

SMP CONNECTED

Friday 20th February 2026 Issue #128

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#LifesongSMP



THE TIMES
BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK
TOP 100

For our SMPTA SHOP [CLICK HERE](#)



It has been a long, very wet half-term and the holiday has arrived just in the nick of time! I do have to say though, that despite the darkness and the rain outside, the children have continued to illuminate each day with their relentless energy and enthusiasm.

Today marks the half-way point in the academic year, and as we look back on the year to date, there is so much to feel grateful for. Our 150th anniversary celebrations have really lifted the whole community, especially the ceilidh and the recent disco. Looking ahead, there's so much more for us to look forward to with anticipation. Our '1876 Day' on 17th March promises to be a fantastic occasion; you can find further details about it below.

I want to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to all of you for your continued support and encouragement - it makes such a difference. May I also wish you all a wonderful half-term break. I look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 2nd March.

Bright blessings,
Martin Gray
Headteacher

Thank you and Good Luck!

With no newsletter last week, I missed the opportunity to extend our thanks to Mrs. Lovejoy who departed following the return of Miss Taylor from her maternity leave. I would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to Mrs Lovejoy for her dedication during her time at St. Matthew's, and wish her every success in the future.

We also wish Mr. Fleming every blessing as he leaves St. Matthew's today following the completion of his placement. Again, we wish him happiness and success in his teaching career! Thank you!

Mother's Day Events - Friday 13th March

Reception class will be leading an assembly to celebrate all of our wonderful mothers and mother-figures at **8:45am**. Please join us for one of the heartwarming highlights of the year. In the afternoon, we will be serving a **Mother's Day afternoon tea at 2pm** - this is for all year groups. **Pupils will be joining you for this event.**

Parents' Consultations

These will take place on consecutive Mondays: **16th and 23rd March**. Appointments have been allocated via Arbor. **Please check the section labelled Guardian consultations for your time. Please note that historic time slots are also visible so don't get them confused.**

1876 Day - 17th March 2026

We will be going back in time to the very first day of St. Matthew's 150 year history on Tuesday 17th March. **Pupils are invited to dress in Victorian clothing to celebrate**. More details below!

Baby news!

Not exactly hot off the press; however, we extend a warm welcome to the world to baby Kit who was born to Mrs. Roberts recently. We look forward to meeting the latest addition to the SMP family!

Shakespeare Schools' Festival - Monday 9th March

Tickets are still on sale via the Northern Stage website for our production of *The Tempest*. SATs preparation sessions planned for Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th will now be rehearsals for the production which is really starting to take shape. If your child has lines to learn, please support them as best you can over the half-term! Thank you!

Arbor Accounts

As we come to the end of the half-term, please can all parents and carers take time to ensure that their Arbor account is fully reconciled. A number of payments remain outstanding. Thank you for your support and understanding.

World Book Day SALE!

Children are invited to **bring in one or two good quality books to sell** in our pop-up second hand bookshop on Thursday 5th March. **Pupils are invited to bring in £1 to purchase a book on the day.** Proceeds will go back into our school library. **PLEASE send in the books on the first day of the new half term.**



COMING SOON

Monday 2nd March

School reopens/donate a book or two (see above)

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day - Pyjama day!

Monday 9th March

Shakespeare Schools' Festival Performance Day

Friday 13th March

Mother's Day Assembly (Reception) and afternoon tea (all)



LENT 2026@SMP

THE BIG LENT WALK



Scan the QR code to share an image of your BIG LENT WALK or click on [this link](#).

This year, we are inviting families to embark on their own BIG LENT WALK in support of Cafod. Joining in couldn't be easier - simply get your family together and go for a nice long walk. All we ask is that you share a photo of you on your walk to our shared Padlet and donate to Cafod via our Big Lent Walk donations page.(to follow)



SMP
Lenten
Mission

On **Tuesday, 24th March**, we will be holding a Lenten Mission Day. Throughout the day, pupils will engage in a number of activities linked to our Lifesong mission and how, during this season of Lent, we can grow closer to Jesus.

Praying with your child is so important. If you don't know how to get started, try clicking on the image opposite for some ideas about how you and your family can pray together this Lent. **You could even try the doughnut challenge!**



LET'S CELEBRATE



STAY SAFE

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If, during the half term break, you are concerned for the welfare of a child, please contact **Northumberland's One Call Service on 01670 536 400**

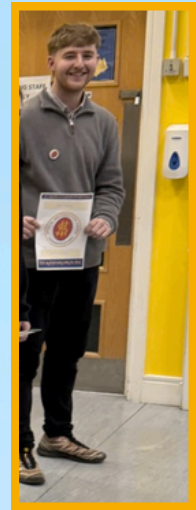
We are very excited about our weekly **special recognition awards**. Each week, staff members will choose a pupil from each year group who deserves special recognition for exceptional effort and achievement.

