



# St. Matthew's RCHS Newsletter

# Round Up

Week 4 Friday 06 October 2023

## Headteacher's Message

Dear St. Matthews Parents,

As I write this short message on another wet day here in North Manchester, I want to take a moment to express my happiness and gratitude for the fantastic support we have been receiving from our St. Matthews community.

Firstly, I am thrilled to report that we have seen a sharp rise in the number of reward points distributed across the school, the overwhelming positivity radiating throughout the school. The enthusiasm and dedication of both our students and teachers are truly commendable.

Additionally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions to driving up our attendance levels across all year groups. It is especially noteworthy that our Year 7 and Year 11 students have consistently surpassed previous cohorts in attendance. Your support has enabled us to achieve attendance levels that exceed both regional and national averages, which is a significant accomplishment.

This past week, we had the pleasure of hosting our annual open evening, and it was truly heart-warming to see so many members of our community in attendance. The positive feedback we received was truly inspiring. As I mentioned in my speech that evening, St. Matthews is not just an ordinary school; it belongs to our wonderful community, and we are working tirelessly to provide the best possible education for your children.

Our journey is an exciting one, and I am immensely proud of our dedicated staff and the incredible determination shown by our students. Together, we are shaping the future of our school, and the results are evident in the achievements and enthusiasm we witness every day.

As the weekend approaches, I wish you and your families a lovely time together. Please remember that your continued support is instrumental in our success. Together, we will continue to make St. Matthews a place of excellence and growth.

God bless you all,

Mr Nightingale



# Highlights of the week

## Year 11

### Top 5 Achievers

- Alexis
- Delite
- Eman
- Grace
- Shaymaa

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest attending form this week with an outstanding 100% is Miss O'Brien and Mr Green's form - 11D

Well done! You can all look forward to a free breakfast this week.

Mrs Bunn visited Art class this week, she is so impressed with the amazing course work being produced. So proud of you all. Great was particularly proud to receive his praise postcard. Well done Great!



Sitting their Science end of unit exam, Miss Ray said she was extremely impressed with the work and focus from year 11 well done!













## Year 8

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- Top 5 Achievers**
- \* Remme-Mae
  - \* Felicia
  - \* Ava-Jayne
  - \* Anne A
  - \* Najma
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Highest Attending Form is again, 8A with a fantastic 97% attendance.  
134 students with 100% attendance.

Lets keep improving on these numbers Year 8  
Miss Travis is a very proud Head Of Year.

**Art Award Winners**

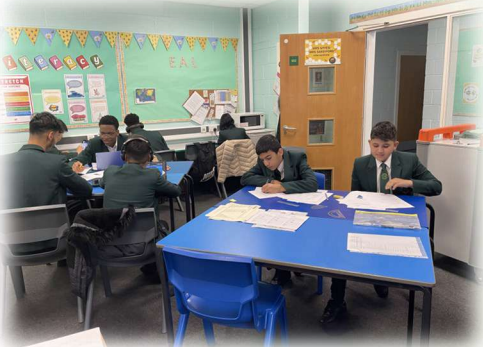
Miss Elliott's top art award winners this week: are Kayden G and Leilani Jae Y for their amazing ceramic poppies. Very well done to you both.

Look at some of Yr8 making their wonderful commemorative poppies, well done Yr 8 this is wonderful to see.



**EAL Superstars:**

Mrs. Gyves is so proud of how some our new Yr 8 new starters have settled into their EAL support and are working so hard to develop their understanding of English and their new curriculum, what amazing work .



**English praise**

'8H continue to be absolutely perfect, I love being their teacher. Today, we started to read A Christmas Carol which is quite a challenging read. I was so impressed with their



'I can' attitude and lots of the class read aloud beautifully! Says Ms Garman.

Christy, Derek, Emily, Alfie, Jessica, and Tobi were awarded star reader badges for their excellent effort!

Well done all of you!







