

SMP CONNECTED

Friday 22nd May 2026 Issue #136

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#LifesongSMP

THE TIMES
BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK
TOP 100



For our SMPTA SHOP [CLICK HERE](#)



Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of our penultimate half-term of the school year, it feels like a good moment to pause and reflect on what has been another wonderfully busy and rewarding few weeks. Although it's only been a five-week half-term, it really does feel as though we've packed an incredible amount into a short space of time. There is so much to be proud of, and I'm sure we're all feeling ready for a well-earned rest as we head into next week's break.

Looking ahead, the final stretch of the year promises to be just as full and memorable. It will undoubtedly be a busy time, but also a very special and emotional one, as we enjoy the culmination of our 150th anniversary celebrations and begin to say goodbye to those who will be moving on from St. Matthew's. These moments are always poignant, but they are also a chance to celebrate everything that makes our school community so special.

For now, though, I'd simply like to wish you all a truly wonderful holiday. I hope it brings plenty of rest, lots of fun, and maybe even a little sunshine! We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final part of the term on Monday 1st June.

With brightest blessings,
Mr Gray

Cornerstones Week

We are looking forward to another action-packed Cornerstones Week from **22nd-26th June**. This year, we are delighted to have already booked in a freestyle football coach, a hula-hooping session and a music and movement teacher who will be delivering sessions across the week. As always, the week will culminate in an inflatables day on the Friday.

Voluntary financial contributions have been worked out depending on each child's age group and the activities that they will be accessing throughout the week. Please consider making a contribution so that we can continue to offer these activities each year.

New Academic Year - Transition Days

Nursery new starters are invited to attend sessions on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 17th June 9:30pm-11:15am**
- **Tuesday 30th June 1:00pm-2:15pm**

A whole school 'move up' day is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 30th June**. This coincides with one of the St. Thomas More transition days. Please be assured that there will be provision made for on this day for pupils transitioning to different middle schools.

Class photographs

Debbie Young will be visiting school on **Monday 8th June** to take class photographs. These will be made available for parents to purchase.

Junior Duke Submissions

Mrs. Hatherley has asked me share that all completed Junior Duke books should be **submitted during Cornerstones Week (22-26 June)**.

Year 6 Residential

A final reminder that our year 6 children will be heading down to Boggle Hole on **Sunday 31st May**. Dr. Saunders and Mrs. Hatherley will be ready and eagerly awaiting your arrival at school at **8:45am**. Don't forget to prepare by referring to the kit-list sent out recently both in paper format and via Dojo.

SMPTA reminders

We would like to extend a huge thank you for all of the cuddly toys donated this morning! Mrs. Copple's car resembles 'Build-a-bear'!

Our next non-uniform day is scheduled for **Thursday 11th June** to co-incide with the start of the FIFA World Cup! Pupils are invited to bring in sweet treats on that day and to dress in the colours/traditions of the following countries:

Nursery/Reception - **Scotland**
Year 1 - **Colombia**
Year 2 - **Argentina**
Year 3 and 4 - **England**
Year 5 - **Mexico**
Year 6 - **Brazil**

Commemorative 150th anniversary tea towels can be pre-ordered for £5 [here.](#)



COMING SOON

Sunday 31st May Year 6 leave for Boggle Hole (see above)

Monday 8th June Class photographs

LET'S CELEBRATE



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 |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| MISS SHERWIN | CALEB | IVY | AZIEL | ALEX | RUBY | MISS SHERWIN | | ALL OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN |



Huge congratulations to Xavier (year 5) who recently travelled to Scotland to compete in the Mezzo Cup - a gymnastics competition for children across England and Scotland! Despite only taking up the sport 10 months ago, Xavier and his team managed to achieve a third place finish! Congratulations Xavier!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

West Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On this half term holiday - May 2026

