

SMP CONNECTED

Friday 27th March 2026 Issue #131

www.stmatthewsprudhoe.bwcet.com

#LifesongSMP

THE TIMES
BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK
TOP 100

For our SMPTA SHOP [CLICK HERE](#)



As we approach the end of the spring term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your encouragement and support throughout what has been an extremely busy period of time.

Next week is Holy Week, the most important time in our church's year, as we remember the Passion of Jesus. I have always enjoyed the years when the holidays have fallen in such a way that school is open during this time as it allows us an opportunity to explore and celebrate these pivotal events as a school family. Indeed, our Mass scheduled for Tuesday afternoon will provide all of the children with an opportunity to reflect on Holy Week and what it means to us all as we journey alongside Jesus to the cross and to the glory of His resurrection.

This will be the last newsletter of the term so I would like to extend my most sincere best wishes to you all for a very happy and holy Easter!

With bright Easter blessings,

Martin Gray
Headteacher

Return to school

A reminder that we return to school following the Easter holidays on **Monday 20th April**.

EYFS Easter Egg Hunt

Family members of children in nursery and reception classes are invited to join Mrs Hatherley and the team at their annual Easter Egg hunt on **Wednesday afternoon** at 1:15pm. We look forward to welcoming you to this fun family event!



Reception visit to Hexham!

On Wednesday, our Reception children enjoyed a fantastic day out in Hexham. They really enjoyed their visit to the Queen's Hall theatre but the highlight was probably ice creams on the minibus!

Holy Week Mass

Tuesday 31st March 1:30pm

Family members are invited to join us for the celebration of Mass in **school** next Tuesday.

Easter Mass/Service Times

As always, families are invited to join in the parish celebrations over the Easter weekend. Please note the following times:

Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday - Walk of Witness leaving church at 11:15am / Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3:00pm / Stations of the Cross 7:00pm

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass - 6:00pm

Easter Sunday - Mass at 10:30am followed by Easter Egg hunt (see below)

Chocolate Tombola!

Please accept our **HUGE** thanks all your donations of chocolate eggs! Our tombola will take place straight **after school on the final day of term (Thursday 2nd April)**. Weather permitting, the tombola will take place outside the front of school.

'Overcome' Lenten Mission Day

We were delighted to be joined by Becca Gallagher, lay chaplain from St. Thomas More School in Blaydon on Tuesday for a day of prayer, music, dance and reflection. The theme for the day was how we can 'overcome' life's challenges by trusting in Jesus and his saving power. It was such a lovely day and we thank Becca for giving up her time to lead us in such an inspirational way.



Stellar Futures!

For the past couple of months, Dr. Saunders has been running our 'Stellar Futures' club for years 5 and 6. The club is delivered with the support of Kielder Observatory and we look forward to a visit there in June to bring the project to a close. This week, the children explored the impact of meteorites!



NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 31st March

Year 5 Big Sing Event at St. Thomas More School / Holy Week Mass in school 1:30pm

Wednesday 1st April

EYFS Easter Egg Hunt - 1:15pm

Thursday 2ns April

Chocolate tombola

School closes for the Easter holidays and reopens on Monday 20th April



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](#).



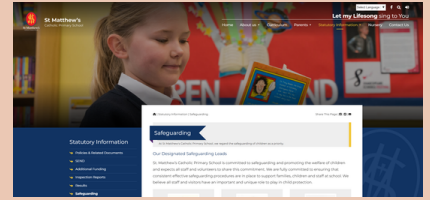
Praying with your child is so important. If you don't know how to get started, try clicking on the image opposite for some ideas about how you and your family can pray together this Lent. **You could even try the doughnut challenge!**



LET'S CELEBRATE



STAY SAFE



Click on the image above to access information about safeguarding at SMP.

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	HT'S AWARD
HELENKA	ALFIE	XANDER	ALFIE	EZRA	TOTO	SOPHIE	FRANKIE & THEO	ALANNAH



INSPIRING OTHERS...

OWEN
CADENCE
PARIS
CODY
KLARA
OLIVIA
ROSE
MR. BURNETT

Pictures from our recent robotics workshop and meteorites investigation. All part of our **Stellar Futures** project delivered with support from Kielder Observatory!



Our amazing school councillors represented St. Matthew's on a visit to the Houses of Parliament last Friday!

Huge congratulations to our year 5 boys who represented Prudhoe Hawks and won their Winter football tournament last weekend!



ATTENDANCE

-
-
-
-

This week

Reception - 100%

Rec - 97.6%

Year 4 - 97.3%	1	Year 2 - 97.1%
2		3
96.0% overall		

Year to date podium



Our reception children enjoyed a fantastic day out in Hexham on Wednesday. As well as visiting the Quenn's Hall for not one but two storytelling sessions, they visited the Abbey, played at the park and found time to enjoy iced-lollies on the mini-bus!



