

SCHOOL FAMILY NEWS

29th July 2026

Academic Year 25/26, you were amazing!

As we bring this academic year to a close, I feel incredibly blessed that, alongside Miss Lynton, I have once again had the privilege of leading our St Matthew's School Family. It has been an absolute pleasure, and Miss Lynton and I cannot thank you enough for your unwavering support throughout the years. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us to care for your children each day. Watching them grow, flourish and blossom over the past year has been an enormous privilege, and we truly appreciate the part you have all played in their journey. Together, we have celebrated their successes, supported them through challenges and watched them develop into the wonderful young people they are today.

As I have shared previously, Miss Lynton and I will both be leaving St Matthew's at the end of this academic year. It is a decision that has been far from easy, but we leave feeling immensely grateful for our time at this incredible school. For me, that means saying goodbye after 16 years filled with wonderful memories, lifelong friendships and countless proud moments. Every message of thanks, kind word and expression of appreciation reminds us that our time here has made a meaningful difference, and that is something we will carry with us as we hand over to Miss Grimsley and Mrs Walls. Thank you for the many happy memories that will stay with us for a lifetime. Our hearts are full!

Summer 2 has been another wonderful, action-packed half term at St Matthew's. Before we look ahead to the summer break, let's take a moment to celebrate just some of the many ways our children have continued to let their lights shine brightly!

St Matthew's Got Talent



Let's start with our favourite event of the school year, St Matthew's Got Talent! It was pure magic from start to finish! Our talented children stepped onto that stage with such courage and sparkle in their eyes – from the tiniest ones with their adorable dance performance of 'I Like to Move it, Move it' to our oldest children showcasing talents that genuinely could have set for the stage at Manchester's Opera House Theatre! We are just so proud of them all. There were singers who moved us to tears, dancers who made us want to leap from our seats, gymnasts who left us wondering "how on earth did they do that?", and comedians/impressionists who had

us laughing! Watching the children cheering each other on with genuine joy is what makes this event so special! It will always be one of my favourite events of our school, as it all comes from the children and they all work so hard to ensure they represent their class in the best way possible! Our judges did not fail to impress again this year with Mr Glinka and Miss Bennett's amazing talent spotting adding to the entertainment! A huge well done to everyone involved and our special winners of the St Matthew's Got Talent Final, 2026.



We prepared to say our goodbyes to Year 6:

Our Year 6 Production

Our Year 6 children have been absolutely awesome these past few weeks, and I couldn't be more proud of how they've embraced every moment of their final chapter with us. Their production of St Matthew's Got NO Talent was absolutely fantastic! Watching our children pour their hearts into every act was incredibly heartwarming and entertaining! At the end, the overwhelming love and pride radiating from parents, carers, grandparents and staff was tangible. Moments like these highlight exactly why the primary school years are so vital, as our Year 6 pupils discover just how extraordinary they truly are!

Our Year 6 Family Festival

The Leavers' Family Festival was a heartwarming celebration of treasured memories and exciting new beginnings. Families came together to share laughter, reminisce about their time at St Matthew's and celebrate the wonderful journey our Year 6 children have enjoyed. With snacks, soft drinks, face painting, music and a graduation photo booth, there was something for everyone to enjoy.



This special event is always a highlight for our Year 6 families, as it celebrates the lasting connections built over the years - the deep friendships between the children, the strong relationships formed between families, and the invaluable partnership between home and school that makes St Matthew's such a caring and supportive community, all set within our beautiful school grounds.

Our Year 6 Graduation Service



Our Year 6 Graduation was a truly special occasion, celebrating the achievements of our wonderful Year 6 children as they prepared for the next stage of their journey. During the ceremony, the children shared a heartfelt poem, reflected on their happiest memories of life at St Matthew's, and enjoyed a slideshow filled with photographs capturing their time with us over the years.

A particularly memorable moment was when each child received their graduation scroll, before Reverend Enock offered a prayer and blessing for the future. It was a joyful and emotional celebration, giving children, families and staff the opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved and to wish our Year 6 children every success and happiness as they move on to secondary school.

Let Your Light Shine

Play and Stay in Woodlands

Our littlest treasures in early years have been melting hearts left, right, and centre! The Play and Stay sessions with our new children joining us in September have been absolutely delightful – watching our youngest children take their grown-ups by the hand and proudly show them around their new learning spaces with such excitement and pride. As our Reception children move up to Year One, we will remember their giggles, the "look what I can do!" moments, and the pure joy on both children's and adults' faces that have been absolutely precious. These sessions create such beautiful connections between home and school, and remind us all of the wonder and magic in every learning moment.

St Matthew's Rocks!



What an incredible experience at our second [Rock Kidz](#) concert was! The energy in the room was electric, and it was wonderful to see all of our children singing, dancing, and embracing vital messages about self-belief and individuality. Witnessing children of all ages unite in laughter and joy beautifully highlighted how music can inspire young minds. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our FAF (Friends and Family / Friends Association) for funding this unforgettable event again this year. The children have had so much fun learning how to be rockstars and learning about perseverance and self-belief through music. What a great way to end a fantastic year.