## Year 7



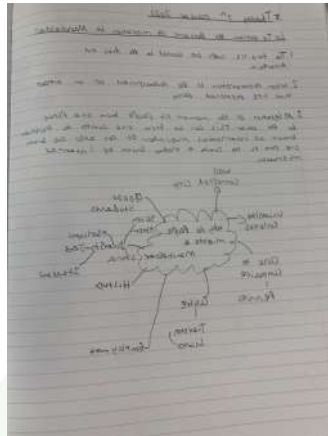
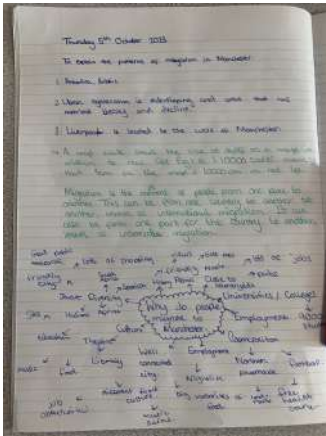
### Reward Breakfast

7C Top Attending Form award enjoying Waffle and Ice Cream reward breakfast.

### Most Improved Form Award



### Amazing Geography work from Masy-Rae & Lillie in 7J.



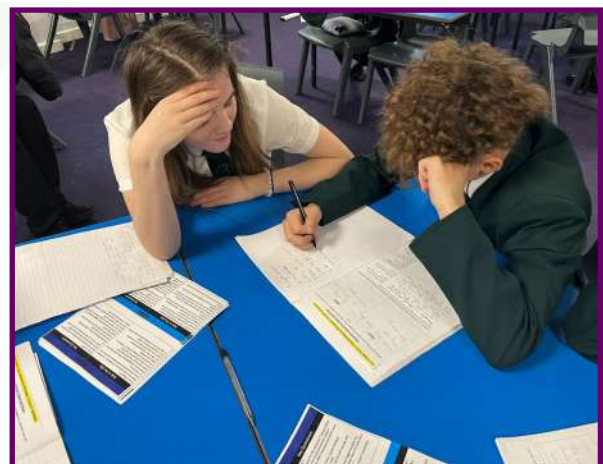
### PE Lesson with Mr Gorey



## Beehive

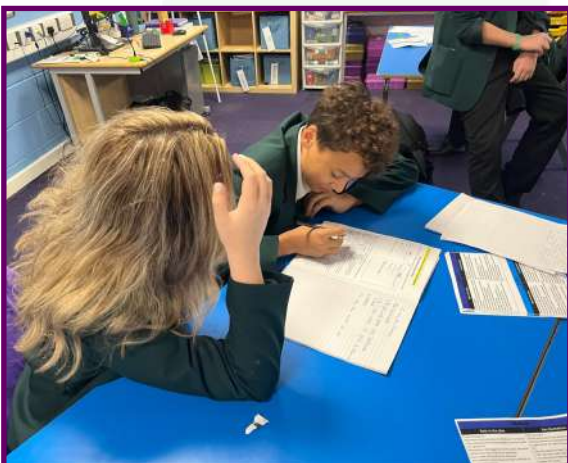
Our Year 9 Beehive students completing their PEAL paragraphs on Blood Brothers. They have been working with our Year 11 Beehive Mentors to structure their paragraphs comparing both Edward and Mikey.

Next week they will be looking at Act 2 and how the characters develop.



Miss Tilbury is very proud of you all.

Keep up the hard work!





## RE

The RE department have been amazed at the outstanding start to this academic year. The pupils are engaging in their learning and showing a real passion for religion. Each year group are looking at the following topics.

- Y7 – Covenant and Creation -The big question “Should all Christians take care of the earth?”
- ◆ Y8 – Evil and Suffering Job and how we must continue to have faith in God.
- ◆ Y9 – Meaning of Life -Do religious experiences lead to a belief in God ?
- ◆ Y10 – Catholic Beliefs and Teachings - How are humans created in the image of God ?
- ◆ Y11 – Arguments of the existence of God - Do miracles and visions lead to a belief in God ?

