



## **NEWSLETTER 2 – 12th Sept 2025**

We are going to try and put newsletters out more frequently this year and keep them shorter so that there is less information to plough through!

Everyone seems to be back in the swing of things now and school is wonderfully busy with all the learning going on.

We do have a few spaces in most year groups due to people moving out of the area, if you know of someone wanting a place for their child, please do let them know and ask them to get in touch with us!

Applications for Primary and Secondary places for September 2026 are now open, details further down in the newsletter as is information from Moor Park High School about their 'Fair Banding Admission Policy'.

At the end of the newsletter you will be able to see what the attendance figures were like for last week, let's get all the children into school every day and on time!

Mr Mackley  
Headteacher

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### **Behaviour**

I want to praise the children for the wonderful start they have made to the year! Behaviour around school is very good and the children are following our expectations really well and we are very proud of them.

We have also changed the way children enter the hall for dinners and, again, the hall is a much quieter and calmer place which has made it a very enjoyable time for all.

Finally, well done to Year 6 who went to the Museum of Lancashire this week and not only had a really good time but also came back with the staff full of praise for the way they represented St Matthew's and the many compliments from the museum staff - thank you Year 6!

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### **Uniform**

Just a few reminders, especially about trainers - plain black shoes please!

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 - 'joggers' are not acceptable as uniform, they **must** be smart trousers.

5 - 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.

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### End of the school day

A reminder that at the end of the day, the entrance to the yard to collect children from Reception, Year 3 and Year 6 is from New Hall Lane and **not** from Derby Square. Please do not congregate around the gate on Derby Square as it blocks the pavement and causes congestion for those trying to leave the yard and those walking along.

Thank you!

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### 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.

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### 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:

- 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.



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- 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.

### **Moor Park High School - Fair Banding Admission Policy**

A message from L Roberts, the Co-Acting Headteacher of Moor Park:

The booking form for current Y6 students to register for a fair banding assessment is now open. The booking form is on our school website in the fair banding section. [Assessment Dates – Moor Park High School & Sixth Form in Preston, Lancashire](#)

Parents who are putting Moor Park High School down as either a 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice should book as assessment. Students who do not sit an assessment will only have their application considered AFTER those who have sat an assessment. This is important to note as the school received 452 applications for 130 school places.

**The deadline for the fair banding assessment booking form is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Fair banding assessments will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Our Open Evening is Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6pm-8pm. Here parents can tour the school, learn more about fair banding and we will support parents in registering for an assessment.**

As a reminder, the assessment is not a pass or fail assessment and we will have a balanced intake of students from across the ability spectrum. More details on the new admission policy are available at [Fair Banding Admissions – Moor Park High School & Sixth Form in Preston, Lancashire](#)

## Celebration Worship!

Each week we celebrate the good things taking place in school.

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Y1	Zayn & Attila	Isabella & Robert
Y2	Juvana & Musa	Iqra & Shanza
Y3	Ahmed & Olaife	Sofia & Tasneem
Y4	Aayat & Hasnain	Ridhwaan & Zaynab B
Y5	Abinoor & Amelia	Amardeep & Shayan
Y6	6A & Michael	Baqaruddin & Esme

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mr Ward)	Usman, Y5 correctly solved the amount of change required.
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	6A beat 6B and Mirza Anas was the MVP(Most Valuable Player)
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	Shayan (Y4) correctly identified the mystery flag as being Egypt's.

## Attendance

As you know, we monitor attendance & punctuality on a daily basis and I am delighted with the fantastic punctuality we saw in the first week back, daily attendance does need some attention in some year groups already though... Well done to the classes with 0 lates; it would be great if **every** class was like this.

### St Matthew's Church of England Primary Academy - 01 Sep 2025 - 05 Sep 2025

Year Group	Registration Form	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year 1	1A	1
Year 1	1B	1
Year 2	2A	0
Year 2	2B	3
Year 3	3A	0
Year 3	3B	2

Year 4	4A	0
Year 4	4B	0
Year 5	5A	2
Year 5	5B	3
Year 6	6A	2
Year 6	6B	3

Year Group	Present Marks (%)
Year 1	95.83%
Year 2	92.16%
Year 3	91.35%
Year 4	87.72%
Year 5	95.54%
Year 6	94.49%

**Remember!** Come to school **every day** and **on time** to make the most of all the learning opportunities there are!

### Reflection & Prayer

We continued to think about the new school year bringing new opportunities and how we should make the most each one that comes our way. We also learnt that life is not always easy and we can get setbacks. To help us understand that we heard from the Old Testament about Joseph who had real problems and challenges to face but he also took the opportunities which came his way and eventually things turned out very well for him, his family and his people!

If you want to watch the recorded worship, you can find it here:

<https://stmatthewspreston.co.uk/blog/2025-09-08-05-42-00-worship-2-beginnings-a-new-opportunity>

Mr Mackley: Lord God, we pray for all who have to make a new beginning.

Everybody: **Lord, hear us.**

Mr Mackley: We pray for all who are nervous about being in a new school

Everybody: **Lord, hear us.**

Mr Mackley: We pray for all who have had to move home to a new place at this time and have had to make a new beginning.

Everybody: **Lord, hear us.**

Mr Mackley: We pray for all who are anxious about meeting new people and who must make a new beginning.



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Everybody: **Lord, hear us.**

Mr Mackley: Lastly, we pray for ourselves. Help us to use today, this week and every week to make new beginnings.

Everybody: **Lord, hear us.**

**Amen**

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

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### 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!

