



Dear Parent/ Carers,

Let me introduce myself to those families new to St Matthew's; my name is Mrs Claire Sime; I have the privilege of being Head teacher of primary school of St Matthew's. As the headteacher, I am honoured and delighted that you have decided to send your child/ children to our school. We welcome the opportunity to guide and support your family through this important stage of your child's education.

Starting school is a significant milestone for both children and parents alike, and we understand that it can be both an exciting and daunting time. Rest assured, our dedicated team of staff is here to ensure a smooth transition and provide a nurturing environment where your child can thrive and grow.

In St Matthew's we understand that choosing the right school for your child is important, each child is unique and has their own characteristics and needs. Parents/ Carers must be confident that the school will suit their child.

Our school is warm, friendly atmosphere, Gospel Values are embedded in everything we do. We have incredible happy children, a dedicated staff who provide a comprehensive curriculum which is exciting and fun, enriched through first hand experiences. We are very well supported by our parents, governors, friends and the parish community.

Our mission statement "Love, Learn and Shine, together with Jesus" firmly underpins our aims and values for developing the whole child at St Matthew's. We ensure our learning is irresistible, challenging, fun and purposeful and aim to give our children a fulfilling Catholic education. At St. Matthew's we are committed to fostering a love for learning and encouraging each child to reach their full potential. Our reception curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and a thirst for knowledge, laying a strong foundation for future academic success. Through a combination of play-based activities,



structured learning experiences, and hands-on exploration, we aim to ignite a lifelong passion for learning in every child.

In addition to academic growth, we place great emphasis on social and emotional development, promoting kindness, empathy, and resilience. Our inclusive and supportive school community values diversity and celebrates the unique talents and strengths of each child. Children are at the heart of all we believe, we have high standards of all our children and ensure that each child reaches his/ her maximum potential. St Matthew's Catholic Primary School gives all children the chance to be well taught, well-mannered children.

Your child's experience will be most successful when there is a real partnership between home and school: we value all contributions from parents/ carers and know that you know them best. Our team of highly trained professionals will do everything to ensure that your child/ children have the very best start in school and that they are happy and secure. Communication is essential and we encourage you to get to know the EYFS staff when dropping off and picking up. I encourage you to take an active role in your child's education and become an integral part of our school family. Whether it's volunteering in the classroom, attending school events, or engaging in conversations with your child about their day, your involvement plays a vital role in their educational journey.

Mrs Black the pastoral lead in school will be beginning to make contact with families from 5th May to arrange home visits for all of our new children. When Mrs Black visit families, she will bring some paperwork for parents to complete and return to school along small gift for each child. Mrs Black will also be signing families up to one of three stay and play sessions in school

These sessions provide an opportunity for families and our new reception children to get to know the school environment. The dates are noted below:

- 23rd June 9.30-10.30am
- 24th June 9.30am – 10.30am
- 25th June 9.30-10.30am

On the 29th June we will be holding a parent meeting in the school at 10am or 4pm in the school hall. we advise all parents/ carers to attend this meeting to find out important information regarding your child starting school. At this meeting there will be additional paperwork for parents to complete, please ensure you allow enough time for you to be able to stay and complete this.

In the meantime, please see our school website and the EYFS page especially which contains a video showing you around the provision and copies of policies and all of the necessary paperwork you may need.

<https://matthews.school/new-reception-admissions/>

As we embark on this new school year together, I am confident that it will be filled with joy, growth, and countless memorable moments. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our staff if you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to chat.

Once again, welcome to St. Matthew's/ We are delighted to have you as part of our school community, and I look forward to getting to know you and your child in the days and months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Sime Headteacher