### RE Stars of the Week

Every member of the department has been very impressed with the these pupils who have made a significant contribution in class or produced an outstanding piece of work.

Well done to:

Miss Cooper – **Leo 8I** Mrs Lennon – **Curtis 7C** Mr. Hall – **Sharon 9CI**

### Open Evening

We want to say a massive thank you to all the pupils who supported the RE department at Open Evening this week. It was an absolute pleasure to have you represent the department on the night. Miss Taylor commented that *“I felt like the parents and kids who came up interacted well with our activities and were given a warm welcome. The girls were absolutely amazing ambassadors for our school”*. Those sentiments were echoed by the whole department. Well done girls, you certainly did us proud.

Thank you to Christina and Giorgia in Y10 and Stacey, Favour, Debbie, Nabella, Elisabeth, Chelsey and Larissa in Y9.



### What's New?

Look out for the new display up on the top floor showing the teachers 'Stars of the Week'.

Y11s - Every Wednesday week 'B' will be RE Lesson 6 for those pupils who have been targeted.

The list is now up and we need to improve on the numbers from last week. Look forward to seeing you.







## Chaplaincy Corner



October is a special month for us in two important ways: it is both Black History Month, and the month of the Holy Rosary. To celebrate Black History Month we have created a new display board all about some of the greatest black saints of history: look out for this at the top of the A stairs arriving in the RE department!

Leading up to the Feast of the Holy Rosary this Saturday, our form time prayers this week have mostly focused on the rosary. Each student has been given their own set of green St Matthew's Rosary Beads which have been blessed by Fr Gerard Fieldhouse-Byrne. It has been lovely to see many of the students wearing their rosary beads as a sign of their faith.



This week also saw the launch of our Harvest Festival Collection, which this year is supporting the Manchester Central Foodbank. Many people in our local area are fed by this foodbank and so it is a good opportunity for us all to show our care for those around us. Achievement points for "recognition of kindness" will be awarded to all students who bring in donations, no matter how small, and we encourage all to be as generous as they are able to be. Donations can be brought in any day up until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October and given to form tutors. There will be prizes for the form in each year which collects the most donations.

### Requested items:

- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned veg
- Sanitary towels
- Coffee
- Jam
- Juice / Squash

We also celebrated the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on Wednesday. He was a saint who cared greatly for the environment and so we prayed that Pope Francis's call to "care for our common home" will be heard by all people so that we can have a healthy planet to pass on to future generations.

It was also a blessing to welcome many Year 5 and Year 6 students into the Chapel during our open evening to spend a little bit of time reflecting about the importance of God in their lives.

Wishing you every prayer and blessing for the weekend. God Bless.



## OPEN EVENING







We welcomed year 5 and 6 students, parents and siblings within the community to our Open Evening this week

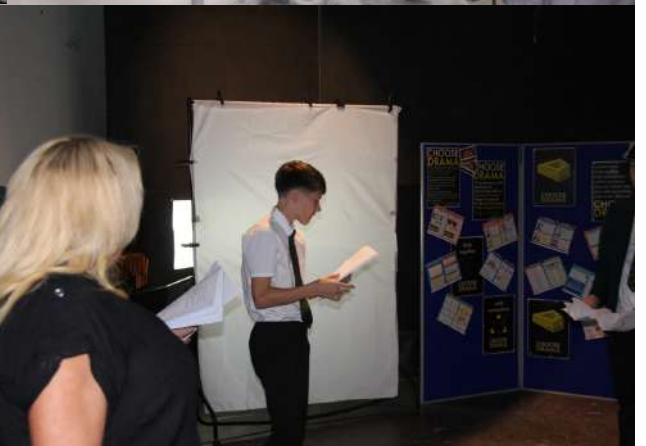
An itinerary packed with a variety of information, demonstrations and fun was very well received by our visitors.

