



Newsletter 39

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School



17th July 2026

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

Dear Parents and Carers

This term our value is 'Friendship': being a good friend. To celebrate our close connection with the Church, we have included a quote from the Bible on 'Friendship'.

".. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.... Joh 4:11

Well, this is it. We did it! Another year has flown by and what a year it has been!

We all congregated at St Matthew's church yesterday, to celebrate and thank everyone who makes St Matthew's the wonderful school that we are. From staff to Governors. From PTFA members to volunteers, and of course to our amazing children for their many achievements throughout the year. Birthdays for this week and over the summer holidays were also celebrated at this lovely service, along with our fantastic musicians and choir.



Today, we held our Leavers' service in the school hall to say goodbye to our brilliant Y6 children. It was an opportunity for them to reflect on their time here at St Matthew's and to thank their teachers through the years. It was a very emotional assembly and a lot of tears were shed, many of those by parents. Once again, tissues were on standby!

Shortly, the ice cream van will be arriving to give a cool treat to the Y6 children to celebrate their last day funded by the PTFA. We will be finishing at 2.30pm today and after all the other children have left, the Y6 children will be 'clapped' out by the staff through the foyer at approximately 2.35pm.

This year has been exceptional. We have seen all the children grow with confidence with not only their learning, but with their friendships, kindness, respect and positivity, living out our values every day. We would like to take this opportunity to look back over the year at the many fantastic events, activities and achievements that have taken place, including:

- Religious events—Welcome to our Reception children, St Matthew's Day, Harvest Festival, infant Nativity, Junior Carol concert, JAM club, Carol singing at Scarlet House, Mother's Day service, Father's Day service, Easter Experience, Easter service, the Leavers' service at Gloucester Cathedral, and of course our Family worship at school each month.
- Educational visits, included: Copesgrove Farm, We the Curious, residential to PGL Liddington, Black Country Museum, Festival of Learning at SHS, St Augustine's Farm, Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.
- Sporting Activities included: swimming for Y4, Y5 and Y6, Football, Football workshops, cricket workshops, Tag Rugby, Netball, Quicksticks, Panathlon Challenge, Mountain Biking, Gymnastics, Multiskills, Rounders, Dodgeball, District Sports, Dance Festival at Cheltenham Town Hall and our fantastic Sports Day.
- The charities we supported this year were: Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day), Odd socks day and Comic Relief.
- Musical Events included: Young Voices, Rocksteady concerts throughout the year, Y6 production 'Mission Implausible', School choir, recorders, flautists and pianists, carol singing at Scarlet House
- Other activities included: World Book day, transition days at Archway for Y5 and Y6, climbing wall and caving bus, bikeability for Y6, name the Gritter.

Did you know:

Compound Loss: Having just 90% attendance is equivalent to missing half a school day every single week, or one whole day every two weeks

We have also offered many different extra-curricular activities which included: summer sports, netball, football, construction, rounders, chess, mindfulness, choir, recorders, dance, arts & crafts.

We would like to take a moment, to say a huge thank you to the PTFA and parents who have supported the incredible fundraising events this year. All the money that has been raised will go directly to the children. We cannot highlight enough the difference the PTFA makes. Their fundraising helps to support school trips, activities, equipment and festive fun. Please join the PTFA or continue to support their events.



As the summer holidays are now here, we want to remind parents to discuss 'Stranger Danger' with their child/ren. If you see anything suspicious, please contact the police directly.



With Love & Faith We Aspire & Achieve.

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

As you are aware, attendance is the most important part of your child's education. If they are not in school they cannot learn. We monitor attendance daily and with all the support from children, parents and staff, we can tell you that the overall attendance for the year is 96%. This is considered the minimum target for 'good' school attendance in the UK. Our aim is to improve on this overall attendance during 2026-27. We will continue to do all we can to support parents with attendance and to ask you to think twice before booking a holiday during term time. Taking children out of school for long periods of time has a huge impact on their learning. Thank you to all our parents who support us with this, many of whom are in school every day and have managed to achieve 100% attendance.

