

# 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: 19th December 2025



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

*'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience' Colossians 3.12*



# Thank You!

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for their ongoing support over the course of this half term. We

have achieved a great deal over the last 7 weeks and this would not have been possible without your support.

Our children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas dinner on Wednesday. A huge thank you to Mrs Meredith and the team for cooking a fantastic Christmas dinner.

Finally all of the staff at St Matthew's School would like to wish our parents, carers, grandparents and friends a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026.





## Weekly prayer



Dear God

Thank you for that quiet night

Thank you God for the twinkling lights

Thank you for freshly fallen snow

Thank you for a warm fire's glow

Thank you God for family fun

Thank you Jesus for your son

Amen

## A couple of Extras

Thank you to four of our after school club children who helped out at the Christmas Fair—they did an amazing job!



And then we had our very own Cindy Lou from The Grinch!



## Future Dates

5th January	Back to School
16th to 20th February	Half Term
30th March to 10th April	Easter Break
4th May	Bank Holiday
25th to 29th May	Half Term
1st June	PD Day
17th July	Break up for Summer

## Pupils of the Week



Nursery	Laura Jane
R St Francis	Kemi
1: St Teresa	Brayden
1/2: St Nicholas	Fechi
2: St Joseph	Miller
3: St Cecilia	Luca
3/4: St Sophia	Jayda H
4: St Kateri	Ollie
5: St Thomas	Roxy
6: St Padre	Daphne

## Drinks

Please can you ensure that your children are not bringing energy/sports/fizzy drinks into school.

Ideally we prefer water but understand that some children will not drink plain water—and therefore sugar free squash is acceptable if necessary.



## Thank You

A big thank you to one of our parents who owns "Amigos" a local dog grooming salon.

Mr and Mrs Powell have sponsored our sports teams by funding two separate kits for our children.

They are going to look amazing!

Thank you!





## Christmas Fair

Thank you to all parents and carers who came to our Christmas Fair on Wednesday— thanks to your generous spending we have raised a whopping £512.78 which will go into our School Fund and eventually go towards something for our children to benefit from.

We must thank all the staff too who made such an effort with their class stalls, along with the other traders who came to support us.







## Well Done

Well done to Seb Guy, one of our year 6 students, who has once again fund raised to provide all these goodies to the children's ward at Princess Royal Hospital.

Well done Seb!



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

### 1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

### 2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

### 3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

### 4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

### 5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

### 6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

### 7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

### 8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

### 9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

### 10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>

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