We are very proud of our school, teachers, support teams and students who made the evening a fabulous success.

Department	Room	Activity
Head Teacher Talk	G4	Welcome talk from Mr Nightingale!
Beehive	11F7, FS5, FS4, FS1 and FS2, F2	Zones of Regulation display, boardgames out in the home room, sensory room set up, classrooms set up with SEND support visible.
Computing	S16 & T3	Rover lander simulation - trays of sand with magnets, build a house a micro bit. Use sticks, bands and straws to hold the microbit which has a metal detecting program running on it.
English	7G6 & 7G3	Scrabble board -create the most words you can in 3 minutes. Creative writing box- add a line of description to the previous line to create a story. Spelling Bee - competition to get the correct spellings. Haiku table - create your own Haiku.
Geography	11G7	Food around the world, which countries have I visited? 'I'm a geographer- get me out of here' quiz, grid reference sweet game, world map jigsaw.
History	11G3	John Snow murder mystery.
Maths	S14/15 & S19	Wizard Walker, 'Sweet shop' puzzle, SPARX DEMO.
Music	F11	Choir - Samba Band - Pupil soloists.
Science	S9, S10, S11	Chemistry, flame tests, chemiluminescence, rainbow fizz, dry ice. Physics circuits, liquid nitrogen, collapsing can. Biology, dissection of rats.
RE	T2, T6 & corridor	Play your cards right, Kosher foods, meditation.
Technology	F8, F7, F6, G2	Food - Pizza making and cup cake decorating, Textiles - decorate a bag, RM - Make a badge.
PE	Sports Hall	Badminton, netball, trampolining, table tennis.
Art	F3, F4, F5	Clay mini beasts & Jewellery making.
Drama	G3 (Main Drama Room)	Year 10 cast will be rehearsing our contribution to this year's Shakespeare Festival, which will take place at Loreto College 21st November.
Spanish	11F4	Quiz/photo booth/face painting - flags.
PSHE	11G6	Drink line up (most to least sugar), advice posters.
French	11F3	French cafe/photo booth/face painting - flags.
Reading	Hall	Selection of Y7 GR books on display. Our 3 top trending library books. Student made bookmarks/ reading activity sheets to takeaway. Photos of pupils reading, photos of library. Handout for parents.
Attendance	Hall	Attendance questionnaire & fact sheet.
SEND	Hall	
Extra Curricular	Hall	Computing, Chess, Crafts in the main hall. EC timetables to give out.
Uniform	Hall	
Innovate	Hall	
Guardian Angels	Hall	



# Highlights of the Week



The atmosphere across whole school was amazing!





# Highlights of the Week



The practical's and demonstrations were thoroughly enjoyed.





## Black History Month

It's been inspiring subject matter for our students who have shown great interest in sharing their ideas and creative skills.

Year 11 students joined the leadership team on Monday to discuss their plans for Black History Month. The students

expressed honestly and clearly how they wanted to celebrate Black History Month in school.

Black History Month remains a powerful symbolic celebration and a time for acknowledgement, reflection,



A great effort from Teonna we are sure you'll all agree!

This is the inside of G1 where Teonna decorated the whole of the door for black history month.







This World Mental Health Day we wanted to share some information about how you can support yourself and others around you:

**Money and mental health** – particularly important right now, we have compiled [information](#) regarding the relationship between money and poor mental health, about debt and benefits, managing your finances, and where to get help.

**Self-care** – Visit our [Wellbeing Hub](#) to access our downloadable self-care checklist, and find wellbeing tips and advice

**Food and mood** – Nutrition is a really important factor in mental wellbeing, so it is important to try and maintain a balanced diet. Access our top nutrition tips [here](#).

**Routine** – A good routine can really improve mental wellbeing. Read our [tips](#) to help improve your sleep to support a healthy routine.

**Stress and burnout** – [visit](#) our information page about stress, to learn about the stages of burnout and access our stress-relieving tips

**Free Resilience Training** – If you live in Manchester you can sign up to one of [our free courses](#), including Mindfulness and Relaxation for Menopause and Mums Matter.

