Matthew Arnold Primary School

Developing True Potential

Newsletter November 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

It continues to be a busy time in Matthew Arnold Primary School, with lots of wonderful learning experiences and opportunities for our pupils. It is always lovely to see the enthusiasm, curiosity and smiles that fill our school as pupils continue to learn, grow and achieve together.

As we move further into November, we have plenty to celebrate, from the fantastic work taking place in our classrooms to the special experiences and events that make life at Matthew Arnold so memorable.

A reminder that Parents' Evening takes place next week. This is a valuable opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher, discuss their progress, celebrate their successes and talk about their next steps in learning. We really value your support and encourage all parents and carers to attend.

We know that lots of families will already be starting to think about Christmas! Keep an eye out over the coming weeks, as we will soon be sharing details of our festive activities, celebrations and special events. There is lots to look forward to!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

Mrs Evans

A little reminder about **attendance**: every day in school really does count! Being in school regularly helps pupils to build confidence, develop friendships and make the most of every learning opportunity. We understand that sometimes families may face difficulties or challenges that affect attendance. If you need advice, support or would like to talk through any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always here to help and work with you.

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

A quick guide for parents and carers

The key message

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school when they're unwell. This guide, based on NHS advice, will help you decide.

Please remember

- Contact school on the first day of absence.
- Give the reason for your child's absence.
- Let us know if your child has an infectious condition, even if they are well enough to attend.

Attendance matters

Being in school every day helps your child to:

- keep up with their learning
- build confidence
- develop key skills
- make and keep friendships.



When should my child stay at home?

High temperature	Keep at home until the temperature has returned to normal.
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Return once they have had no vomiting or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours.
Chickenpox	When all spots have crusted over (usually about 5 days).
Impetigo	When sores have crusted over and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotics.
Measles	At least 4 days after the rash first appeared. Seek medical advice and telephone your GP before attending.
Scarlet fever	24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Ear infection	If your child has a high temperature or severe earache, keep at home until they feel better.

When can my child still attend school?

In many cases, pupils can attend school if they feel well enough to take part in normal activities. This includes:

- Mild coughs and colds (no high temperature)
- Sore throat (without a high temperature)
- Cold sores
- Conjunctivitis (unless feeling very unwell)
- Hand, foot and mouth disease (if well enough)
- Head lice and nits
- Slapped cheek syndrome (once the rash appears)
- Ringworm (once treatment has started)
- Threadworms

Anxiety and school attendance

Sometimes pupils may feel worried or anxious about school. If your child is experiencing tummy aches, headaches or other signs of anxiety, please talk to us. Working together can help us put the right support in place.

Need more advice?

Speak to your pharmacist or GP, or visit:

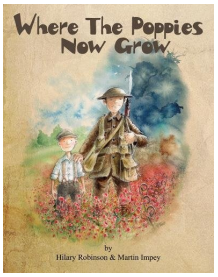
NHS – Is my child too ill for school?

Matthew Arnold Primary School

Enrichment at Matthew Arnold

Children across the school have been learning about Remembrance through assembly and story. All children have created poppies to be included in our wonderful Remembrance display.







We are very proud of Year 6 who have made poppies as part of a tribute at St Luke's Bombed Out Church.



Circus Skills We all had a fun filled Friday with a visit from Steve Circus Skills. In assembly, he wowed us with his talents including a very speedy unicycle! Children then had the opportunity to develop their own circus skills through hands on workshops. It was great to see their enjoyment as they learnt new skills. Definitely a day to remember!





In EYFS, our youngest pupils enjoyed exploring the festival of Diwali, learning about its traditions and celebrations.


Diwali
Glittering Lights
Rangoli
Diwali
Diwali
Diwali