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

31st March
1st April
2nd April
20th April
23rd April
11 - 14th May
16th May
31st May - 3rd June
1st June
8th June
13th June
19th June
22 - 26th June
30th June
2nd July
3rd July
8th July
10th July
16th July
17th July

Year 5 BIG SING at St. Thomas More / Holy Week Mass in school 1:30pm
EYFS Easter Egg Hunt (1:15pm)
Maundy Thursday - school closes for the Easter holidays
Pupils return to school
Year 6 Welcome Evening at St. Thomas More School, Blaydon - 5pm
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
New Reception Parents' Information Evening - 5:30pm
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



OLSC *Easter* EGG HUNT!

**Sunday 5th April
after 10.30am Mass**

**Tickets £2.50 available
from church and SMP**

Menu Week 1

APRIL 29th - MAY 11th - JUNE 1st & 22nd - JULY 13th - SEPTEMBER 14th - OCTOBER 5th

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Margherita with potato wedges or Chinese chicken curry with rice Sweetcorn & Garden peas Chocolate brownie	Chicken bites with crispy potatoes or Macaroni cheese with garlic bread Carrots & Green beans Iced sponge cake	Sausage, mash & Yorkshire pudding or Quorn sausage, mash & Yorkshire pudding Mixed vegetables & Garden peas Flapjack	Chicken pasta bake with garlic bread or Cheese & tomato panini Sweetcorn & Broccoli Muffin	Fish fingers & chips or Quorn nuggets & chips Baked beans & Garden peas Ice cream pot

Garden KITCHEN

FOR ALLERGENS AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

Plain pasta, basil and tomato sauce, sandwiches, jacket potatoes and a variety of fillings are available daily as an alternative to our main courses. We also offer a salad & fruit bar to accompany your child's meal. Yoghurts, cheese and crackers are also available daily, as an alternative dessert option, cold drinks also supplied.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENT. YOUR CATERING TEAM WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN PROVIDE TAILORED MENUS TO CATER FOR YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS.

Bishop Wilkenson Catholic Education Trust - Primary School, Three Wells Menu Cycle for Spring/Summer 2024

Menu Week 2

APRIL 27th - MAY 19th - JUNE 9th & 26th - AUGUST 21st - SEPTEMBER 21st - OCTOBER 12th

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Margherita with potato wedges or Chicken goujons with wedges Sweetcorn & Garden peas School cake	Hot dogs* & tortilla chips or Mild chicken korma with rice & naan bread Carrots & Green beans Belgian waffle	Chicken dinner with roasties & Yorkshire pudding or Cheese & tomato panini Mixed vegetables & Garden peas Muffin	Beef lasagne with garlic bread or Pasta meatballs* with garlic bread Sweetcorn & Broccoli Shortbread biscuit	Battered fish & chips or Quorn nuggets & chips Baked beans & Garden peas Ice cream pot

Garden KITCHEN

FOR ALLERGENS AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE

*vegetarian alternative available

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Menu Week 3

MAY 4th & 25th - JUNE 15th - JULY 6th - SEPTEMBER 1st & 23rd - OCTOBER 16th

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pizza Margherita with potato wedges or Sausage roll with wedges Sweetcorn & Garden peas Baked doughnut	Chicken burger with crispy diced potatoes or Cheese pastry with crispy diced potatoes Carrots & Green beans Iced sponge cake	Pork dinner with roasties & Yorkshire pudding or Quorn mice & dumplings Mixed vegetables & Garden peas Chocolate cake	Mild beef chilli tacos or Macaroni cheese with garlic bread Sweetcorn & Broccoli Shortbread biscuit	Salmon fish fingers & chips or Quorn nuggets & chips Baked beans & Garden peas Ice cream pot

Garden KITCHEN

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Bishop Wilkenson Catholic Education Trust - Primary School, Three Wells Menu Cycle for Spring/Summer 2024





Society of St Vincent de Paul

THE SVP HELPS ANYONE EXPERIENCING POVERTY-BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER A CRISIS. WE SUPPORT PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AND FAITHS, OFFERING PRACTICAL HELP, FRIENDSHIP, AND KINDNESS.



LOCAL SUPPORT IN PRUDHOE

OUR ACTIVE SVP GROUP, WITH THE GENEROSITY OF PARISHIONERS, HELPS PEOPLE IN PRUDHOE AND FAMILIES FURTHER AWAY ACROSS ENGLAND, WALES, AND OVERSEAS. EVERYTHING IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE DBS CHECKED.



WE PROVIDE SUPPORT SUCH AS:

- FOOD PARCELS, FOOD, CLOTHES, AND FURNITURE
 - HELP WITH TRANSPORT
 - FRIENDSHIP AND SOMEONE TO TALK TO
 - FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHERE POSSIBLE
 - SUPPORT FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND PEOPLE IN PRISON
 - SOCIAL EVENTS AND TRIPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE
 - HELP FOR CHILDREN TO ATTEND HOLIDAY CAMPS
 - SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM
 - COMPANIONSHIP FOR THOSE WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL AND THEIR FAMILIES
 - USE OF A CARAVAN AT SANDY BAY FOR A FAMILY HOLIDAY
- AND SO MUCH MORE

NEED HELP?

