



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Date: Friday 4th September

Welcome back to St Matthew's

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families as we begin the 2026/27 academic year.

It has been wonderful to see everyone back in school, and we are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines.

A special welcome to all the new children, families and staff joining the St Matthew's family this September. We hope you quickly feel at home in our school community.

We have another busy and exciting year ahead, and we look forward to sharing all the learning, achievements and special moments with you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Attendance and Punctuality – All Pupils

Good attendance and punctuality are essential to help children settle into the school day and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Our school gates open at **8:45am and close promptly at 8:55am**. We encourage all families to arrive in plenty of time so that children are in class, ready to learn, by the start of the school day.

If you arrive after 8:55am, your child will be marked as late. An adult must accompany them to the school office to sign them in before they can go to class.

PGL Newby Wiske Hall – Year 6

68 days to go!

The countdown is well underway until our Year 6 residential visit to PGL Newby Wiske Hall!

Thank you to all families who have been making regular payments towards the trip.

The full balance should now have been paid.

If you have any outstanding payments or are experiencing difficulties, please contact the school office as soon as possible. We are happy to work with families to arrange a manageable payment plan, ensuring every child has the opportunity to enjoy this fantastic experience.

We will shortly be arranging a Parent Information Session ahead of the residential. This will give parents the opportunity to find out more about what kit children will need, travel arrangements, timings, activities and what to expect during the trip.



Secondary School Applications - Year 6

We will be holding a Secondary School Applications Meeting on Thursday 17th September at 2:45pm in school for Year 6 parents/carers.

We will explain the application process for September 2027 secondary school places and offer advice and support to help you complete your child's application.

We encourage all Year 6 parents/carers to attend if possible.

School Lunches – Price Increase – All Pupils

Please note that from September 2026, there will be a small increase in the cost of school meals.

The new prices will be:

Main school meal (Reception to Year 6): £2.30 per day

Nursery meal: £2.10 per day

If your child is entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) or benefits-related Free School Meals, there will be no charge for their school lunch.

Free School Meals - All Pupils

From September 2026, more families receiving Universal Credit may be eligible for Free School Meals.

We encourage all eligible families to apply, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a free meal, as registering can provide additional funding and support for your child.

Apply online:

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

Swimming Session – Year 4

Year 4 swimming lessons begin on Thursday 10th September and will take place every Thursday morning until February half-term.

Children should bring their swimming kit, which should include a swimming costume (one-piece for girls), swimming trunks/shorts and a towel, along with a small, healthy snack to have when they return to school.

Parents have been sent further information and swimming pool guidance – please ensure this has been read and acknowledged before the first session.

Bikeability – Years 5 & 6

Bikeability cycle training will take place during the week beginning **Monday 28th September**.



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Year 5 will complete Levels 1 & 2, while some Year 6 children will complete Level 2 following last year's cancellation.

Children will need a suitable bike and helmet. Bikeability can provide these if required – please let the school office know.

Parent/carers consent must be completed for your child to take part.

<https://consent.bikeability.org.uk/noted-chase-rug>

Breakfast Club – All Pupils

Our Breakfast Club runs 8:00am – 8:55am, giving children a fun start to the day with games, friends, and a healthy breakfast. Children are already at school, so there's no need to travel from another venue.

Sessions are £3.50 each. Contact the school office to book a free taster session. Sessions can be booked as and when. Paid via ParentPay.

Uniform Reminder

We would like to remind families of our school uniform expectations. Our uniform helps promote a sense of belonging, equality and pride in our school community, and supports a calm, focused learning environment. Please ensure children attend school wearing the correct uniform.

School Uniform:

- Navy blue school jumper or cardigan
- Blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Blue summer dress
- Grey or white socks / grey tights
- Black school shoes (not trainers)

PE Kit:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain navy or black shorts or jogging bottoms
- School jumper can be worn on colder days
- Trainers for outdoor PE

PE Days

Nursery – Friday

Reception – Monday starting 14th Sept

Year 3 – Wednesday

Year 4 – Wednesday



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Year 1 – Thursday

Year 5 – Thursday

Year 2 – Friday

Year 6 – Tuesday

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 10th Sept

Year 4 - Swimming starts

Monday 28th Sept

Year 5/6 – Bikeability

11th-13th Nov

Year 6 Residential

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Leave of Absence Requests

All requests are processed by the local authority. Applications **MUST** be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance via the following link or QR code:

[Term-Time Child/children Absence Request Form](#)



Please check that you select '**St Matthew's Catholic Primary School**' not 'St Matthews C of E Primary School'

Updating Your Details

Please remember to keep your contact details up to date with the school. If any of your information changes, such as your address, phone number, medical information or emergency contacts, please update this on Arbor or contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Social Media - Facebook

Just a reminder that St Matthew's is now on Facebook. We will be using our page to celebrate school life, share news, key dates and updates, and to give a glimpse into the wonderful learning taking place each day. We would love for you to follow us and stay connected with our school community. You can find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsbrad>

Parent Pay – All pupils

If you have not yet signed up to ParentPay, please contact the school office who will be happy to provide you with your activation code. ParentPay allows you to easily pay for school trips, lunches and other activities online.