Each recipient will get to wear a special pin badge entitling them to special privileges in their class in the following week. Each teacher will decide on what these privileges will look like and these may change over time. **Pin badges must be returned to Mr. Gray each Friday in return for a small treat!**

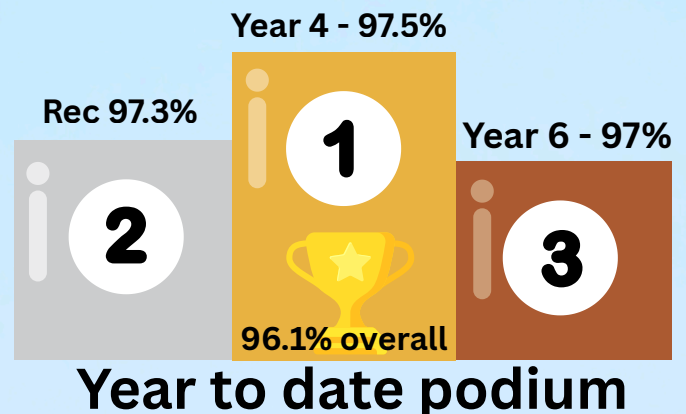
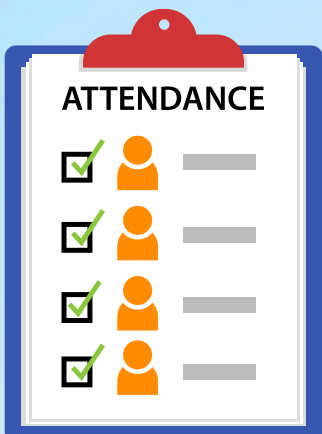
RECEPTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	TA'S AWARD
BRODY	THEA	CHARLOTTE	KATE	ISLA	MR FLEMING	NAOMI	HELENKA



Congratulations to these recipients of our Lifesong Mission Award - the theme this half term has been **loving one another** Archie, Avey, Freddie, Lola, Joshua and Juno!



Thank you Mr. Fleming for all of your hard work during your time at St. Matthew's!



*Tuesday, 17th
March 2026*

*Costumes encouraged
Special celebration lunch
Traditional lessons
Official photography*



1876 DAY

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Dress as a Victorian child may have done on their first day at St. Matthew's.

Participate in a range of activities facilitated by historians from Beamish Museum

Play traditional Victorian games

As part of this special day, we are hoping to set up our own SMP Museum. If you have any educational artefacts that you think may interest the children and you are willing to loan them for the day, please get in touch.





We have celebrated Chinese New Year this week. We have made Chinese lanterns, used chopsticks, made our own dragons and did our own dragon dance.



ROOTS AND SHOOTS

Bursting with LIFE



St Matthew's
Catholic Primary School



LITTLE SHOOTS

STAY & PLAY

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 1:30PM

Bursting with LIFE

Join us for joyful afternoons of outdoor play, gentle discovery, and seasonal crafts — all rooted in the wonders of nature. At Little Shoots, we believe in nurturing young minds through mud, leaves, laughter, and learning. Whether we're planting seeds, splashing in puddles, or listening to birdsong, every session is a chance to grow together.

Perfect for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups who love fresh air, friendship, and the magic of the natural world.



FIND US ON HIGHFIELD LANE, PRUDHOE NE42 6EY
LOOK FOR THE RED ARCH!



www.stmatthewsprudhoe.bwcet.com



@StMatthewPrudhoe

#LifesongSMP

2nd March
5th March
9th March
13th March
16th March
17th March
20th March
23rd March
1st April
11 - 14th May
16th May
31st May - 3rd June
1st June
8th June
13th June
19th June
22 - 26th June
2nd July
3rd July
8th July
10th July
16th July
17th July

Return to school - bring a book (or two)!

World Book Day
Year 5/6 Shakespeare Schools' Festival 'The Tempest'
Reception Class Mother's Day Assembly - 8:45am / Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
Parents' Consultation Evening (1)
1876 Day - dress as a Victorian
School Council trip to Parliament
Parents' Consultation Evening (2)
EYFS Easter Egg Hunt (pm)
Year 6 SATs
First Holy Communion
Year 6 Field Trip to Boggle Hole (leaving Sunday)
Year 4 Multiplication Check (this week)
Year 1 Phonics Check (this week)
BIG School Reunion Day!
School Closed - INSET Day
Cornerstones Week 2026 / Summer fair on Friday
Year 5 Celebration of Sport at Gateshead International Stadium
Sports Day - Reception - Year 6
Nursery Sports Afternoon - 1pm
Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop Stephen Wright - 10am
Leavers' Mass - 10am
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 2pm / School closes



**Please note that
all dates are
subject to
change.**

Please note that new dates are added in bold