



## St Matthew's School Newsletter – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Welcome Back and Open Classrooms

Welcome back to school, everyone. We have a lovely first day back – it's so great seeing all the children in their new classes getting on with their learning. Each class has started the year doing work on kindness, one of our St Matthew's values.

There is a lovely atmosphere in school and you have the opportunity to come in to get a feel for what is happening on when we have an "Open Classrooms" event for Years One to Six on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 8:30am to 9:00am. This is when children can bring their parents/carers into their classroom to show them their "place of work". Parents and carers can also meet the class teacher (though it is not the time to talk about any particular issue in detail, more a chance to say a brief hello).

Parents and children can arrive from 8:30am (you don't have to arrive early, school will still "officially" start at the normal time of 8:45am, but we will open the gates early at 8:30am to support those who might be rushing off to work).

You do not need to stay for the full time - popping in and out for a few minutes is fine during the half hour period is fine. We have to finish on time at 9am so teachers can do their registers and begin teaching - we will ring a bell to signal when it is time for parents and carers to leave.

We hope to see you there.

### Reminders – Jewellery and Other Personal Items

As we start the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers about the following:

- We ask that children do not wear jewellery in school. If a child has ear piercings then they can wear a stud. However, to do PE studs have to be removed (we cannot tape over studs and they must be removed – these are national health and safety guidelines that we abide by).
- Some older children who are walking home on their own bring a mobile phone into school. These must be handed to the class teacher when they arrive in school and will be returned to them at the end of the day. Please understand that staff cannot be responsible for phones if they are lost or damaged, even if they have been handed in.
- Children should not wear smart watches or bring in other devices that can access the internet, take or store photographs – this is for the safety of all of our children.

- As with mobile phones, the school cannot be responsible for personal items brought into school if they are lost or damaged, even if they have been given to a member of staff (or taken by a member of staff to keep safe). For this reason, we strongly recommend that valuable items are not brought into school.

## School Streets on Norfolk Street

A reminder about the Norfolk Street "School Streets" road closure: **The County Council have closed the road to cars at drop off and pick up times.** Those who remember what Norfolk Street was like on a school day before the closure will know what a huge difference this has made to the safety of children and their families coming to and from school.

- The road is closed from the junction with Staffordshire Street and Norfolk Street 8.30-9am and 3-3.30pm
- If driving to school is unavoidable, please park a few streets away and walk the rest of the way
- **Please do not drive as far as the barrier, or drive down Staffordshire Street, which is "access only" at all times.**
- Please do not ask to drive through the closure, the volunteers will turn you away
- If you require special permission to drive through the closure, please speak to the school office. Permission is unlikely to be granted without a very good reason.
- If you are waiting in your car in the surrounding area, please turn your engine off.
- **Drivers have been fined for driving through the closure.**

The School Streets team are looking for volunteers to staff the barrier every day before and after school - this is to help remind drivers of the closure, prevent fines from being issued, and keep our families safe. **Please email [street@stmatthewspta.org.uk](mailto:street@stmatthewspta.org.uk) if you are interested in volunteering** - they need regular volunteers, as well as people to step in when the regular volunteers can't make it.

For safety reasons, volunteers can't have children with them at the barrier. This makes volunteering impossible for many parents - **so if your circumstances mean that it IS possible for you, please do consider stepping up.**

## Dates for your Diary

Overleaf are some dates for your diary for the coming year. As the year progresses other events will be added – we will try to give as much notice of these as possible. During October we will be holding our Harvest Festival assemblies as usual – we will notify parents and carers of exact dates and timings for those in the next week or two.

We hope your child has enjoyed their first day back if they have been in school today and look forward to another busy and fun year of learning.

## St. Matthew's Events, 2024-2025

### Autumn Term 2024

Training Days, school closed to children	Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September
School starts for children (For parents of children in Nursery and Reception - check the date for your child's start in your admission information)	Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Open Classrooms	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024, 8:30am to 9:00am
Harvest Assemblies	tba
<b>Half Term Holiday – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024</b>	
Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 3:30pm to 7:30pm Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2022, 3:30pm to 5:30pm
Anti-bullying Week (Theme: Choose Respect)	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Autumn Term Closes (last day of school)	Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2024

### Spring Term 2025

Training Day, school closed for children	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School starts for children	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Children's Mental Health Awareness Week	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Half Term Holiday – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025</b>	
Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> , February 3:30pm to 7:30pm Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 3:30pm to 5:30pm
World Book Day	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
British Science Week (Theme: Change and Adapt)	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Spring Term Closes (last day of school)	Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025

### Summer Term 2025

Training Day, school closed for children	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
School starts for children	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Key Stage Two Statutory Assessment Test Week (Year 6)	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Half Term Holiday – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2025</b>	
Training Day, school closed for children	Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2025
Year Four Multiplication Screening Check	To be done between Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June and Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Phonics Screening Check Week	Week beginning Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Last Day of Summer Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025
Start of Summer Holidays	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2025

**For the autumn term in 2025, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September will be training days. Most children will return to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with staggered starts for children in Nursery and Reception as per usual.**

