



NEWSLETTER 1 – 5th Sept 2025

Welcome back! It has been great to have the children back at school and to welcome the new members in Reception too, school was way too quiet over the holidays on the days I came in; school is so much better when it is full of the children.

We are all really looking forward to this year, to watch the children learn and grow and see how much they can achieve by the end of the school year. You will see 6 words at the top of this newsletter. I gave them to the children at the start of the week and I want them to remember them and focus on them all year.

Mr Mackley
Headteacher

Class Names

This year, the classes in each year group are either 'a' or 'b'. We are doing this as a simple identifier with no hidden meaning; we have moved to this and away from using the initial of the teacher to reduce the annual challenge of having to reprogramme all our administration software and systems as well as the internal communication system.

Uniform

Thank you for the lovely smart uniforms we are seeing across school; we appreciate that the website was not updated in a timely fashion and apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Some things to note.

1 - if you are having difficulties, please do get in touch to see if we can help, we still have some stock from the uniform sale last term.

2 - shoes. Sadly we have seen a large number of children coming to school in trainers. We need to remind you that uniform is **plain black** shoes; we will be contacting families from Monday of children who are not in shoes.

3 - hijabs. These must be **plain black** shoulder length and tucked inside the neck of jumpers.

4 - PE. Please ensure all jewellery is removed on PE days and children have their kit in school. It will be sent home each half term to wash.

Finally, coats! Even if it is raining, we always try to get the children outside at break times so **please** ensure they bring a coat to school every day, even if it is sunny as the autumn weather can be very unpredictable.

End of the school day

Please observe the one-way system as this keeps everyone safe and prevents people bumping into each other. To collect children in Reception, Y3 & Y6, enter from the gate on New Hall Lane and exit onto Derby Square. We already have a large number of people waiting by the gate on Derby Square which slows down everyone else from getting out.

To collect children from Years 1,2,4 & 5 please enter the large yard from the corner of Cuttle Street/Derby Square and exit via the gate to Delaware Street.

If you have to collect from both yards, please collect from Rec/Y3/Y6 **before** collecting from the larger yard.

Playground Improvements

Hopefully you will have noticed the new planters and plants on both playgrounds. Mrs Farnworth and Mr Mackley were successful in securing grant money from the Royal Horticultural Society to get these provided and we look forward to enjoying the colour and nature that they bring to our school.

Primary School Applications

A reminder that the application website for places in Reception in September 2026 is now open at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-primary-school/> If you know of someone wanting a place next year, please encourage them to consider applying to St Matthew's.

We do have some spaces in some classes at school, please share with your friends and family who might be interested in joining us here.

Parents of Year 6

A reminder that the application process is now live and closes Friday 31st October, this is a national, **statutory** date. All applications are online:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/>

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

Important Information Regarding Secondary School Applications and Transport Eligibility

Dear Parents and Kinship Carers of Current Year 6 Pupils,

We are writing to provide important guidance regarding your child's upcoming secondary school application, with particular emphasis on home-to-school transport considerations.

Before submitting your application, it is essential to carefully consider how your child will travel to and from your preferred secondary schools. Free travel assistance is only available to pupils who meet the criteria outlined in Lancashire County Council's **Home to School Transport Policy**.

When selecting your school preferences, please ensure you have read and understood the information available on the Lancashire County Council website regarding **school admissions and travel assistance**.

Please note:



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- For transport purposes, the *nearest suitable school* is defined as the school closest to the family home. In some cases, this may be a school located within another local authority area.
- If you choose a school that is not considered the nearest suitable school, there is **no entitlement** to free transport. In such cases, you will need to make your own travel arrangements.
- Most children will attend their local school, which is typically within a reasonable walking distance when accompanied by a parent or carer.

If transport costs are a concern, we strongly encourage you to contact your **Area Education Office** before submitting your application.

SOUTH AREA
Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
(01772) 532109

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.

Reflection & Prayer

This week, we have considered the theme “New Year, New Opportunities”. Along with my challenge to “Do your best, never give up” we have thought about what this means, not just in our lessons but in everything we do. We also watched a video from Bishop Philip, the Bishop of Blackburn, who has challenged us all to ‘shine’ in our learning, our service and our love.

In the Old Testament book of Proverbs we read this verse:

“Those who work hard make a profit, but those who only talk will be poor” (Proverbs 14:23)

We considered that this might relate to money but also relates to our knowledge and understanding; if we work hard then our brains get better at understanding and doing and we become ‘rich’ in that way. The opposite is true as well, if we don’t work then our brains remain poor.

So, we really hope we all work hard this year to make the most of all the opportunities which come our way.

Loving Lord God, thank you for bringing us all back together for a new school year full of possibilities and new opportunities.

We know that a lot of things won’t be easy and we will need to work hard but we know that we don’t do anything by ourselves, you are always with us, guiding and supporting us.

Helps us to do our best in everything we do and never give up trying.

Amen



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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!

