



# Matthew Arnold Primary School

*Developing True Potential*

## Newsletter October 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been a busy half term and it is lovely to see how children have settled into their new classes. We have had many extra opportunities for our children, including trips to Calderstones, a Great Fire of London production, cooking lessons and African drumming sessions. We always try to subsidise these as much as possible, and when we can cover the cost fully. There are plenty more experiences to look forward to next half term, including Zoo lab for our younger children and the Wonderdome, a mobile planetarium! These opportunities enhance the learning of children, develop their understanding and are a memorable and enjoyable part of school life.

Thank you for your ongoing support and have a lovely half term break.

We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 4th November.

Mrs L Evans



We are really fortunate that Matthew Arnold



has been selected to take part in Tesco 'Fruit and Veg for Schools Scheme.' This will help us to provide our children with increased access to fresh fruit and vegetables.



### Secondary School Admissions

If your child is in Year 6, you now need to apply for a place at your preferred secondary school. All applications need to be completed online. The deadline for completion is **31st October 2024**.

### Be on Time, Ten to Nine!

Please remember that **school starts at 8.50am -this is the time of day children should already be in class starting lessons.**



**Gates on Dingle Lane will be locked promptly at 8.50am.** If your child arrives after this time they will have to enter via the main office where they will be registered with a late mark.

Thank you to all our families for their support in us closing the bottom gate and having a single entrance. This was to increase safety of our children as is easier to monitor who is on the yard.

After half term we will be trialling Year 1 and Year 2 entering through the first school entrance. This is to get children into class quicker so teachers can begin lessons.

Year 1 and 2 teachers will still release from classroom doors at the end of the day.

***Ready, Respectful, Safe***

## Attendance

Whilst we will always be understanding of the complex circumstances some families face, we firmly believe that school is the best environment for children to thrive in and that only a very high level of attendance will ensure that they are able to be happy, develop well and make good academic progress.

You will no doubt be aware of the changes to attendance law made by the Government. For this reason and because we are being asked to do so by the DfE, we are firm with regard to attendance levels and expectations. We expect excellent attendance, and if your child comes to our school, we expect that you support us in this. Holidays in term time have caused us particular concern since we returned in September. **Please remember that term time holidays are never allowed**, and you are very likely to be fined for them, or have contact from the Liverpool Education Welfare Team. Good school attendance is a local and national priority and we all have to take it seriously. We will always help parents with this whenever we can, so always talk to us if you are struggling.

This will also be the case with punctuality. Please support us in ensuring that your child is regularly turning up to school on time. Those who miss the start of the school day, even by just a few minutes each day, are losing out on valuable education, key messages and the chance to start the day well.



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

## Do you know what your child is doing online?



All schools are facing the increasing challenge of children's social media use; issues from use of phones out of school are increasingly coming in to school and impacting on friendships between children.

Social media platforms has shown people of all ages to behave differently to how they would in person. Children need guidance on how to behave on these platforms, just as they need guidance on how to behave in real life.

WhatsApp is a popular app with many of our children. **Please make sure you monitor and support your child in using this appropriately.**

Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn't share with others on WhatsApp.

Remind your child that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it. Talk to them about making sure others are comfortable with what they are sending and let them know they can come to you if they are worried about something they have shared on the app.

*Will your child be starting school September 2025?*

*We will be hosting open sessions for you to view our fantastic Reception class and meet the teacher: Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 15:45*

*Call the school office to book on: 0151 539 0300*

## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 12th November Zoolabs (Rec, Y1 & Y2)**

**Friday 15th November Children's in Need**

**Bikeability Year 5 14th, 15th & 18th November**

**Parent's evening Tuesday 19th November & Thursday 21st November**

**Monday 25th November Wonder Dome immersive space experience in school (more details to follow)**

**Friday 20th December school finishes at 2pm for Christmas break**

**Monday 6th January Inset Day**

Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs L Evans**

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs R Pender**

## How to contact us:

Dingle Lane, Liverpool, Merseyside, L8 9UB

Children Centre: 0151 233 4930

W: [www.matthewarnold.co.uk](http://www.matthewarnold.co.uk)

E: [admin@matthewarnold.co.uk](mailto:admin@matthewarnold.co.uk)



# WhatsApp

## safety guide for parents

internet  
matters.org

13+

WhatsApp's  
minimum age  
in the UK

58%

Kids aged 3-17  
who use  
WhatsApp

37%

Kids under 13  
who use  
WhatsApp



## 5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp



**1** [Review privacy settings](#) WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.



**2** [Customise contacts](#) Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.



**3** [Talk about personal information](#) Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.



**4** [Show them where to get support](#) If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.



**5** [Check in regularly](#) Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.