enthusiasm and confidence as they performed a delightful selection of Easter and Spring-related songs. Watching their faces light up as they sang, surrounded by so many familiar and supportive faces from our school community, was truly heartwarming. Following the sing along, we ventured out around our school grounds for an Easter egg hunt. The excitement was palpable as the children searched high and low for their treasures, and the energy and joy on the playground was infectious. To round off the celebrations beautifully, we treated everyone to a carrot shaped popcorn treat– a nod to those Easter bunnies we'd been celebrating all morning.



What I want to highlight most of all is the incredible community spirit that made these events possible. The staff who worked incredibly hard to make this event happen. You are AMAZING! Also the huge amount of families who attended really demonstrates the strength of our St Matthew's community. Your presence, your enthusiasm, and your support mean everything to our children. Events like these are so much richer when families are there to celebrate alongside us, and I'm genuinely grateful for the time you took out of your busy schedules to be part of these special moments.

## School Streets

Success – We Are Now a School Street! We always love hearing how our children have 'let their light shine', but this time I'm delighted to share how our whole community has done the same. I'm pleased to confirm that we have been successful in our application to become a School Street. We received confirmation earlier this half term and, during the consultation period, 100% of those who supported our bid agreed that this would be the best possible way to help ensure the safety of our children. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the strong support and care within our school community.

Well done to everyone who took part in the consultation and supported the application – your voices truly made a difference. Olly and Caris have already stepped forward to take on roles as School Street helpers, and we have also had several children and adults volunteer to support the initiative. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help is wonderful to see and shows how much our community values keeping our children safe.

We would love to build a small team of volunteers to help make School Street run smoothly. If you are able to support, whether in the mornings, after school, or both, please do let us know. Even a small amount of time can make a big difference.



Let Your Light Shine

## Football

A huge well done to our boys school football team who continue to represent St Matthew's with pride at off-site football fixtures. They are looking incredibly smart and professional in their new football kits, kindly funded by the St Matthew's Community, which we are still so grateful for!

This week the team played two games on Wednesday evening and achieved fantastic results, winning both matches: 1-0 and 3-1. A brilliant achievement and a credit to the school. Well done to the whole team!

## Miss Simester Shared Some Fantastic News!



In this week's assembly Miss Simester, shared an inspiring story about her Uncle following his dreams and his undeniable entrepreneurial spirit. Miss Simester Uncle has created something wonderful – a healthy cake bar called Jungle Squad – and what makes this even more remarkable is that it will soon be stocked in Tescos across the country. It's the kind of achievement that reminds us all what's possible when you live in Trafford and you have passion, creativity, and determination.

What impressed us most was the thought and care that has gone into every aspect of Jungle Squad. Miss Simester's uncle didn't just create a product; he designed the packaging himself and cleverly included trading cards inside – a brilliant touch that encourages children to engage in active play rather than screen time. These are the kinds of innovative ideas that come from someone who genuinely cares about making a positive difference in young people's lives.

The children were absolutely captivated by Miss Simester's assembly. Their enthusiasm was wonderful to witness, and the questions they asked about setting up a business were thoughtful, curious, and genuinely engaged.

Most generously, Miss Simester's Uncle has donated one Jungle Squad bar for every child and staff member in our school community. This is an incredibly kind gesture, and it means that everyone at St Matthew's will have the chance to enjoy his creation and be part of his success story.



## Easter Eggstravaganza: Cracking us up!

We were blown away this week by the sheer number of entries for our Easter Egg Decorating Competition, We asked that you let your lights shine and get creative at home with your family and your response to this challenge was nothing short of amazing! We had children decorating eggs using paint, dye, glitter, stickers, and other craft materials. The level of creativity, time and effort and collaboration was off the scale this year and we cannot thank you enough! To be fair, and because we realised the judging of the work would be so hard, we went with the democratic approach and asked you all to join us in the hall to judge the entries. Thank you to everyone who participated this year, your entries were of such a high standard that it made judging really hard!



The goal was to design the most creative, colourful, funnest or themed egg and our winners of the each of categories were:

Most Creative Design:



Best Use of Colour:



Funnest Egg:



Best Themed Egg:



Let Your Light Shine

Beyond the challenges, this half term has given us so much to celebrate. Looking back at what we've achieved together, it strikes me just how fortunate we are. Every single day, our children bring such joy and energy to our school community. Whether it's a quick chat as families move through our courtyard or those magical lightbulb moments when a child suddenly grasps a new concept in the classroom – these are the gifts we receive daily. It's so easy to get caught up in the busyness of school life that we sometimes forget to pause and truly appreciate what we have.

Your children are remarkable, and they deserve to be celebrated for who they are and what they bring to St Matthew's. They remind us why we do what we do. The wonderful memories we've created this half term – the learning, the laughter, the growth – are a testament to the special community we have built together.

As we head into the Easter break, I encourage you to take time to cherish these memories with your families. Rest, recharge, and celebrate the achievements of this half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Thank you once again for being such an integral part of the St Matthew's family and we will see you on our return from our Easter break on **Monday 20th April 2026 at 8:40 am**, when we will be at the gates to welcome you back.

**Have a fantastic Easter Break everyone!**



Miss Lynton  
**Headteacher**

*Let Your Light Shine*