

Matthew's C.E (Aided) Primary School and Nursery Centre



'I can do all things because Christ gives me strength' Philippians 4:13

Friday Feature: 26th September 2025

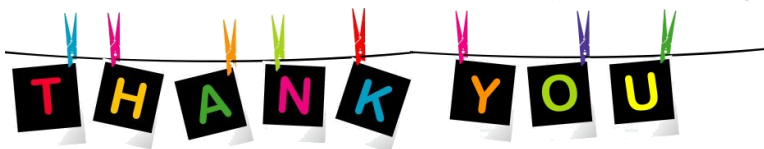


This half-term we are focusing on the Christian Value of Generosity

'God loves a cheerful giver' 2 Corinthians 9.7



National Teaching Assistants' Day



Today, Friday 26th September is National Teaching Assistants' Day.

At St Matthew's all of the teachers and senior leaders recognise that without our TAs we would not be able to run the school effectively or deliver the level of support and care our children and community require. We are all truly grateful for all of their hard work and dedication. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teaching assistants.



A message from our Safeguarding Board—you may not know but Mrs Cadman has been off work recovering from an injury. As the Safeguarding Board we have decided to organise a collection and give a little surprise to Mrs Cadman. If you could donate 25p to £1 we would appreciate it. If you don't have as much money as other people do not panic—we are not forcing you. We appreciate your support and kindness.

Macmillan Cake Day

Today every class in school participated in Macmillan cake day. We will let you know next week how much we have raised. For Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all parents, carers and children who donated money and joined us for cake.



Positive Footprints Aspirations Event



On Monday Yr5 and 6 worked with the Positive Footprints Network and local businesses to learn a little bit about the world of work. The children worked in small groups, listened to talks and participated in activities delivered by people representing a range of jobs.



School would like to say a special thank you to one of our parents, Ms Tanita Guthrie who came in a spoke to the children about her own business, House of Beauty.



Parent code of Conduct

At St. Matthew's we will not tolerate the behaviour below:

- Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- Threatening another member of the school community
- Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Use of physical punishment against your child while on school premises
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- Smoking or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)
- Possessing or taking drugs (including legal highs)
- Bringing dogs onto the school premises (other than guide dogs)

A copy of the Parents Code of Conduct is also attached with more details.

Weekly prayer



Dear God

Thank you for helping us make the right choices.

Thank you for helping us to get better at all that we do.

We know we should always listen as you are there to help us.

In your name we do our best and help each other.

You are our guide.

Amen

By 12 St Nicholas

Pupils of the Week



Nursery	Sienna
R St Francis	Finlay
1: St Teresa	Antonia
1/2: St Nicholas	Fetchi
2: St Joseph	Aisha
3: St Cecilia	Essa
3/4: St Sophia	Arthur
4: St Kateri	Lucas
5: St Thomas	Ffion
6: St Padre	G

Readers of the Week

R :St Francis	Lola
1: St Teresa	Nevra
1/2: St Nicholas	Amelia and Micaiah
2: St Joseph	George
3: St Cecilia	Bradley
3/4: St Sophia	Arthur
4: St Kateri	Lucas
5: St Thomas	Jayda
6 : St Padre	S

Attendance Award

This week the attendance award has gone to 1 St Teresa



Applying for Reception or Year 7 Places

Applying for Reception places and Year 7 Places for September 2026

Applications for Reception places and Year 7 places to start in September 2026 are now being taken by Telford and Wrekin Council. [School admissions - Telford & Wrekin Council](#)

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 will start primary school from September 2026. Parents need to apply for a reception place by **15 January 2026**. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must apply by 31 October 2025.

Children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will start secondary school from September 2026. Parents need to apply for a Year 7 place by **31 October 2025**.

Parking outside school

Unfortunately we have received more complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate and dangerous parking.

Most upsetting are the reports that parents have been verbally abusive to those residents who have challenged those who have parked across their driveways.

We are sure that you will agree that the safety of our children is the most important and would be grateful for your co-operation.



Future Dates

6—10 October	Year 6 Bikeability
10 October	World Mental Health Day—wear Yellow
Thurs 23 October	Wear Pink for Breast Cancer day
Fri 24 October	PD Day
Mon 3 November	Back to school
10—14 November	Anti bullying week

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.



2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.



3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.



4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.



5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.



6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.



7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.



8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.



9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.



10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.



Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



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