



Newsletter 1

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School



4th September 2026

<http://www.st-matthews.gloucs.sch.uk>

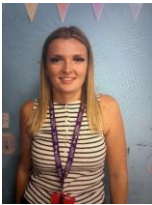
Dear Parents and Carers

This term our value is: 'Perseverance' – always working hard. To celebrate our close connection with the church, we have included a quote from the Bible on 'Perseverance'. We have attached further information for parents with this newsletter.

... **"The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands"...**

Psalm 138:8

Welcome back! It's wonderful to see everyone. The children are looking very smart in their school uniform and have definitely re-energised over the summer. As you can see Mrs James was keen to welcome all the children back into school with gusto. Tuesday and Wednesday's Inset days for staff included statutory guidance on 'Benedicts Law', which has been rolled out to all schools in England this September. 'Benedicts Law' makes comprehensive allergy safety and emergency management mandatory for schools. Mrs James will be sending home a letter outlining further details.



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Young to the St Matthew's family. Miss Young will be the class teacher for our new children in Reception class. She will be getting to know the children during their transition to primary school life as they all settle in together.

We have so many exciting activities and events coming up this term and will be communicating using the newsletter and our website to keep you up to date. With this in mind, we are in the process of updating our website to make it a more modern platform for parents, carers and the wider community to use for all information about St Matthew's School. As the website becomes more user friendly, we will be sending the newsletters that will be sent home fortnightly instead of weekly. Once we are happy that the website offers our school community all the information they need, we will then transform the newsletter to being a Celebration update at the end of term.

Y6 will be hitting the ground running with swimming sessions starting next Wednesday 16th September. Their sessions will continue every Wednesday until 21st October. Y4 will then start their session after half term with Y5 at the end of February. This will then give them plenty of time to build up their confidence in the water and work towards achieving the end of KS2 swimming expectations.

During the summer term Y6 have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability, a course to help Y6 children learn how to cycle safely on the roads. From 5th October, Y6 parents will need to book their own children onto Bikeability via a QR code, which will be sent out nearer the time. Bikeability will take place from Monday 17th May 2027 until Friday 21st May 2027.

We are excited to let you know that we have listed a whole new array of clubs for this term in the grid on the next page! All clubs will be available to book very soon via Arbor. We will let you know when they are ready. The clubs are due to start w/c 14th September. Finally, we have included an updated version of the Academic calendar for 2026-27 with this newsletter. We hope you will find it helpful.

To help you get back into the swing of school life, here are some reminders on attendance and general details:

Attendance

- Good attendance helps your child thrive.
- Please do all you can to bring your child into school every day. This way they will not miss out on learning, which can cause anxiety.
- If you are struggling with things like getting your child to school, please contact the school office before 8.30am and we will see what we can do to help.
- If your child is poorly with a cold, or any other minor illness, we are happy to administer medicine to help them through the day (you will need to complete an administer medicine form). Bring your child to school and we can all make the decision as to whether they are too poorly to be here. Often, they feel better once they're in school. Sickness and diarrhoea are the only minor illnesses that we would ask you to keep your child at home.
- Doctors, dentist or any other medical appointment: Wherever possible, please book outside of school hours. If you have an appointment during the school day, please letting us know as soon as possible. For attendance purposes we will need a copy of the appointment.
- Every child has a right to an education; the more they are here the more they will learn.

With Love & Faith We Aspire & Achieve.

Jesus said: I have come so you may have life, life in all its fullness. John 10:10

General

- We are here to help. Please let us know if you have any issues at all. If we can support you in any way, then please come to the office.
- Any child under the age of 4 is entitled to free milk in school from Coolmilk. However, any child who is 5 and above will need parents to pay for their milk. To do this you would need to register with Coolmilk at Coolmilk.com. If you have registered but your child is not getting their milk, please contact the school office.
- Arbor is our new MIS (Management Information System), that is used for all communication, booking the Den and paying for trips. Current parents have already set up their accounts. New parents will be sent an activation email to help them log in.
- School lunches need to be paid via Parentpay for children in KS2. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are funded by the Government. If your child would like to play on the school field during wet weather, we will need them to bring in named wellies. Infant children will also need them for class activities. We have some super wellie racks for them to store them on.
- A new statutory requirement is in place for children who suffer with allergies (as per details at the beginning of this newsletter). For any child who lives with a serious medical condition that we need to be made aware of, please fill in an 'Individual Healthcare Plan'. We will be contacting parents of children who we currently have on our records, to make sure that all the details are up to date..
- If your child has a food allergy, you will also need to complete a 'special dietary requirements' form for Caterlink who provide our school lunches. Again, please contact the school office.
- To help us keep up to date with your contact details or change of address, please log into your Arbor account and make any changes you need to your personal details.
- No smoking/vaping is permitted on school grounds.
- Dogs are NOT to come onto the school grounds. If you have a dog and wish to wait outside the school gates, please allow access for other parents to come and go through the gates. The only exception is for Assistance Dogs.
- Please adhere to our school uniform policy (a copy has also been sent with this newsletter). A reminder that if child has pierced ears that they may wear studs, which must be removed or covered for PE.
- You are reminded that if your child attends St Matthew's School then you are agreeing to our 'Parents and Carers Code of Conduct' policy, which we have sent with this newsletter.
- The main gates into the school carpark will be closed to cars from 8.20am—8.45am and then from 3.00pm—3.30pm daily. This is to keep our children and parents safe. The gates will continue to be closed all day; however, access is allowed around these times if you are collecting a child for an appointment or illness.
- Free School Meals—are you eligible? A letter will have been sent to parents already who are entitled to free school meals for their child/ren. If you believe that you may be eligible, please contact the school office. All free school meal entitlement is now processed through HMRC if you earn less the £7400 per year or if you claim universal credit.

