



SCHOOL FAMILY NEWS

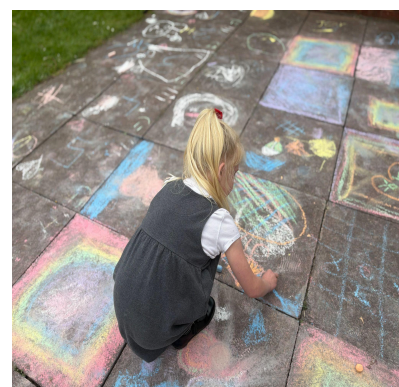
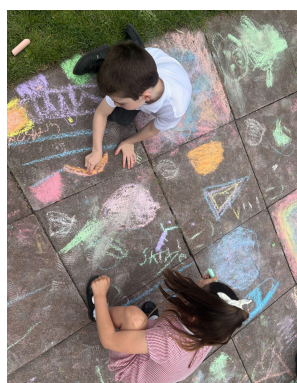
22nd May 2026

We love our St Matthew's Family!

We ended our first half of the summer term with all of our children and staff dressed in yellow today! What a wonderful way to let our lights shine brightly together. There has been so much happening in our school over the last few weeks. Here's an update regarding the activities or events that have taken place over the last half-term, or a reminder of things yet to come...

Art Working Lunch!

At St. Matthews, we believe that art is an important part to a child's education as it helps stimulate creativity, curiosity, imagination and inventiveness. Art also provides visual and sensory experiences; a unique way of understanding and responding to the world around us. So we set our children the challenge of drawing the things that are most important to us at St Matthew's using our pavement chinks over lunchtime last week. Looking at their responses to ideas and experiences we have at school, we are so proud of them!



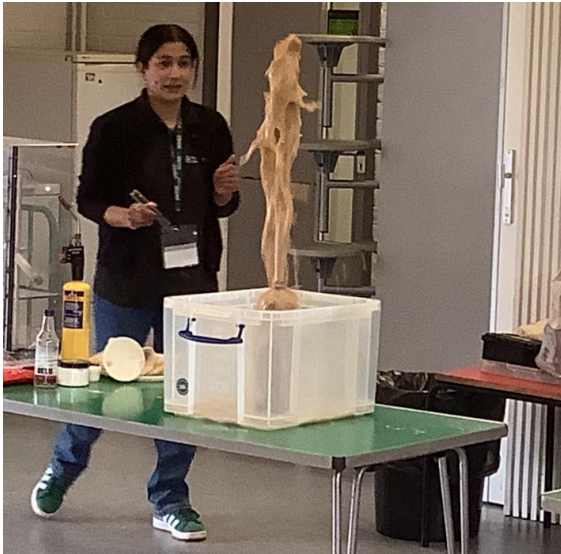
School Streets Heroes!

To our parents and carers who have been out every morning and afternoon supporting our School Street, thank you. Your dedication helps keep our school gates a safe and calm space for our children, reducing traffic and making arrivals and departures much more pleasant for everyone. Because of your commitment, the area outside school has become a place where children can walk safely, breathe more easily, and start and end their day with smiles. Your presence, energy, and good humour (often with a bit of music and dancing!) make a real difference. We are especially grateful to our parent governors, who already give so much of their time in other ways as well. Your ongoing support for the School Street initiative is greatly appreciated by the whole school community.



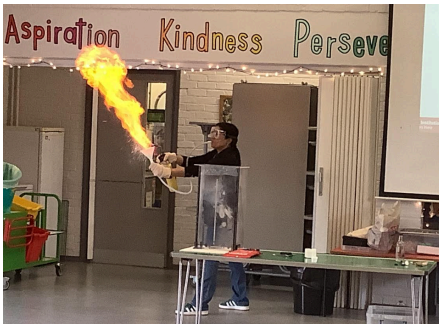
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Science Show



We cannot thank Mrs Cropper enough for organising our science shows this week, which have been hugely beneficial in developing our children's understanding of the world around them. The sessions broke up the school routine with spectacular, hands-on demonstrations that sparked curiosity, boosted engagement in STEM subjects, and supported staff in developing new practical skills with confidence.

We thoroughly enjoyed every moment with the team from the Royal Institution of Science. Even better, after the children experienced science in all its glory, staff took part in a dedicated CPD session later in the day, ensuring we can continue to teach with confidence after the Whit break. What an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone involved!



Scootfit

Scootfit's aim is to get children confident and competent at scooting after a single session so children want to scoot more often. Scoot Fit sessions are completely innovative. Children scoot for 30 minutes non-stop to music helping develop skills, abilities and confidence, and for the children at St Matthew's it was completely free! This wonderful event has been funded by School Streets! We cannot thank Hannah and the team enough; the children absolutely loved it!



Let Your Light Shine

Mellow Yellow Day at St Matthew's

One of our most important events of the year! 🍷 We took vital time to focus on mental health and the power of empathy. Our children spent the day reflecting on how their moods affect others and discovering ways to be more mindful of their peers. With the national rise in children's mental health struggles, we are dedicated to supporting our pupils. Today was all about giving them the right tools and strategies to confidently manage both small worries and big emotions.



Our St Matthew's 'The Dog's Dinner' Event!

We had a special treat this half term, with the children very excited to try a popular new option: a hot dog "dog's dinner" lunch! It proved to be a great success, with lots of children choosing to take part. This event was also designed to help raise awareness among our children and families of the hot food options available at St Matthew's and to encourage continued uptake of school meals.



A reminder that the Government funds free school meals for all children in England attending primary school from Reception to Year 2 on a daily basis.



Let Your Light Shine

SATS Smashers

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 6 children who have completed their SATs last week. Whilst we don't know the outcome of these yet, we do know how proud we are of the children's positive attitude towards these assessments! What made the occasion truly special after the last test on Thursday was the guard of honour that greeted our Year 6 children as they walked through the school courtyard to collect their reward after receiving their leavers hoodies!



The entire St Matthew's community lined up to applaud their perseverance, effort, and determination throughout this week, as they walked to see their surprise parked outside. It was a beautiful moment that really captured the spirit of our school—one where we celebrate and support one another.

The children enjoyed ice-cream, crisps and pop generously provided by St Matthew's very own 'Calnan Ices'. The smiles on their faces as they tucked into their refreshments said it all. It was the perfect way to end an intense week and to send a clear message to our Year 6 learners: ***you have done brilliantly, and we are so very proud of you.***



Important Reminder

Immediately following the half-term break, Year 1 and some children in Year 2 will complete their phonics screening check, and Year 4 will complete a Multiplications Tables Check. These will be carried out with adults known to the children across the week, having already taken part in some practice ones. Attendance on the first week back after the Whit Holidays is so important for both year groups, as we cannot assess the children after this time.

Reminder – Changes to the School Day Timings

Following a review of the school day, new timings will come into effect from Monday 8th June after the Whit half-term break. Morning gates will open at 8:35am and close at 8:45am for registration. At the end of the day, gates will open at 3:05pm, with children dismissed from classrooms between 3:10pm and 3:15pm. Thank you for your support in ensuring children arrive and are collected promptly.

We return from our Whitsun break on **Monday 8th June 2026** and we will be on the gates to welcome you back.

Have a fantastic May Break everyone!



Miss Lynton and Miss Tyrer

Headteacher Deputy Headteacher