

# Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a very busy start to 2026 here at St. Matthew's. Our school value we have been reflecting on this half-term is the value of love, and we have seen many examples of this across the school so far this term.

Ramadan Mubarak - we send our best wishes for our families and staff for the holy month of Ramadan beginning next week.

2026 is The National Year of Reading and we have lots of exciting activities planned. More information will be sent out to families after half-term.

Goodbye and good luck to Mrs. Patel in Year 6. Thank you Mrs. Patel for being a fantastic member of staff at St. Matthew's - we will miss you!

In January we welcomed back Mrs. Lightfoot from her maternity leave, and after the holidays, Mrs. Hardingham will be returning from maternity leave too.

Well done to our school choir who took part in the Young Voices musical event at Manchester's Co-op Live venue. The children had a fantastic day of singing as part of the largest children's choir in the world. Thank you to Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Shaw & Mrs. Lightfoot for supporting the children at the event.

Thank you to our families who have attended events in school this half-term. We have hosted Reception Stay and Play sessions, Year 4's class assembly, the Triple P parenting course with Bolton Behaviour Support Service, and a coffee morning for families who are new to school.

Have a lovely half-term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 23rd February.

Mrs Anna Lister  
Executive Headteacher

## School Term Dates 2025-2026

**School gates will open on  
January 5th at 8:35 AM  
Gates will close at 8:45 AM**

### Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1st September - School Closed to pupils - Staff Training Day

Term Begins - Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Half Term - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Term Ends - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - School closes at 1pm

### Spring Term 2026

Term Begins - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Term Ends - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 - School closes at 1pm

### Summer Term 2026

Bank Holiday - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Bank Holiday - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

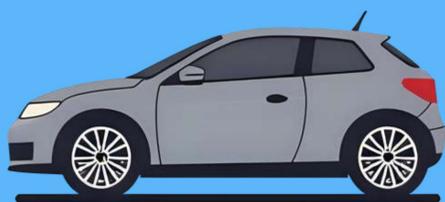
Term Begins - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Half Term - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Term Ends - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - School closes at 1pm

## Important Notice

If you're driving your child to school please make sure you park safely, legally and considerately.



Please do not block the school gate as you are preventing staff from getting to school on time and do not use the garages near school to turn your vehicle around or drop off, this is for local residents.

Please don't park across household driveways near schools and always park safely. We don't want to see anyone hurt.

# St. Matthew's School

## Uniform

### Boys



Trousers (grey/black)

Sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece (navy blue)

Shirts/polo-necked shirts (white)

Socks (white/grey/black)

Footwear - black shoes/trainers (all black including laces, no obvious logos)

### Girls



Trousers (grey/black)

Skirts/pinafore dresses (grey/black)

Sweaters/sweatshirts/fleece/cardigans (navy blue)

Shirts/polo-necked shirts/ blouses (white)

Socks/tights (white/grey/black)

Footwear - black shoes/trainers (all black including laces, no obvious logos)

## Jewellery

No jewellery should be worn at school apart from a pair of small plain studs earrings (large or hoop earrings are not allowed for health and safety reasons) and a simple watch (no smart



