



NEWSLETTER 13 – 14th July 2025

Welcome to what is probably the last newsletter of the school year - there may be another one later this week if there is any last minute information we need to share - and we cannot believe that it is almost the summer holidays already!

As I look back on the past year, it is incredible to consider that St Matthew's school has been educating the children of the local parish and community for 151 years now! We cannot count the many thousands of children and families who have passed through the gates of the school in that time and the positive impact that has been made on their lives. As we move into the next few years, it is clear that education will continue to evolve and adapt to meet the ever changing needs of the world in which we live, a very different one to that faced by the people who opened the school all those many years ago!

For those who will be leaving us next Friday, some families after connections with us for over 20 years, thank you for allowing us the privilege of sharing your child's Primary Education journey with you and may we wish God's blessing on each and every one of you.

To those returning in September, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd September when the gates open at 8:45am ready for the new school year!

This is quite a lengthy letter and does contain some very important information so please do read carefully!

Mr Mackley
Headteacher

Thank you, and farewell...

This week we say 'fare-well' to two members of staff. First of all Miss Harrison who has been working for us as a Learning Support Assistant for just over three years, is off to travel and work in different schools to broaden her horizons. Thank you for your contribution and we wish you God's blessings and every success in whatever comes next.



Mrs Bryden also leaves us this week after 25 years dedicated service to St Matthew's and over 30 years' teaching in schools across Lancashire. It is almost impossible to put into words the impact she has had on so many lives over her career; children, staff and parents have all benefited enormously from being taught by her and the sharing of her wisdom. 'Thank you' can seem such insignificant words but they are said with tremendous gratitude from everyone who has had the pleasure of working with you Mrs Bryden and we wish you all the very best in your (early!) retirement and God's blessings on all that comes your way. Thank you!

We won an award!

We are proud to announce that we are a myHappyMind Bronze Accredited school! This means that as a school we consider the mental health and wellbeing of our children as one of our top priorities. We have created a whole school culture that helps build our children's



"Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be..."

resilience, confidence and self esteem as well as teaching them how to self regulate in those stressful times.

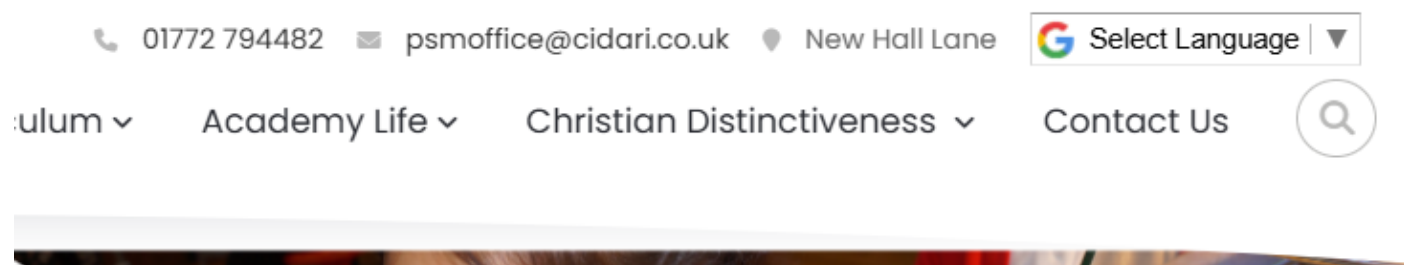
This Accreditation badge has been awarded thanks to all the effort our staff, children, governors and parents have put in to bring the lessons of myHappyMind to life all around our school!

To Learn more about the myHappyMind for Schools programme visit their website here -

<https://myhappymind.org/>

School Website - translation facility!

We are delighted to announce that our school website now has Google Translate added to it. Simply go to stmatthewspreston.co.uk and look for the top right hand corner where you will see the Google Translate menu.



Uniform

We are going to send out an additional letter with details on school uniform but want to remind you that we do expect the correct uniform to be worn and, from September, we will be closely monitoring this and contacting you if there are any issues.

For now, please remember:

- Plain black shoes
- Ear rings - studs only and children need to be able to remove them by themselves.
- Hijabs - shoulder length and tucked into the neck of the sweatshirt/polo shirt/dress. Hijabs for PE must be the proper PE ones or the hijab should be removed. This is in order to reduce the risk of injury during activity.

<https://stmatthewspreston.co.uk/parents/uniform>

Road Safety

I have noticed recently a lot of parents and children not taking care when crossing the road. It is so important that you follow these simple steps:

1. Find a safe place to stop
2. Look both ways
3. Look again
4. When it is safe to cross, walk (don't run) and keep looking left and right.

This is the safe way to cross **every** road.



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School Dinners



The ever rising cost of living has impacted on us again and from September we have to raise the price of a school dinner to £2.90 per meal; our school budget is no longer able to provide any subsidy to help out.

If you would like to consider applying for Free School Meals for your child, our office staff would be pleased to assist you. For every child who is deemed eligible for Free School Meals, we receive additional funding to support education so it is a 'win-win' situation for us all.

Health update from LCC's Health Protection

Follow the link to see the latest news from Lancashire's Health Protection Team:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/WgH0ARmAX6GE9NcA?ref=Link>

Year 5 - important information for parents when considering High School

We have been asked by Lancashire County Council to share the following information with you:

Dear Parents/Kinship Carers of Current Year 5 pupils

Before the summer holidays begin, we wanted to get in touch with you about next term's prospective secondary school application, and how important it is to consider home to transport prior to making your final decision.

You must consider carefully how your child will get to and from your preferred secondary schools before submitting your application for a school place.