Here are the details again for today:

The Leavers' service is being held at 9.15am in the school hall which all Y6 parents are invited to attend

Surprise at 11.30am for the children

Lunchtime: 12—1pm

We finish at 2.30pm (The Den will close at 5pm)

The Y6 children leave through the main doors at 2.35pm (tissues will be available)

Once again, we would like to remind parents of which teaching staff are in each year group from September:

Reception Class teacher: Miss Young/Mrs Spencer and Mrs Strachan

Year 1: Miss Daniels and Mrs Cann

Year 2: Mrs Collins/Miss Ward and Mrs Keyse

Year 3: Mrs Carpenter/Mrs Mirams and Mrs James/Mr Szkrybienieć

Year 4: Miss Fry, Mrs Webb and Ms Allen

Year 5: Miss Bale and Mrs DJ

Year 6: Miss Szarko and Mrs Southcott and Mr Szkrybienieć

On Monday we hosted the Safer Swim campaign and Drowning Prevention team in the hall. They delivered a child friendly assembly to the whole school, arming the children with information on:

- how to stay safe near rivers, lakes, canals and open water
- What to do in an emergency (including 'Float to Live')
- Simple steps from the RLSS Water Safety Code
- The importance of No Lifeguard, No Swim

The team asked the children to remember the key phrases: **Stop & Think, Stay Together, Float and Call 999**

Finally, a message from Mrs James:

Every day, I see our vision, "With love and faith we aspire and achieve," brought to life through the kindness, determination and enthusiasm of our pupils, the commitment of our staff and the support of our families.

This has been a year of significant progress across the school. We have worked hard to strengthen teaching and learning, develop pupils' confidence as writers and communicators, promote positive behaviour and ensure that every child receives the support they need to flourish. Throughout the year, our focus has remained firmly on nurturing pupils academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually, creating an environment where every child can flourish.

There is much to celebrate. Pupils have embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, shown resilience in their learning and demonstrated a genuine desire to do their very best. Across the school, there is a growing culture of aspiration, high expectations and pride in achievement. The improvements we are seeing reflect the dedication of pupils, staff and families working together towards a shared goal.

It is evident that strong foundations have been established for continued success. Many of the developments introduced this year will continue to be embedded and refined, ensuring a lasting impact for future generations of pupils.

I would like to thank our pupils for bringing such joy, energy and compassion to school, our staff for their unwavering dedication and our families for their continued encouragement and partnership. Together, we have achieved a great deal this year and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to ensure that every member of our St Matthew's family can flourish with love and faith.

We want to wish our Y6 children and parents all the best with the next chapter of their education journey. It has been a pleasure to have you in our school community and you will forever be part of the St Matthew's family.



To all of our St Matthew's family, we wish you a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to seeing you again on Thursday 3rd September.

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



Head Teacher's Certificates

Year R	Eleanor B
Year 1	Freddie V
Year 2	Jake
Year 3	Noah F
Year 4	Maisie B
Year 5	Freya D
Year 6	Freya W

Special Value Certificates

'Friendship'

Reception Class	Felix D
Year 1	Harry W
Year 2	Theo B
Year 3	Margarita M.F
Year 4	Marianne F
Year 5	Maxie H
Year 6	Faye C



Dates for the Diary 2025—26

Friday 17th July Last Day of term finishing at 2.30pm
The Den closes at 5pm
Monday 20th July Inset Day
Tuesday 21st July—31st August Summer Holidays
Tuesday 1st September Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September Inset Day
Thursday 3rd September Term 1 begins



Legendary Linguist of the term!

Year R	Rupert E	Year 4	Shallyn K
Year 1	Lilly C	Year 5	Ivy W
Year 2	Darcie W	Year 6	Blake S
Year 3	Rowan B		



Mathematician of the Month

Well done to all our amazing mathematicians!!

Reception	Arthur C
Year 1	Charlie C
Year 2	Jacon N
Year 3	Isabella M
Year 4	Rosa C
Year 5	Aoife T
Year 6	Frances B



Well we've come to the end of another school year!