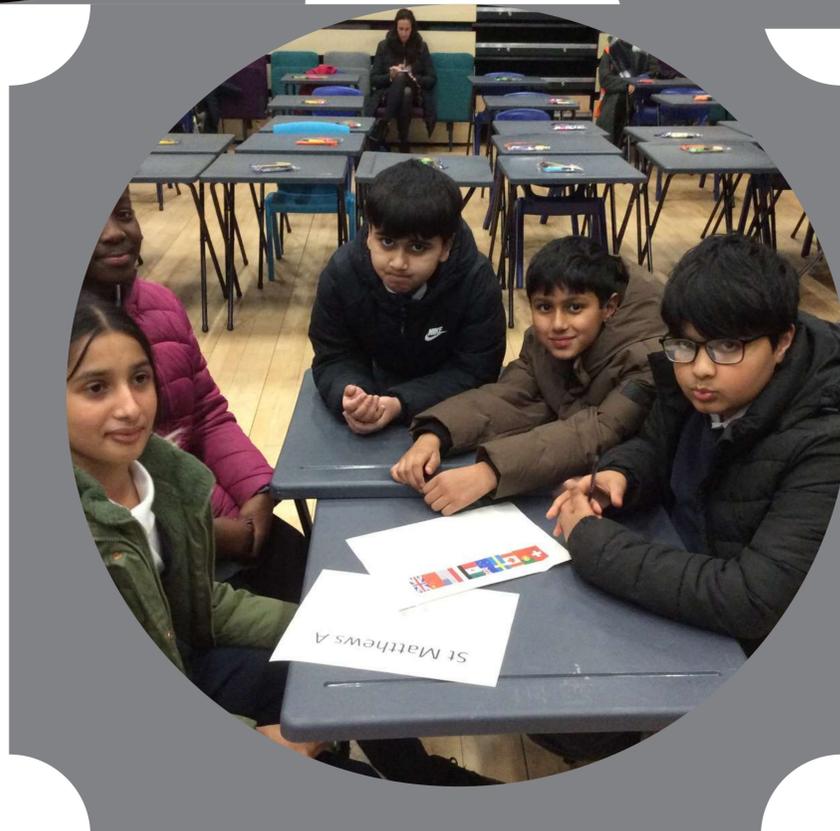
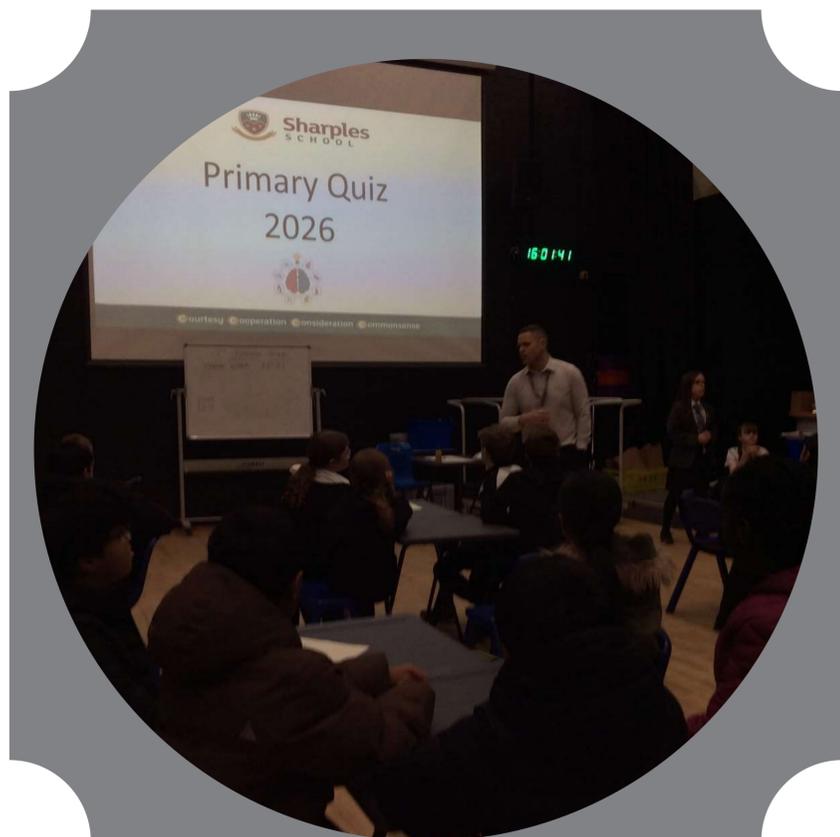
# SCHOOL NEWS

## Year 6 Inter-Primary School Quiz



Two teams of Year 6 pupils recently visited Sharples High School to take part in an exciting inter-primary schools quiz.

Although we didn't come away with the trophy this time, the children represented our school brilliantly and had a fantastic time testing their knowledge against other local schools. Well done to everyone who took part!



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Forrest School



Year 5 had a fantastic time at Forest School this week! We took part in a range of exciting challenges that encouraged teamwork and problem-solving. Working in small groups, we designed and built shelters for woodland animals, carefully thinking about their needs and the materials available. We then put our skills to the test by constructing a larger shelter for humans using a tarpaulin, tent pegs and a mallet. It was wonderful to see everyone collaborating so well and showing resilience throughout the activities! 🌿



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Gymnastic Competition

This Week the children from KS2 went to the Beth Tweddle centre to take part in different gymnastics activities to help improve fundamental movement.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Y2 Visit To Public Library

We enjoyed exploring a selection of books, listening to a wonderful story, and completing a fun craft activity together.

Membership to the library is completely free! To get your library card, simply visit the library with some identification. With thousands of books available to borrow in our newly refurbished library, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Young Voices



On Friday 6th February, our choir had the incredible opportunity to take part in Young Voices 2026. We joined an amazing 8,000 children from schools across the region to perform together at the impressive Co-op Live arena.

The atmosphere was electric as our pupils sang their hearts out as part of the largest children's choir in the world. Performing in such a huge venue, alongside thousands of other young singers, was a truly unforgettable experience. It was a fantastic evening filled with music, excitement and memories that will last a lifetime.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Year 3 – Stone Age Day



Year 3 had a fantastic time celebrating their Stone Age Day! The children stepped back in time to learn all about life in the Stone Age, discovering how early humans lived, hunted and survived.

They had the exciting opportunity to handle replica Stone Age artefacts, helping to bring their learning to life, and even tried their hand at spear throwing (safely supervised!) as they aimed at Stone Age animals. To make the day even more memorable, the children dressed up and fully embraced the experience.

It was a fun-filled, hands-on day that deepened their understanding of the topic – a great time was had by all!



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Rock Star Day



On Friday 6th February, school was filled with guitars, glitter and great enthusiasm as we dressed up as rockstars for our special Times Table Rockstars Day! The children had lots of fun playing Times Tables Rock Stars in class and showed off their fantastic multiplication skills.

We also held a special Times Tables Rockstar assembly, where the excitement reached fever pitch! A huge congratulations to Miss Manly, who was crowned the St Matthew's Times Table Champion 2026 – what an achievement! Thank you to everyone who dressed up and generously donated to support the NSPCC. Together, we raised a fabulous

