

SMP CONNECTED

Friday 24th April 2026 Issue #132

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#LifesongSMP



THE TIMES
BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK



For our SMPTA SHOP [CLICK HERE](#)

As always, it was a joy to return to school after the holidays and to hear all about the children's many adventures both far from home and on their doorsteps. As we embark on the summer term, we look forward with great excitement to an action-packed few months which will culminate in our special celebration with Bishop Stephen to officially mark our 150th anniversary!

This week, we have marked two very significant days in the calendar. On Wednesday, we celebrated Earth Day by learning about how we have the power to make a difference to our planet and about our collective and individual responsibility as stewards of creation. Yesterday, we celebrated St. George's Day with a special assembly focused on our nation's proud heritage and on the story of St. George and how he is a wonderful example as our patron saint.

All that remains is to wish you all a very pleasant weekend and to express all the staff's gratitude for your continued dedication to working in partnership with us.

With bright blessings,
Martin Gray

Year 3 and 4 Parent Consultations

Over the next two Tuesdays, parents and carers of pupils in years 3 and 4 are invited to attend **consultations with Miss Baker**. Appointments will run from **8am until 9:30am** and then again from **3:15pm until 4:30pm**. If you have not booked your appointment already, you can do so via **Arbor**. If you experience any difficulties, please contact the school office via email.

Cornerstones Week

We are looking forward to another action-packed Cornerstones Week from **22nd-26th June**. We have several fun activities lined up for pupils and parents so watch this space! As usual, we will be asking for a donation towards the cost of these activities so please support us if you can. Further details to follow.

School place allocations - September 2026

Reception places for September 2026 have been allocated this week. If you have any questions relating to this, or if you're still waiting on confirmation of your child's place from the local authority, please get in touch with the office. A welcome meeting for new Reception parents is scheduled for **30th June at 5:30pm**.

Summer Fair 2026 - 26th June

There will be a meeting to plan the summer fair at **3pm on Thursday 7th May**. Please consider coming along to support us if you can. Thank you!

First Holy Communion 2026

Please keep those children preparing for their First Holy Communion in your prayers as they make final preparations for this special celebration on **Saturday 16th May**. **Mass will be in church at 10am** and we look forward to welcoming lots of family and friends to help us celebrate this special milestone.

Summer term clubs

We are busy finalising plans for our summer term enrichments. As we are awaiting confirmation on dates from different coaches, we cannot share exact dates with you just yet so please bear with us. If any parents or family members are interested in leading an after school club, please do get in touch with the school office.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 28th April

Year 3 and 4 parents' consultations (morning and afternoon appointments)

LET'S CELEBRATE



Click on the image above to access information about everything on offer through the amazing people running the Prudhoe Youth Project

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
LYLA	OSCAR	AVA	NOAH	KLARA	BEN B	JUNO	JAMIE M	ISAAC L



Huge congratulations go to year 6 pupil Millie who helped her team Newcastle West End Lionesses to capture the Northumberland U11 FA Cup at the beginning of the Easter holidays! Well done Millie!



We were absolutely delighted to receive this glowing appraisal from the Coram Shakespeare Festival team following our amazing performance of the Tempest in March. We are equally delighted to have achieved silver school status for our continued dedication to the festival!

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on"

The Tempest
by St Matthew's Catholic Primary School
at Northern Stage, 9th March 2026
appraised by Ryan Hassan

It is an absolute delight, in our 25th anniversary year, to be celebrating with St Matthew's Catholic Primary School and to be marking this milestone with their wonderful production of The Tempest as part of Shakespeare Schools' Theatre Festival's Spring season. Here are some of my highlights from the performance at Northern Stage.

The Tempest always benefits from a big opening and this company really delivered! A real stormy opening brought the audience right in to the thick of the action. Throughout the cast did a fantastic job of inviting us into the story. I really loved how the chanting took us to the magical island and added to the sense of disorientation created in that moment.

The movement and staging throughout your performance was excellent. I really loved the use of physical theatre and how you worked as an ensemble to create the monster that Ariel becomes. This was then repeated throughout, and I loved how the cast also turned into the scary dogs. It showed a real mastery of movement to embody characters and invoked a real reaction from the audience. Your use of costume in this moment was also really clever!

You told the story really well throughout and it was clear to the audience who everybody was and what their role was in the wider story. Your storytelling was made even clearer because of your good positioning on the stage, as well as smooth transitions and most of all, the clarity of your speech. The whole cast showed a fantastic knowledge of positioning which allowed you to create lovely 'pictures' on stage. You also incorporated off-stage instrumental accompaniment which added to the atmosphere of the play beautifully.

As a company you were incredibly professional throughout the day, making excellent use of our top tips to deliver a confident performance. You were a joy to work with!

Performances like this show us that Shakespeare can live on, in the hands of young people, in fresh, exciting and reimagined ways. We hope to welcome you back to Shakespeare Schools' Theatre Festival for another 25 years - and beyond!

St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

This was an atmospheric Tempest, well told by a real professional company.

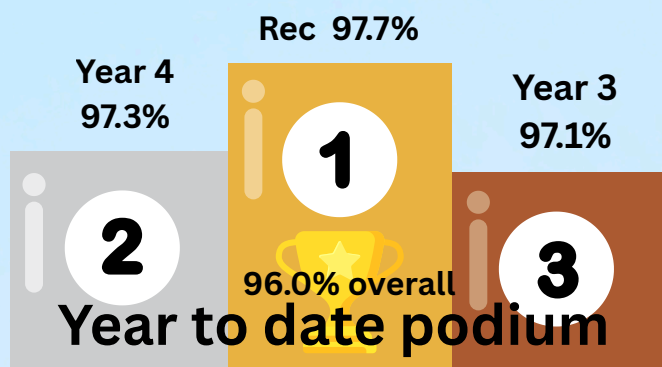
ATTENDANCE

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This week

Year 1 and Year 3

100%





We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Roots and Shoots Nursery family, and to all members of their families. We look forward to many years of working in partnership with you all.

During this first week of the summer term, the children have been really busy doing, amongst many other things, planting beanstalks which we hope will grow! We are also enjoying our new book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*!



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

7th May
8th May
11 - 14th May
16th May
31st May - 3rd June
1st June
8th June
19th June
22 - 26th June
29th June
30th June
2nd July
3rd July
8th July
10th July
16th July
17th July

SMPTA Summer Fair Planning Meeting - 3pm

KS2 visit to the Centre for Life

Year 6 SATs

First Holy Communion - 10am in church

Year 6 Field Trip to Boggle Hole (**leaving Sunday**)

Year 4 Multiplication Check (this week)

Year 1 Phonics Check (this week)

School Closed - INSET Day

Cornerstones Week 2026 / Summer fair on Friday

Year 6 visit to the Emmaus Youth Village

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

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 Wilkinton Catholic Education Trust - PRIMARY SCHOOL THREE WEEK MENU CYCLE FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Menu Week 2

APRIL 29th - 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

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*vegetarian alternative available

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Bishop Wilkinton Catholic Education Trust - PRIMARY SCHOOL THREE WEEK MENU CYCLE FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2024



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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