**Champion workplace wellbeing** – we offer a range of courses to help you build your knowledge, confidence and awareness about mental health to support yourself and your colleagues. Find out more [here](#).

**Support** – Feeling inspired to fundraise for Manchester Mind but not sure what activity to undertake? [Our 2023 Fundraising Pack](#) is full of ideas.

**Share** – check out National Mind's campaign "[Raise the Standard](#)" which is about turning awareness into action. [Find out more and download Mind's World Mental Health Day materials.](#)

**Reach out** – if you are worried about someone, but you are not sure how to start the conversation, we have some [guidance](#) that may help

**Share your story** – have you used our services, volunteered or fundraised for Manchester Mind? We would love to [share your story](#) so others can see they are not alone in their mental health challenges.

If you live in Manchester and are struggling or feeling like **you need some help** you can find out more about our [services here](#).

Need to **talk to someone confidentially**? Call national Mind on 0300 123 3393 or access other immediate [help](#)



 mind Manchester

**World Mental Health Day**

**Tuesday 10 October 2023**

[manchestermind.org/wmhd2023](http://manchestermind.org/wmhd2023)

### Message from Ms. Eckersall

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October is world mental health day.

Can I please ask that staff wear something yellow on this day and make a donation?

All proceeds will go to Young Minds.

I will also be making a sweet Halloween hamper and selling raffle tickets on Tuesday. If anybody has anything they could donate or could buy a little something over the weekend to make this hamper **epic**, that would be most welcome e.g. chocolate, sweets or Halloween themed things.

There will also be yellow wristbands available for staff to buy so please, if you can bring some change on Tuesday it would be hugely appreciated, every little helps!

Young minds is a fantastic charity and we know in our school community, that there are many young people who are struggling with their mental health. So, anything that can raise awareness, remove stigma and start conversations is really important.

**#HelloYellow**

**YOUNG MiNDiS**





# Attendance Is Everyone's business

Attendance continues to be a key priority in school this year for all pupils.

If students are not in school, they are not learning.

Thank you to the parents and carers of students who are sending their children into school every day. These students will be getting the full benefits of lessons and school life.

As the Attendance Team, it is our role to support families to ensure that students attend school every day.

High levels of attendance = high levels of attainment.

Each week, we will be sharing 'Attendance Facts' to help support you to encourage your child to attend school every day.

If your child has a minor ailment for example a cough or a cold, menstrual symptoms, please send them to school. If they are unwell, we would contact you.

Often, when students arrive to school with their friends, they feel much better.

As you will be aware if your child has been absent, we are out doing home visits to try and encourage students to return to school. We are required to ask for medical evidence if a student's attendance is below 93%.

Please try to send your children to school every day to give them the best possible chance to be successful young people.

**This weeks 'Attendance Fact':  
'91.1% attendance = missing 17 days or 85 lessons of school in one year'**

If you need any support or advice to help your child improve their attendance, please get in touch with us at school or email [attendance@smrchs.com](mailto:attendance@smrchs.com)

**G Matthew – Strategic Attendance Lead**  
**C Grainger – Attendance Lead**  
**S Ross – Attendance Officer/ Safeguarding Officer**

**Each half-term there will be new attendance initiatives for students.**

This term, the form with the highest attendance will win a full English breakfast during form time:

Year 10 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Year 11 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October



## Attendance Is Everyone's business

**Congratulations to 9H who won the reward breakfast this week with 97.30% attendance last week:**



**The winning form for breakfast on Friday 13th October is 10D with 100% attendance.**

**Congratulations to all students in Mr Hall's form.**

**We'll be seeing you here next week!**

### **Number of students with 100% attendance:**

Year group	W/e 22.09.2023	W/e 06.10.23	
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>143</b>	
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>135</b>	
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>143</b>	
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>141</b>	
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>149</b>	

**711 students had 100% attendance last week. Congratulations to them all.**

**Can your child achieve 100% attendance next week?**





Last week to enter...