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS SUPPORT, PLEASE SPEAK TO MR GRAY OR MS CAMON-VILCHEZ WITH YOUR PERMISSION, WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO HELP IN THE WAY YOU NEED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW THIS LINK.

[HTTPS://SVP.ORG.UK/ABOUT-US](https://svp.org.uk/about-us)



Wraparound Care

To support busy working families we offer breakfast and after school care every day. Breakfast club is open from 7:30am every morning, and after school club runs from 3:00pm until 6:00pm (5:00pm on Fridays). [Click on the image above for more details.](#)

Our school gates open at **8:20am** and children are expected at their desks by **8:30am** for registration. You can find out more information about our school day by clicking on the image above.



Get involved!

Why not get involved with our fantastic **SMPTA**? To find out more about the incredible work our families and friends do to raise funds and build our community, click on the link to their Facebook page!



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School



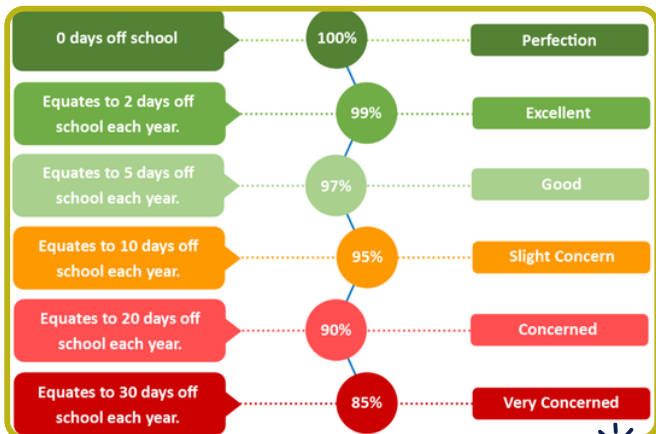
Our Trust catering services provide a range of hot and cold meal options for children to enjoy every day. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they will be eligible to receive a free school meal under the government's Universal Free School Meals programme. Children in Year 3 upwards are currently charged £2.95 per day for lunch.



Meals are booked via our Arbor parents' app - see below

[Click on the image above to check your eligibility for free school meals](#)

School attendance



Excellent school attendance is key to children's happiness and success. We will always work **with** families to ensure your child attends school regularly and thrives. **If your child cannot attend school because of an illness, please contact the [school office](#) by telephone before 8:30am.**



School Uniform

[Click here for more information about our uniform policy](#)



Mr. Gray and Mrs. Hatherley and Mrs Wright are our **designated safeguarding leads**. They are always available to talk to if you are concerned about the safety and welfare of a person in our community. If you want to report a child protection concern, you can contact Northumberland's One Call Service.



[Click here for our term dates and for information about how to apply for a leave of absence from school.](#)

CONTACT US

01661 835 484

info@smp.bwcet.com

Download the app to get connected!

The best way to keep your child's personal details up to date is via our parents' Arbor app. You can also use Arbor to book clubs, schedule wraparound care, make payments and monitor your child's attendance.

Download the app

SMP Communication Companion



<p>My child is feeling unwell and is unable to come to school.</p>	<p>Contact the school office via telephone before 8:30am.</p>	<p>01661835484</p>
<p>I need to update my child's personal information e.g. medical information, change of address or telephone number etc.</p>	<p>Update personal information using the Arbor app. If you require further assistance then contact the school office via email or telephone</p>	<p>Arbor ↓ info@smp.bwcet.com 01661835484</p>
<p>I want to let my child's teacher know that they have had a difficult night/morning.</p>	<p>Send a Class Dojo message with the word 'care'. Dojo messages are picked up between 8:00am and 8:20am each day. If you feel that sharing details would be helpful, please speak to a member of staff on the school gate or call the school office and request a telephone appointment with your child's teacher.</p>	<p>Class Dojo ↓ 01661835484</p>
<p>I would like to book my child into Breakfast /Afterschool/Extra-curricular club.</p>	<p>Bookings are made through the Arbor app. If you have any issues, please contact the school office.</p>	<p>Arbor ↓ info@smp.bwcet.com 01661835484</p>
<p>I need to know when events are happening.</p>	<p>In the first instance, refer to the latest school newsletter which contains a comprehensive diary of events. Changes to the calendar will be highlighted on Class Dojo</p>	<p>SMP Connected Newsletter</p>
<p>I want to know specific arrangements about my child's class e.g homework. PE day etc</p>	<p>These arrangements are shared in the first instance at the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting in September. Following the meeting, slides are shared on each class' story on Dojo.</p>	<p>Meet the Teacher ↓ Class Dojo</p>
<p>I want to book my child's place on a school trip.</p>	<p>All trips are booked through the Arbor app. If you have any issues, please contact the school office.</p>	<p>Arbor ↓ info@smp.bwcet.com 01661835484</p>
<p>My child has lost some property.</p>	<p>Send a message to your child's teacher via Class Dojo.</p>	<p>Class Dojo Please ensure that all personal items (especially clothing items) are labelled.</p>