Pupils will only be eligible for free travel if they have an entitlement under the County Council's [Home to School Transport Policy](#). It is important, when selecting your preferences for a school place, that you have read and understood the information available on the [website](#) regarding [school admissions](#) and [travel assistance](#).

It is essential to remember - for transport purposes - the 'nearest suitable school' is the nearest school to the family home – and - in some cases, the nearest school will be located within another local authority area.

If you choose to send your child to a school that Lancashire County Council does not consider to be the nearest suitable school, there is no duty to provide free transport. You will need to make your own transport arrangements.

Assistance with home to school travel will not be needed for most children as they will attend their local school which will be within a reasonable walking distance when accompanied by a parent/carers as necessary.

However, if transport costs are a concern to you, please contact your Area Education Office before submitting your application:

NORTH AREA	SOUTH AREA	EAST AREA
Lancaster, Morecambe, Wyre and Fylde	Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley	Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale
(01524) 581148	(01772) 532109	(01254) 220747

If your child is not eligible for free travel assistance but you would like your child to travel to school by bus, you may be able to buy a season travel pass from us.

The County Council will not provide extra services for non-statutory pupils and you will need to [plan how your child will get to school](#) if space on the bus is not available.

Please call 0300-123-6738 or visit [School bus season tickets - Lancashire County Council](#) to make an application.

It is important to plan ahead. Please make sure that appropriate transport is available, should a place be allocated at your preferred school.

Water Safety - a message from Lancashire Water Safety Partnership and Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

Drowning Prevention - stay safe near water from The Lancashire Water Safety Partnership

When the warm weather hits, please don't be tempted to cool off by jumping into open water, particularly from height -

- The water is colder than it looks, even on a warm evening or sunny day
- This can lead to cold water shock
- Currents may be stronger than they look and even hidden
- There are often hidden dangers beneath the surface and water can be polluted



If you see someone in trouble in the water:

- Call 999;
- Tell them not to panic and, if they can't stand, to [float on their back](#) in a starfish shape. When calmer, encourage them towards you.
- Throw them something that floats or a throw/life line

World Drowning Prevention Day (Friday July 25) [World Drowning Prevention Day - 25 July \(rnli.org\)](#)

To help raise awareness, landmarks across the whole of Lancashire are being lit blue on the Thursday evening. Please look out for those that take part to remind us that 'anyone can drown, no one should'. In previous years these have included Blackpool Tower, Fleetwood Marine Hall, Lytham Windmill, Chorley Town Hall, Ormskirk Clock Tower, Skelmersdale Light Cube, Rivington Pike and the Pigeon Tower. We will post further details and confirm the locations nearer the time on our Social Media Platforms. We would love to see your photos of them, so if you spot any (only the buildings though please – try not to include people sorry) you can send the pictures to - preventionsupport@lancsfirerescue.org.uk

You can find really good practical water safety advice for all different situations from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and partner organisations by clicking on this link [Water Safety | Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service \(lancsfirerescue.org.uk\)](#)

Best wishes

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk



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on behalf of The Lancashire Water Safety Partnership

Key Dates

15th July - Y6 Leavers' Meal (4:30pm)

16th July - after school, opportunity to meet class teacher to discuss school report (3:15 - 4:15pm)

18th July - School Closes for the Summer Holiday - 2:00pm

2nd Sept - School reopens for the Autumn Term - 8:45am

Stars of the Week & Values Award

Week ending 27th June 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Ayyan & Zayn	Arwa & Dragos
Y1	Fabian, Azlan & Derick	1C & Bareerah
Y2	Anais & Purity	Omar & yusuf
Y3	Theo & Fatima	Daniel & Abdullah
Y4	Abinoor & Peran	Armadeep & Raheem
Y5	5B & 5M	Siraaj & Bilal
Y6	Leila & Kian	Anabia & Nabiha

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs Bryden)	-
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	Olaife
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	Y6 won with Izzah the Most Valuable Player
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	1st - Bareerah, 2nd- Ahmed H, 3rd, Jayram

Week ending 4th July 2025

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Antonio & Muhammad	Hareema & Shavei
Y1	Huzaifa & Michael	Mazie & Ahmed



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Y2	Leo & Ahmed	Angel & Musa
Y3	Vihana & Kiaan	Harrison & Mason
Y4	Ibtesam & Shayan	M. Ali & Anaya
Y5	Ilyas, Baqaruddin & Shama	Ammaarah & Oscar
Y6	Madiha & Marwah	Lisa & Alexandra

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mrs Bryden)	
KS1 Maths Challenge (Mrs Gretton)	Tara - Y2
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	Y3! Maryam = MVP
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	1st - Nawaz, 2nd- Tasneem, 3rd- Maher

Reflection & Prayer

Last week we considered again our school value of Compassion and what it means. We learnt from the life of Jesus about how important children are to him; the story we looked back at was when the disciples were turning the children away and Jesus got cross with them. He made it very clear that children are important and that we all need to be trusting in God like they do.

Our prayer was one of the weekly prayers which all Blackburn Diocese Schools have been asked to share. This week's was thinking about our wonderful world and also the places and people who need our compassion right now. We may feel we can't do anything but we are taught that prayer is active and so praying for others is something we **can** do.

"Dear God there are so many places where I've never been. But You are everywhere and can see what's happening on the other side of the world as well as seeing what we are doing now. Please help people in countries where they don't have enough to eat and drink. Help rich countries like ours to be better at sharing what we have. God of love, may every person know Your love and help today. "

Amen

All our worships can be viewed online here <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/blog/category/worship>

Google Translate

If you need to translate this newsletter into your own language, please feel free to use [Google Translate](#) . It's not perfect but better than nothing!

Class Dojo only translates into a limited number of languages and we are aware of at least 31 languages other than English which are spoken here at St Matt's!



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