



## Welcome October! Here's how it got its name.

**Latin root:** The name comes from the Latin word *octo*, which means "eight".

**Old Roman calendar:** In the early Roman calendar created by Romulus, the year started in March and had only 10 months, making October the eighth month.

**Changed to tenth month:** Later, January and February were added to the beginning of the year, shifting October to the tenth position while its original numerical name stayed the same. **We've had a lovely start to October at St Matthew's!**

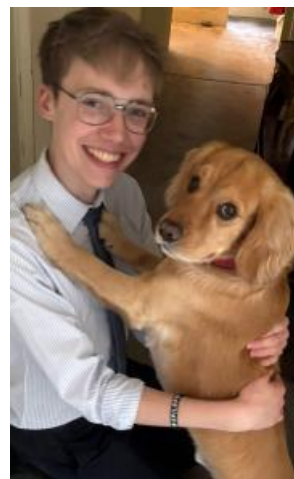


## Upcoming Events October 2026

- ♦ **Monday 5th October** Harvest Donations
- ♦ Collective Worship is held every Friday. All parents/carers are warmly invited. Please be in the alley at 2.50pm.
- \* **Tuesday 6th October** Black History Month Celebrations start
- \* **Wednesday 7th October** The lighting of Mr Shorten's Tree of Hope
- \* **Wednesday 7th October** 6.30 Evensong for our very special Mr Keelan Shorten St Matthew's Church
- \* **Thursday 8th October** Harvest Festival Celebration at St Matthew's Church 10.30am Families are very welcome to attend.

## Thoughts & Prayers

At this very sad anniversary we send our thoughts and prayers to all who knew our very special Pastoral Assistant, Mr Keelan Shorten. He touched so many lives in so many ways. We will remember him always.



## School House and Vice Captain The results are in!

It was a very difficult decision:

### House Captains

Abbey **Akira** Buckingham **Amila**  
Horseguards **Oscar** Whitehall **Teddy**

### Vice House Captains

Abbey **Ashley** Buckingham **Luna**  
Horse Guards **Kaiden** Whitehall **Toni**



## School Mass

We were very happy to welcome Mr Benedict Preece, pictured here with Father David Jones, to our school Mass this week.

Benedict is Director of Music at St Matthew's Church. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London as a conductor and an organist. He conducts a number of choirs and orchestras and previously taught in a boarding school for six years.

## Year 2 Prayer

Dear Lord

Thank you for the whole universe. Thank you for the sea and sky. Thank you for animals and small animals. Thank you for the plants and trees.

This place is special because it's God's house and I like praying in God's House.

Thank you for the Spanish Church.

Amen

By Arlette

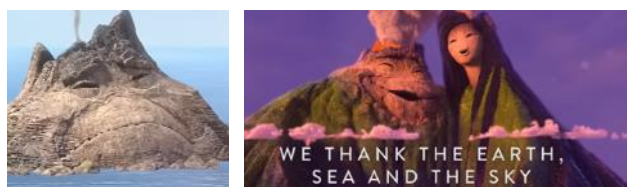


## Music of the Week

This animated short played in theatres before the film *Inside Out* in 2015.

It tells a romantic story about a lonely volcano named Uku who sings to the ocean for millions of years, hoping to find a special friend. The song is performed by Hawaiian musicians Kuana Torres Kahele and Napua Greig, and was written by the short's director, James Ford Murphy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uh4dTLJ9q9o>



## Stay safe online



**Please ensure that your child is in school on time each day. The school gates open 08:45. Please see page three for important attendance and punctuality information.**

### LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 5 minutes late each day  | 3 days lost!   |
| 10 minutes late each day | 6.5 days lost! |
| 15 minutes late each day | 10 days lost!  |
| 20 minutes late each day | 13 days lost!  |
| 30 minutes late each day | 19 days lost!  |

## St Matthew's School Choir

Our fabulous School Choir continues to grow and we welcomed more new members this week. It runs every Tuesday from 3.30 to 4.30 in the school hall and is run by Mr Will Bruce from St Paul's Cathedral, with support from Miss Brady. We are already making some very exciting bookings for singing nearer Christmas, including the DfE's Annual Carol Service which our choir has been singing at for thirty years! If you would like your child to join, please email the school office. and come along next Tuesday. All welcome!



## The Blitz Year 6 History

The children in Year 6 are currently learning about WWII. During their History lesson this week, they learnt about The Blitz through visual sources. They studied photographs from the period and thought carefully about the feelings and experiences of the people who lived through that time.

## ATTENDANCE

**Congratulations to Year 1, and 2 for the best attendance (100%)!**

Last week's attendance in each class:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Year 1 100%</b> | <b>Year 2 100%</b> |
| <b>Year 3 92%</b>  | <b>Year 4 80%</b>  |
| <b>Year 5 88%</b>  | <b>Year 6 96%</b>  |

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every class hit 100%!

## Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance is essential to every pupil's success. At St. Matthew's, we place a strong emphasis on good attendance because being in school consistently supports well-being, friendships, a sense of belonging, academic progress and future opportunities.

Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve well, build strong relationships and develop the confidence, resilience and social skills they need for the future.

Even small amounts of absence can add up quickly. For example, **90% attendance is equivalent to nearly four weeks of missed learning over the course of a school year.**

Our expectation is that all pupils achieve at least 97% attendance, and we are very grateful to families for working with us to support this.

**A reminder about punctuality:** If your child arrives after the playground gate has closed and enters through the school office, they will be recorded as late. A parent or carer will need to come into the office and register their arrival using the In-Ventry system.

**Late arrivals** - pupils who arrive late to school will miss their morning playtime that day, using that time to catch up on the 5,10 or 15 minutes of work they arrived late for. Parents, please help your children to be up and out of the house on time each day, ensuring you leave plenty of time for your daily commute. We hope to not see any pupils coming in via the school office after 9.00am (this means you're on time!).

Thank you for your continued support in helping every pupil make the most of each school day.

### Why Attendance Matters

Being in school every day helps pupils to:

- ♦ Build secure friendships and social confidence
- ♦ Develop teamwork and communication skills
- ♦ Support positive wellbeing
- ♦ Gain essential knowledge and life skills
- ♦ Broaden their understanding of the world