

21st November 2025

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Worship

We are now in full swing of preparing for Christmas where children are learning songs for the Christmas Service and Nativity. It is lovely to hear the children singing and we know the events will be wonderful when we get to December. This week, we have also reflected on showing kindness to others and the power of good for others.

A message from Miss Harris

What a chilly week! The snow on Wednesday was a particular highlight for me and I know many of the children... it is probably a good thing that it didn't settle though!

A quick note about arriving in school on time: you may already be aware that we have moved our daily act of worship to the afternoon and so we end the day together in the hall. We did this, mainly, because we know that our children learn best first thing in the morning and so we wanted to full take advantage of this time to support them. It is largely working well with children beginning the day with phonics, reading and other learning. This does have the impact, though, that if a child is a little late into school they are missing learning time as well as the time settling into the day. Of course, there are times when circumstances are out of everyone's control in arriving on time, but we do ask that children arrive in school on time to support them. Thank you.

Forest School is a special part of our curriculum and a highlight for many of our pupils. This week, Sycamore Class braved the cold with Mr Gillinder and tackled problem solving tasks in teams. A great time was had by all – and the hot chocolate at the end of the session went down particularly well!



Forest School

On Thursday 27th November, Pine Class (Year 3/4 – Mrs Christian) will be taking part in Forest School.



It really is very chilly at the moment and so please send your child to school in warm clothes so they can enjoy their experience. Thank you.

Trips out

Lots of our children have been out of school this week. Willow Class visited the Amelia Centre on Wednesday and were very sensible when walking to the station, taking the train into town and then finding out about toys from the past. Chestnut, Hazel and Pine class also had a lovely time at Trinity Theatre – and again represented our school so well. We are so pleased to be able to provide these valuable experiences for our children and wish to thank everyone involved in enabling them to happen.



Attendance Ted

Here's this week's attendance data. The aim is for each class to achieve 96%+ - unfortunately we haven't made that in any class this week and there seems to have been lots of illness. Hopefully, with the weekend break, all the illnesses will begin to pass and children can be in school more next week.

Year R Willow 90%		
Year 1/2 Ash 90%	Year 1/2 Birch 93%	Year 1/2 Elm 90%
Year 3/4 Chestnut 91%	Year 3/4 Hazel 94%	Year 3/4 Pine 93%
Year 5 Maple 94%	Year 5 Sycamore 86%	
Year 6 Oak 89%	Year 6 Yew 93%	



Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

14:30
In the Sunflower Room

[Agenda: The impact of play at home on children's development.](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are warmly invited to join us for a hands-on Coffee Afternoon where our FLO will be sharing the latest evidence on the vital role play at home has on children's development.

Together, we'll explore how play supports learning, wellbeing, communication, problem-solving and emotional growth, and how simple everyday play can make a big difference at home and at school. This will be an informal chance to learn, chat, and ask questions and enjoy playing with some Lego before pick-up!

If you would like to attend, please register your interest by emailing office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk before Tuesday 2nd December at 15:15.

Refreshments will be provided.
look forward to seeing you there,

Miss Weaver (Family Liaison Officer)

Dates for your Diary

Below are key dates for your diary (new events are coloured green):

Term 2:

- Saturday 22nd November – PTA Christmas Market
- Tuesday 2nd December @ 8.45am – Parent Prayer Meeting with Mrs Brierley
- **Wednesday 3rd December – Coffee Afternoon**
- Thursday 4th December – PTA Discos
- Friday 5th December – PTA Christmas Jumper day (for donations for the wrapping event)
- **Tuesday 9th December pm – Choir to sing at the Church for their Community Christmas Lunch Event**
- Monday 15th December am – Nativity performance for parents (Reception and Years 1/2)
- Monday 15 December pm and evening – Carol Service in Church (Years 3/4/5/6)
- Tuesday 16th December pm – Nativity performance for parents (Reception and Years 1/2)
- Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday 17th December – PTA Christmas wrapping and Father Christmas
- **Thursday 18th December pm – Year 6 to visit Tunbridge Wells Boys School to enjoy a performance**
- Thursday 18th December – End of Term 2 for children
- Friday 19th December – INSET Day – School closed for children

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January: Christmas Break – School closed for children