Sports Day

Our Sports Days are usually plagued with rain delays, but not this year! The atmosphere was electric, filled with overwhelming love, support, and celebration. It was incredible to watch our children give their absolute best, cheer enthusiastically for their peers, and handle both victories and challenges with immense grace and determination. While the winning house should feel incredibly proud, every single child was a champion, beautifully demonstrating the respect, kindness, and aspirational St Matthew's spirit. The winning house was Malala! As a team, they most definitely let their lights shine.



Session Scores					
	EYFS	Year 1	2/3/4	5/6	
Yellow Mandela	40	41	100	86	
Blue Malala	69	44	100	73	
Red Turing	48	44	97	77	
Green Parkhurst	39	43	86	90	
Over all scores					
Mandela	267	286	266	258	

Lancashire Cricket Club

We were lucky enough to welcome a coach from Lancashire Cricket Club at the beginning of the half term for some fantastic cricket taster sessions. From EYFS all the way through to Year 6, our children thoroughly enjoyed the fun, active cricket workshops. The children and staff had a brilliant time playing energetic games to practice their throwing and catching skills, before showcasing their talents at batting. It was a wonderful day of sport, and we are incredibly grateful to the club for inspiring our young cricketers!



Let Your Light Shine

School of Kindness

The team from the School of Kindness taught our children all about the importance of kindness this half term, the science behind it, and the positive impact it can have on both our physical and mental wellbeing. Why does this matter so much? Because kindness is a superpower! Science shows that being kind boosts our immune systems, reduces anxiety, and actually floods the brain with happiness hormones. By learning that kindness is an active choice with measurable health benefits, our students are discovering how to look after their own minds while lifting up the world around them. Let's keep spreading that magic into next year, St Matthew's!

Scaly Safari Visits

We were so fortunate to welcome Scaly Safari for a fantastic interactive visit across all year groups this half term. They brought a fascinating, diverse collection of animals into school, sparking immense curiosity across the classrooms. Our children were absolutely amazing, demonstrating incredible courage as they handled and interacted with the different creatures. It was a truly memorable experience that blended hands-on excitement with rich learning, leaving everyone with a wealth of new knowledge about the animal kingdom.



School Streets Success

This term, we have been incredibly lucky to hold two School Streets Play Streets events, bringing our community together for mornings of fun, friendship and play. Our first event took place in the rain, but that didn't stop families from joining in! It was wonderful to see so many children arriving early to take part in games, activities and laughter, despite the less-than-perfect weather. The enthusiasm and community spirit truly showed what makes our School Streets initiative so special.

Our second event was held in beautiful sunshine, and we were delighted to be joined by Sarah Storey, Britain's most successful Paralympian. Sarah joined the morning activities, watched the children enjoying the space, and then led an inspiring assembly for the whole school, sharing her experiences and encouraging children to believe in themselves and achieve their goals.

The continued success of our School Streets initiative is entirely thanks to our wonderful families, who organise and run these events independently, giving their time and energy to create such a positive experience for our children and wider community. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication and support. Please join us in thanking them for everything they do to make these events possible.



Let Your Light Shine

Our Wonderful Volunteers

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the fantastic volunteers who visit our school each week to support the children with reading, interventions, and various activities. A massive thank you to Francine (Governor), Regina, Zoe, Ria, and Jane. Generously giving up your personal time to enhance our children's learning and development is nothing short of amazing, and our entire school community is incredibly grateful for your dedication!

Great thanks to our wonderful FAF!

Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the unwavering support and fundraising efforts of our Friends and Family of St Matthew's (FAF/PTA). They provide vital financial and practical support to our school, and they are always eager to welcome new faces. If you are looking for meaningful ways to support our school community further, please consider volunteering with the FAF. We send a huge thank you to every member and volunteer who has contributed to this year's wonderful events - your hard work is deeply appreciated!

We say our goodbyes to...

We end the school year with special goodbyes and best wishes to a number of staff. Firstly, Mrs Saleem, who has been working tirelessly with our EYFS children this year. She has been a fantastic teacher and gave our smallest children her absolute all. We cannot thank her enough for the magic and awe and wonder she brought to our EYFS with little Miss Lynton. We wish her the best of luck and hope she stays in touch, as she has become such an important part of our St Matthew's Family!

We also say goodbye to Miss Charles, who has been teaching at St Matthew's for over 9 years. She has been taught right across the school in her time with us and has provided so many children with memories to cherish long after she leaves us. She has been an awesome support to both staff and children over the years and we will miss her greatly as she goes on to be a SENDCo across several schools in a trust. We wish her well as she starts this wonderful new adventure!

We say goodbye to Miss Bradburn too, as she moves on to work within a specialist education setting. We will miss Miss Bradburn and her passion for teaching, especially in our singing assemblies! No one can get the children to perform quite like Miss Bradburn. She gives our children the confidence to let their light brightly and sing like no-one is watching when performing. We wish her the best of luck as she starts her new role in September.

Wishing you all the very best during your Summer Break and your future years at St Matthew's. Time with loved ones is so precious, so enjoy every second of your holidays. Miss Grimsley and Mrs Walls will see you all bright and early at 8:35am on the gates on Wednesday 2nd September!

Emma Tyrer
Deputy Headteacher

Let Your Light Shine