

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Contents

- A message from Miss Harris
- Life and Soul Quiz Night
- A message from the Positivity Committee
- Forest School
- Attendance Ted
- Parent Information Meetings
- Dates for your diary

## A message from Miss Harris

It has been a busy week at school again this week! Lots of learning and activity has been happening which has been wonderful to see – children have been learning hockey skills, sewing, planning wonderfully imaginative stories which they will go on to write next week and so much more!



We have some staff changes at the school: We have welcomed a new member of staff to our team this week – Mrs Parsons has joined our staff team as a Teaching Assistant and it is lovely to have her working with us. We have also said goodbye to Mrs Patel this week – it was lovely that, with her injured knee, she was able to come into school this week for Chestnut Class to say goodbye to her. Mrs Patel has been a Teaching Assistant at St Matt's for many years and we would like to thank her for her commitment to the children and their learning.

At the end of next week, we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Hume who will be moving onto pastures new. We wish to thank Mrs Hume too for all she has done to support and care for our pupils and we wish her well for the future. Both Mrs Patel and Mrs Hume will be missed.



Life and Soul come into school and work with quite a number of our children – they do this free of charge and really do have a positive impact. If you fancy an evening at a Quiz Night (either as a team or an individual where you will join a team), this could be a fabulous night out!

## A message from the Positivity Committee – written by Jessica Langston and Lottie Tamplin

The Positivity Committee have come up with a wonderful idea of a 'We Belong Book' to Celebrate the theme of Children's Mental Health week next week - "This is My Place" and a Positive Petals inspired display. The "We Belong Book" will be a collection of writing and pictures from all the children in the school to say where they feel they belong and why. The children will draw or write a place that they feel safe, included and that they belong and then the Positivity Committee will make these into a book which everyone can see. The Positive Petals will be included in a display to promote mental health; coloured petals will have our school values and positive and encouraging words on and then made into flowers for a display outside the Sunshine Room.

Don't forget about Own Clothes on the last day of term (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb) where you are invited to wear something that you feel comfortable and accepted in. This could be a club uniform or kit, a princess dress, a onesie, your pyjamas or anything else that makes you feel like you belong. School Council and the Positivity Committee will be collecting your suggested £1 donation which will go towards fundraising for a friendship bench.



## Forest School

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February, Sycamore Class (Year 5, Mrs Chater) will be taking part in Forest School.



## Attendance Ted

Here's this week's attendance data.

<b>Year R</b> <b>Willow</b> 88%	<b>Year 1/2</b> <b>Ash</b> 85%	<b>Year 1/2</b> <b>Birch</b> 94%	<b>Year 1/2</b> <b>Elm</b> 95%
<b>Year 3/4</b> <b>Chestnut</b> 92%	<b>Year 3/4</b> <b>Hazel</b> 95%	<b>Year 3/4</b> <b>Pine</b> 92%	
<b>Year 5</b> <b>Maple</b> 93%	<b>Year 5</b> <b>Sycamore</b> 94%	<b>Year 6</b> <b>Oak</b> 88%	<b>Year 6</b> <b>Yew</b> 93%

## Save the date! Yr 5/6 Art Exhibition

With the enormous success for the Art Exhibitions last year, we will be putting on two Art Exhibitions again this year - one for Years 5 and 6 and one for Years 3 and 4. For those who are not familiar with these events, this is an opportunity for parents/carers and families to come into school in the afternoon and celebrate the artistic work of our children. The children were all so proud to share their work with their families last year and so we do hope you will be able to attend.

- Years 5 and 6: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, pm
- Years 3 and 4 will take place in the summer

## Parent Information Meetings

Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to the Times Table meeting on Wednesday – we hope you found it useful.

Next week, we have a parent morning based on Mental Health and Inclusion.

**Mental Health & Inclusion Morning**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
9:00-10:00am

A chance for Parents and Carers to meet and chat to:

- The Inclusion Team (SENCO, Pastoral Mentor, FLO)
- Peter Norton, Kent School Health
- Rhea Powell, KCC Educational Psychologist
- Jon Barker, SEN Governor

Peter will be running a **Resilience Workshop** for Parents & Carers at 9am in the Sunflower Room.

Rhea will be here to meet, greet and chat to parents about her role as an Educational Psychologist in Kent.

Jon, as always, would love to hear your lovely views and comments about SEND provision in the school.

Finally, The **Inclusion Team** will demonstrate and explain the interventions we offer to help children understand their feelings, build confidence and manage everyday challenges.

Please register your interest in attending by emailing [office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk) before 12pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Refreshments will be provided 😊

## Dates for your Diary

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

### Term 3:

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Chestnut Class trip to a farm
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Choir attending Singing Festival practice
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Mental Health and Inclusion, coffee morning for parents and workshops for pupils**
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Own Clothes Day for a suggested donation of £1
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – End of Term 3

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February: Spring Break – School closed for children

### Term 4:

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Term 4 begins and school reopens to children
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Choir attending Singing Festival
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March pm – Art Exhibition for Year 5/6; parents and guests invited to attend**
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – End of Term 4

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Easter break – School closed for children