Every blessing for a lovely weekend,
Kelly James and the St Matthew's team

If you would like to view St Matthew's Church news and updates, please visit: stroudparishchurches.org.uk/latest

Be an Attendance Hero...



Here Every day Ready On time

Good attendance means our children will...

- Achieve well and be successful
- Know the value of hard work and efforts
- Be kind
- Dream Big!

Work hard. Be kind. Dream big



God of love,

We pray for everyone in our country and around the world who is returning to school this month. We pray for those who are excited about this and for those who are worried or scared.

We thank you for the opportunity to learn and pray hard for those children in

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After School Clubs

Clubs will begin w/c 14.09.26 and finish w/c 12.10.26 for term 1. They will continue w/c 09.11.26 and finish w/c 7th December in term 2.

Day	Club	Staff	Start time	End time	Year Groups	Start Date	Finish Date
Monday	Dance	Miss Bale Miss Fry	3:15pm	4pm	Y3,4,5 & 6	14.09.26	12.10.26 term 1
						09.11.26	07.12.26 term 2
	Eco Warriors	Miss Daniels Miss Young	3:15pm	4pm	Y1,2,3,4,5 & 6 (max 15)	14.09.26	12.10.26 term 1
						09.11.26	07.12.26 term 2
Tuesday	French Club	Mrs Carpenter	Split sessions		All year groups	15.09.26 Prebooked children only (fees payable)	
	Colouring Club	Miss Szarko	12noon	12:30pm	Y1,2,3,4 (max 15)	16.09.26	14.10.26 term 1
						11.11.26	09.12.26 term 2
Wednesday	Recorder	Mrs James	12noon	12:30pm	Y2,3,4,5 & 6	16.09.26	14.10.26 term 1
						11.11.26	09.12.26 term 2
	Mindfulness	Mrs Dickinson	3:15pm	4pm	Y3,4,5 & 6 (max 10)	16.09.26	14.10.26 term 1
						11.11.26	09.12.26 term 2
Thursday	Choir	Mrs James Mrs Mirams	3.15pm	4pm	Y3,4,5 & 6	17.09.26	15.10.26 term 1
						12.11.26	10.12.26 term 2
	Homework club	Miss Szarko	12noon	12:30pm	All	17.09.26	15.10.26 term 1
						12.11.26	10.12.26 term 2
Friday	Cozy club	Miss Ward	12:30pm	1pm	Y1 & 2 (max 20)	18.09.26	16.10.26 term 1
						13.11.26	11.12.26 term 2

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Wrap Around Child Care

We would like to remind parents that we have our wonderful out of school facility called 'The Den'. This facility can help parents should they require childcare before or after school. The Den is a real home-from-home space where kids can relax, play, read and complete homework supported by our lovely nurturing staff.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45—8.30am which costs £5.50 (the children who attend will then go straight into school)

Core session runs from 3.15—4.30pm which costs £5.50 or you may book a longer session 3.15—6pm at £11. Healthy snack and a drink included.

To book a session please log in to your Arbor account, under the School/Activities/Clubs tabs. Childcare vouchers are accepted. Your account must be in credit in order to place bookings. If you have any difficulty, please contact the school office.



Dates for the Diary 2026—27

Friday 4 th September	Reception Class – AM only
Monday 7 th September	Reception Class – AM and lunch
Tuesday 8 th September	Reception Class – AM and lunch Piano lessons resume for this academic year
Wednesday 9 th September	Reception Class – AM and lunch
Thursday 10 th September	Reception Class – AM and lunch
Friday 11 th September	Reception Class – AM and lunch
Monday 14 th September	Reception Class – full time Whole School Nasal Flu immunisation After school clubs will begin until w/c 12 th October PTFA AGM – 7.30pm in the Den
Wednesday 16 th September	Swimming begins for Y6 – finishing 21 st October
Friday 18 th September	St Matthew's Day – Church @ 9.15am
Wednesday 23 rd September	Parents Online Safety session with PC Williams
Friday 25 th September	PTFA September Sizzle
Thursday 1 st October	Phonics workshop for Reception class parents—3.15pm
Monday 5th October	World Meningitis Day
Wednesday 7 th October	Welcome service for Reception Class – Church @ 9.15am
Monday 12 th October	Whole School Photographs
Tuesday 13 th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 15 th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 21 st October	Final Y6 swim session
Thursday 22 nd October	Harvest Festival – Church @ 9.15am
Friday 23 rd October	End of term 1



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