

St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Our Vision is to enable our whole school community to live life in all its fullness

Autumn 1 No 4 2026

stmatthews.kingston.sch.uk

The Friends of St Matthew's Primary School www.fosmps.com



This week, we attach the **HENRY** newsletter for parents. Their programme and workshops are FREE for parents and carers attending Kingston schools!

Well done to Ellis and Seb who helped at the Church Eco- Fair last Saturday! You did a fabulous job!

Why Knowledge Matters

Building brilliant learners, brick by brick

Think about teaching your child to ride a bike. You wouldn't just pop them on and expect them to zoom off, would you? They need to learn balance, pedalling, steering – all the basics first. Learning at school works exactly the same way.

Here's why we focus on knowledge first:

- **Strong foundations = confident kids** – Children need to master the basics before they can get creative or work independently. Without these building blocks, learning feels frustrating and overwhelming
- **No one swims without learning how first** – Just like you'd teach floating and safe movement before expecting your child to swim lengths, we teach essential skills step-by-step before tackling trickier challenges
- **Knowledge = belonging** – When children don't have the basics, they can lose confidence and feel like school isn't for them. We're determined every child feels they belong and can succeed
- **Practice makes permanent** – We don't just teach something once and move on. Skills and knowledge are practised regularly so they really stick
- **Direct teaching works** – We explicitly teach what children need to know, breaking it down into manageable chunks. This gives every child the best chance to thrive

The bottom line? We're giving your child the toolkit they need to become creative, independent learners who love learning. But first, we're making sure that toolkit is fully stocked!

Attendance remains a priority for all schools.

Children who miss one of the first few days of the new term OR the last days of terms and half-terms for unauthorised reasons are much more likely to miss long periods of their schooling than their peers who attended those first few days.

Your Daily Routine Matters

Parents can encourage good attendance by:

- having a regular bedtime and morning routine
- preparing for the morning routine by packing a bag the night before and setting out uniform
- talking together about all the fun their child will have at school
- arranging medical appointments, outings and holidays out of school hours
- talking to their child's teacher if there are any concerns or anxieties
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If you are facing difficulties getting your child into school, it is important to discuss this with school at the earliest opportunity.

Never miss a beat – here's how to stay on top of school dates

We know life gets busy! Between work, bedtime routines, and everything else on your plate, it's easy to miss important school dates. That's why we do our best to give you plenty of notice about everything coming up.

Your go-to resource? Our school website calendar

We also attach an invitation to an ADHD Coffee morning on 13 October

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Our **Harvest Service** on Wednesday 14 October at 9.30 am will be led by Rev. Caroline at St. Matthew's Church. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us!



Monday 5th to Friday 9th October is Cycle to School week

A great way to put those old coats that don't fit any more to a brilliant use!



Well done and thank you to everyone's generosity, we shall be sending £428 to the Jeans for Genes charity!

Hallo Herbst!

Hello Autumn! October is here and it feels like autumn has properly begun! **For our language of the month** in October, we are celebrating German! We will be taking the register in German and learning some words and phrases! Over the course of the month, we will be celebrating our friends and members of school community who speak German as well as learning about cultures around the world that speak the language in some of our collective worships!

If you have a Y6 child

Remember, don't leave it until the last minute to complete the Secondary School application form! Please do ask in the school office if you need any assistance and we'll gladly help! **Deadline Friday 31 October 2027** which is during half-term so school staff will not be on hand to assist.

Rights Respecting Articles of the Month OCTOBER

Each month we will be looking at different articles from UNICEF. This month, is **Black History Month and Harvest & World Food Day on the 16th October**. We will be looking at *Articles 2, 30 & 6*.

Please help your child to understand more about these events and articles.

