

Friday Feature NEWSLETTER



Week of 4th to 8th May 2026

This half term's value:
Friendship



Woodlands Farm Visit

On Tuesday three of our classes with all of our year 3 and 4 children visited Woodlands Farm on the Bradford Estate.

The children learnt about six different farming areas :
Conservation and bird, countryside learning (camouflage),
woodland, sheep, arable and soil .

Although it was a very cold day everyone had a great time, learnt lots of new things and did St Matthew's proud.



“Individuals working together to potential with God”

Pupils of the Week

Nursery	Taiyah
R St Francis	Finlay
1: St Teresa	Nevra
1/2: St Nicholas	Jermaine
2: St Joseph	Dalton
3: St Cecilia	Paisley
3/4: St Sophia	Ruari
4: St Kateri	Pistis
5: St Thomas	Harmonie
6 : St Padre	Poppy



Weekly Prayer



Prayer for Friends

There's a "Miracle called Friendship"
that dwells within the heart,
And you don't know how it happens
or when it gets to start....
But the happiness it brings you
always gives a special lift,
and you realise that "Friendship"
is God's most precious gift.
Thank you for being such a good
friend

Weekly Attendance

This week the attendance award 
has gone to : St Joseph 2

1st	St Theresa 1	98%
2nd	St Thomas 5	97.1%
3rd	St Nicholas 12	94.8%
4th	St Joseph 2	94.7%
5th	St Padre 6	94.6%
6th	St Sophia 34	91.7%
7th	St Cecilia 3	91.3%
8th	St Kateri 4	90%
9th	St Francis R	68.2%

Attendance Thank You

Thank you to the children and
parents in the following classes
whose attendance improved this
week:

- Nursery, AM PM and 30 Hours
- St Francis R
- St Teresa 1
- St Padre 6



To all parents and children,

Just a little reminder that although next week will be a challenge, you'll all be fine and come through it with success!

**So Year 6, the time has finally come,
The dreaded SATs are here,
But this is what you've worked for,
Since you moved up in to this year.
These tests will tell us what you've learned,
And what you can recall,
But there's a million things,
The SATs won't tell us at all.**

**They won't tell us how you dance,
Or draw, or sing, or run,
Or tell us just how great you are,
At any other things you've done.
The SATs don't measure super-ness,
Or how kind or brave you are,
They're just a way of helping to see,
All you've learned so far.
So all we ask of each of you,
Is to try the best you can,
But no matter the score you'll get,
We'll always be your fan!**

**You've worked your socks off this year through,
And now the time has come
By this time next week, you can say,
Phew, the SATs are done.
So rest up, eat lots and get some sleep,
So you're ready and raring to go,
To show those SATs test who's the boss,
And show them what you know!
But remember that when they're over,
It doesn't matter how you've done,
Because you are wonderful, brilliant and fab,
And you'll be amazing in your lives to come!
Believe in yourself. You are all amazing!**

From all teachers and staff at St Matthews

Year 6 Dates

11.05.26 to 14.05.26 - KS2 SATS
09.06.26 - Lichfield Cathedral Trip
09.07.26 - Crucial Crew
14.07.26 - Leavers Worship
14.07.26 - Prom at Caseys
16.07.26 - Graduation

Future Dates

May and June Dates

11.05.26 - 14.05.26	KS2 SATs Week
18.5.26, 8.6.26, 15.6.26, 22.6.26, 29.6.26 and 6.7.26	Swimming Yr4, Yr5 and Yr 6
01.06.26	Phonics Screening Week - Yr1
23.06.26	EYFS Sports Carousel
24.06.26	KS1 Sports Day
25.06.26	KS2 Sports Day

Contact Info

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“Individuals working together to potential with God”

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College