Last week, the children embraced the weather and participated in our annual wheely day, raising a whopping £646! WELL DONE and THANK YOU!!

The end of the school year means we say goodbye to some of our long standing members of the PTFA who have children in Year 6 as they move on to the next part of their journey. Please join us in thanking them for their support over the years. THANK-YOU Jess V and Claire W!!

Have a think over the school holidays and consider joining us - even to just support 1 event in the school year. Every bit helps and many hands make light work. You don't have to attend meetings and do endless amounts of work. Any time you can spare is so hugely appreciated by the PTFA, the school staff and most of all - the children!! There is plenty to get involved in and to share with an amazing bunch of people who are all committed to enriching the children's time at St Matthew's.

Maybe your workplace supports charities by offering a day of paid volunteering leave. Maybe you can spare a couple of hours to help host a disco, or 30mins to sell some tickets at school drop off/pick up. No support is too small, so why not give it a go next academic year and be part of something special!

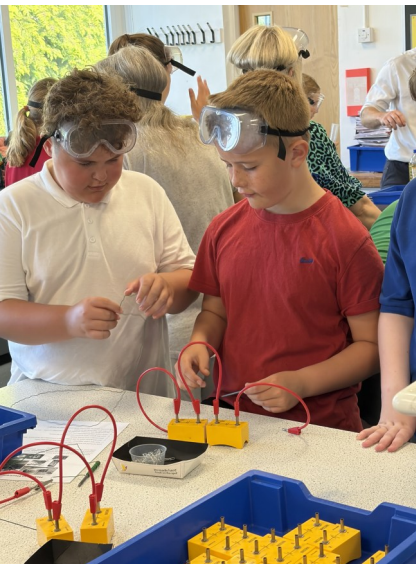
Email us at stmatthewspta@outlook.com - we'd love to hear from you!

Did you know, you can support the PTFA when you shop - at no extra cost to you!? Visit the following link and sign up now (it takes a couple of minutes but makes a big difference:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=8734&invite=08jk0o&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=easyfundraising-app&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=copy-link

We wish you a wonderful Summer break and look forward to seeing you in September and all the very best to the Year 6 children as they embark on their next adventure of secondary school.

Thank-you from all at St Matthew's PTFA





JULY 2026

SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN STROUD

FIND SUMMER FUN
AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

Visit Stroud Rocks website for the ultimate 'What's On' guide this summer.

EVENTS

PLACES TO EAT

PLACES TO VISIT

HOLIDAY CLUBS

PARKS AND WALKS

THINGS FOR TEENS

OVER 500 IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO

The Library 2026 Challenge Tales Through Time

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Hawkwood - Summer Camp

Gnome for the Holiday - Painswick Rococo Gardens

Dragonfly Festival - WWT Slimbridge

STAY UP TO DATE VIA OUR SOCIALS

WIN! A FAMILY DAY OUT OR HOLIDAY CLUB - CHECK OUT OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE WIN!

The PTFA Wheelie Day was lots of fun too!



This week our 'Recipe of the Week' is 'Knickerbocker Glory' Please try out the recipe at home and send us pictures to show the end result. We would love to hear and see how you get on.

Dear Lord,
I give thanks for my friends,
For connection and laughter,
For comfort and strength,
For encouragement and unity,
For forgiveness and grace,
For celebration and joy,
They are so many things to me,
Such a rich tapestry of blessings,
Woven through my life.
Thank you
Amen

Y4 had a great time at their Rave and Spa morning



- Ingredients**
Per serving:
- 6 strawberries
 - 2 tablespoons Strawberry Coulis
 - 6 scoops Vanilla Clotted Cream Ice Cream
 - 6 marshmallows
 - 2 fan wafers

Method

Place a strawberry half at the base of each sundae glass and pour over a little coulis. Top with a scoop of ice cream, then a marshmallow and repeat until all the ingredients have been used, reserving a whole strawberry for the top. Finish each with a fan wafer and serve immediately.