Prudhoe Family Hub Tuesday 26th May Baby Stay and Play (ages 0-18 months) 10-11am Wed 27th May SEND Safe Space (All ages, additional needs and disabilities) 9.30-11.30am Thursday 28th May Family Stay and Play (All ages) 10-11.30am Friday 29th May Family Stay & Play at Eastwoods Park (All ages) 10-11.30am at Eastwoods Park, NE42 5DX	Haltwhistle Family Hub Tuesday 26th May Go Outside & Play at Walltown Country Park Greenhead, CA8 7HZ (All ages) 1-3pm Wed 27th May SEND Safe Space (All ages, additional needs and disabilities) 1-3pm Thursday 28th May Buggy Walk (All ages welcome) Meet at 1pm outside the Warm Welcome, Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall, NE49 0AX	Hexham Family Hub Tuesday 26th May Calm Stay and Play (All ages, additional needs and disabilities) 10-11am Wed 27th May Family Stay and Play (All ages) 10-11am Thursday 28th May SEND Safe Space (All ages, additional needs and disabilities) 9.30-11.30am Find us on Facebook & Instagram @WestFamilyHubs	Bellingham Family Hub Thursday 28th May Family Stay and Play at the Park (All ages) 10.30-11.30am at Bellingham Jubilee Play Park, NE48 2JS (Weather dependant) Become a Family Hub Member! Scan the QR code or visit nland.cc/fhreg Find us online! Scan the QR code or visit nland.cc/familyhubs
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Please get in touch for more information about our groups, sessions & digital offer

Sign up for a group or session

Online Notice Board

BEST START IN LIFE Family Hubs Here for everyone

peep Supporting parents and children to learn together

Parent Support & Skills Workshops and discussions helping parents and carers strengthen relationships and support their children's wellbeing. Navigating Parenthood Information & ideas to help parents and carers navigate parenting older children & teens Dad Pad The essential guide for new dads developed with the NHS Dad Talk Online workshop for dads, during pregnancy and beyond Healthy Relationships Support to reduce conflict and improve everyone's lives. Togetherness Free digital programme providing tools to support parents/carers & young people of each developmental stage: https://togetherness.co.uk access code - MADMAN Sleep Workshop Support & guidance available from trained sleep awareness practitioners	Early Learning & Play Fun and engaging sessions helping you support your children's learning and development through everyday activities. Brilliant Babies Specialty designed supportive groups for families with young babies Terrific Toddlers Meet other families with toddlers at these social sessions with topical themes Ready Steady School Encourage your little one's independent skills with these fun, friendly sessions Early communicators For children between 15-36 months who are experiencing some difficulties with their understanding and/or use of language Stay & Play Regular fun sessions, with no booking required Baby Support & Early Parenting Friendly sessions for new and expectant parents to connect, learn, and explore their baby's growth and development together. Building a Brain A bite-size online workshop exploring brain development Preparation for Parenthood Develop a healthy lifestyle for you and your baby, support for expectant mums and dads. Feeding Friends NHS partner support with breastfeeding and more Starting Solids A guide to starting solid foods with your little one Toilet Training Workshop Practical advice for parents and carers beginning the toilet training journey Wellbeing Service Tailored support for Mums or Dads living in Northumberland who are expecting a baby or have a child under 2 years of age.
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ATTENDANCE

✓

This week

WINNER

Year 3 98.5%

Rec, Y3 97.3%

Year 4 97.1%	1	Year 6 96.6%
2		3
95.9% overall		

Year to date podium



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.bwcoet.com



@StMatthewPrudhoe

#LifesongSMP

31st May - 3rd June

1st June

8th June

11th June

19th June

22 - 26th June

22nd June

23rd June

24th June

25th June

26th June

29th June

30th June

2nd July

3rd July

6th July

7th July

8th July

10th July

16th July

17th July

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

Year 4 Multiplication Check (this week)

Class photographs day

Year 1 Phonics Check (this week)

World Cup non-uniform day (see above)

School Closed - INSET Day

Cornerstones Week 2026 / Summer fair on Friday

Football freestyle - including free parents' workshop after school!

Hula-hooping - including free parents' workshop after school

EYFS Pirate Trip to Longsands Beach

Tennis Day!

Inflatables and school fair!

Final date for Junior Duke submissions

Year 6 visit to the Emmaus Youth Village

'Move up' Day

New Reception Parents' Information Evening - 5:30pm

Year 5 Celebration of Sport at Gateshead International Stadium

Sports Day - Reception - Year 6

Stellar Futures Club - Kielder Observatory Visit - NEW DATE!!

Summer Arts Festival - 2pm

Nursery Sports Afternoon - 1:30pm

Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop Stephen Wright - 10am

Nursery Graduation 1:30pm. Nursery will close for the summer today

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