



St Matthews Federation Newsletter Spring 2025/2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and happy Spring term to all our pupils, families, and staff! We hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful break and are ready for an exciting term ahead. Spring brings fresh beginnings, brighter days, and lots of opportunities for learning, creativity, and growth. We have many fun activities and inspiring lessons planned, and we look forward to seeing our school once again filled with smiles, curiosity, and enthusiasm as we start this new term together.

Our Christmas Fair was a wonderful success, and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event. We are especially proud of our Year 5/6 class, who worked incredibly hard and raised over £600 through their stalls and activities. Their teamwork, creativity, and enthusiasm were fantastic to see. The class will now be deciding together how they would like to spend the money on something that will benefit the school, making this a truly meaningful achievement. Thank you again to all our families and friends for your generous support.

Our School Governors

Our Governors play a vital role in supporting and guiding the school. They work alongside the leadership team to ensure the school is well-run, making decisions that benefit all pupils and staff. Governors help shape the strategic direction, monitor progress, and ensure that the school's values and vision are at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication and expertise help create a positive and enriching environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Please see the attached letter from our Governors for more information about the school's vision and values.

Our Community Garden

As you will have noticed work is well underway on our new community garden, and we're delighted to have help from members of the local community. Together, we've been busy digging, weeding, and cutting back plants as we prepare the space for winter. There's still plenty to do, and we're still looking for more hands and sponsorship to help us purchase essential equipment and garden sheds. Could this be your New Year's Resolution? Every bit of support makes a difference in bringing this project to life for everyone to enjoy. If you're interested in getting involved or offering sponsorship, please contact the school on **01553 636267**.

Toy Donation - Are you having a Clear-out after Christmas??

We are looking for any **outdoor, role play, or building construction toys** that can be used during lunchtimes to help keep our children active and creative. If you have any suitable items—such as play tools, ponies, dolls, construction, costumes, blocks, or outdoor games—that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for your donations. Your support will help make lunchtimes even more fun and engaging for everyone!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. It makes such a difference to everything we do. We look forward to sharing more news and achievements with you in our next newsletter. If you have any queries please email office@gayton.dneat.org or call on 01553636267

Kind Regards,
Mrs Allitt

Diary Dates



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These will be sent by Dojo once confirmed.

SEND SUPPORT



We offer support with:

- Preparing for and attending meetings
- Writing letters
- Understanding reports
- The EHCP process and reviews
- Admissions and Exclusions
- POST 16 provision
- Working in partnership with schools and the Local Authority to develop positive relationships

<https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/> If you need any support with your child regarding Special Educational Needs please get in touch with us at school for help and advice. Our SENCO is Mrs Watts Here is a link to the information about our

SEND offer on our website.

<https://gayton-church.secure-primariesite.net/send/>

Attendance

You can support your child to have excellent attendance by taking these steps:

- Ensure your child arrives on time for school every day and is ready to learn. Arriving after registration is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Pupils must be in school by **08.45 am**.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- If your child appears to be only slightly ill, send them to school. We have staff who will contact you if their condition deteriorates.
- Book any medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, please book for as late in the afternoon as possible and inform the school of appointments in advance.
- Supply a copy of the appointment card or hospital letter if your child has an appointment during school hours.

If your child becomes reluctant to go to school or you need help, please contact the school immediately; we are more likely to be able to work together to solve any problems if we act early.



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Safeguarding

Social Media Apps - What are the risks?

There are lots of social media websites and apps people use to chat, comment, share pictures and games with their friends.

Many parents and carers wonder when is the best age to let their child have a social media account. Some don't want their children to have underage accounts. Others may have decided their child is not quite ready for social networking, even if their child is begging them. Once children reach secondary school, they're likely to come under growing peer pressure to stay in touch with friends online.

If you are thinking about social media for your child, what should you consider and how can you help and support them?

What are the risks?

- **Inappropriate content.** Anybody can post and share videos, pictures, or ideas on social media. This means children may see things they don't want to, including sexual or violent content.
- **Inappropriate behaviour.** Children, like adults, can feel more confident when they are online as they feel protected by the screen. This can result in them, or their friends, saying or doing something they'd be less likely to do offline, including oversharing.
- **Over-sharing.** Social media lets people share information about who they are and what they like doing – with lots of different people. It's easy to share things online that we wouldn't face-to-face. Once something has been shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it, or shared it.
- **Making friends with people they don't know.** Chatting and meeting new people is the main reason that most social media services exist. This opens up the opportunities for adults to contact children online. It's also easy to set up fake profiles, and some adults may even pretend to be children when they're much older. This makes it hard to tell the difference between someone who's genuine and fake. Some people online can also put pressure on children or manipulate them into doing something they don't want to do.

Is your child ready?

The age of your child as well as their developmental stage and maturity can affect their ability to have a safe and positive experience of social media.

Minimum age requirements

Most of the popular social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register, although some sites are created especially for children under 13 (see Internet Matters' [Social networks made for children](#)).

The age requirements are there because of data protection laws. Online services are not allowed to collect or store children's personal information if they are under the age of 13. Data protection laws also say that only children aged 13 and over can sign up to online services without parental permission.



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Message from the school Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Governors, we would like to share how proud we are of our school and the way our Christian vision is lived out each day. Our vision – “Treat others as you would like to be treated” and “Ready, Respectful, Safe – being the best we can be in body, mind and spirit” – is at the heart of everything that happens here. It shapes our relationships, our learning, and the way we care for one another.

We see our Christian ethos shining through in the warmth and kindness shown by staff and pupils alike. Respect, forgiveness, and understanding guide all that we do, helping our school to be a happy and caring place where everyone feels valued.

Safeguarding and well-being are central to our work. The Governors are committed to ensuring that every child learns in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment, where they can develop their skills and talents to the full. We also recognise the importance of supporting the mental health and well-being of our pupils, staff, and the wider school community.

We are proud of the high-quality teaching and learning that takes place across the school. Pupils are inspired by a broad and exciting curriculum that encourages creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning. Our inclusive approach ensures that all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, are given the opportunity to shine and to succeed.

As Governors, we value the strong partnership between home and school. We believe that children flourish when parents and teachers work together, and we are grateful for the encouragement, support, and involvement of our families in school life.

Beyond the classroom, our pupils enjoy a rich variety of opportunities – from educational and residential visits to sporting events, performances, and creative projects. Through these experiences, they develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of pride in their achievements.

Our Christian values also extend into the wider community. The school plays an active part in parish and village life, marks national and international occasions, and reaches out to those in need. We also encourage our pupils to take responsibility for caring for God’s creation and to think about how they can make a positive difference in the world.



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We are proud to see our pupils leave our school as confident, caring, and respectful young people – ready for the next stage of their education and prepared to play their part in our diverse society.

As Governors, we remain dedicated to supporting the Headteacher, staff, and pupils in ensuring our school continues to be a place where everyone can be the best they can be in body, mind, and spirit.

With warm regards,

The Governing Committee