*Flash Fiction Competition*

## SPOOKTACULAR

- ✗ No Happy Endings
- ✗ No Dreams, No Nightmares
- ✗ No 'and then I woke up'

- ✓ 800 word limit
- ✓ Include Original Title
- ✓ Send your entry to

N.Tormey@smrchs.com

**DEADLINE**

**16.10.23**

**YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR FIRST NAME AND SURNAME ON YOUR SUBMISSION.**

### THIS, THAT OR THE OTHER

PROTAGONIST	Witch	Human	Zombie
SETTING	Outdoors	Creature's Lair	Abandoned Place
THEME	Apocalypse	Last 1 Left	Lost
PLOT	Rescue	Curiosity	Revenge
ENDING	Ambiguous	A Costly Win	A Failure
STYLE	A Rescue	A Warning	A Rumour

Choose one option from each row that must appear in your story.



## Free School Meals

We encourage all parents/ carers to check if their child is entitled to free school meals (FSM). Being registered for free school meals benefits both the student and the school as we will receive extra funding. It is the parents/ carers responsibility to apply for free school meals on behalf of their child.

Applying for Free School Meals only takes a few minutes. Please click on the following link to apply:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you are struggling with your application, please contact [finance@smrchs.com](mailto:finance@smrchs.com) and the Finance Team will be happy to assist you with your application.

### Qualifying criteria for free school meals:

You are receiving Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit





# Parent Pay—How To

There are still many students who do not have an active Parent Pay Account. Please contact the school if you have not received your unique username and password to activate the account or if you need assistance.

Your child will need their account setting up as they may need to purchase academic items or if they want to go on school trips.

When calling select to speak to Finance or email

[parentpay@smrchs.com](mailto:parentpay@smrchs.com)

## How To Activate A New Account

You will need an activation letter or email from school to get started. If you have lost this or not yet received it, email the school at [parentpay@smrchs.com](mailto:parentpay@smrchs.com)

You need a valid email address as a username and for account verification.

1. Navigate to [parentpay.com](https://parentpay.com)
2. Select Login at the top right corner of the screen
3. Enter the username and password provided in your activation letter / email and select activate.
4. Complete the activation as detailed on screen.
5. That's it you're all done!

## How To Top Up A Parent Pay Lunch Account

1. Navigate to [parentpay.com](https://parentpay.com)
2. Select Parent Login
3. Username—this is your email address
4. Password—this is what you chose once you had activated your account
5. Select Login
6. Click Continue—(or if you want to set up one click payments follow the screen prompts)
7. Select Pay for meals
8. Enter how much you want to pay (minimum payment is £5)
9. Select Add to Basket
10. Click on Basket and check the amount is correct
11. Click proceed to Checkout
12. A receipt will be sent to your email address from Parent Pay.
13. That's it you're all topped up!



## What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

With much greater choice, complexity, and more opportunities to spend money in the cafeteria it is important you discuss what your children are choosing and ensure they are getting a healthy balance with their choices. This will help you decide on the right amount of break and lunch money to allocate to your child's Parent Pay account.

Some parents chose to pay for the cost of lunch only, while others give their children a bit extra to cover a snack at morning break or for an additional drink. Whatever you decide you should expect to budget somewhere between £12.50 - £20 a week.

If your children are on Free School Meals the £2.50 allocated to their Parent Pay account each day will not show on Edulink or on your Parent Pay account, but rest assured it is sat there waiting to be spent. Any unspent money is carried over to the next day. At the end of the week any unspent money will be removed.

It is very important to ensure your children manage their Free School Meal allowance properly and are mindful that if they spend money at break they will not have enough money to buy a meal deal at lunch time, unless you add money to their account.

Please take a look at the following menus, deals and price lists and talk to your children about how best they can maximise their spend, there is a lot of choice and it would be good for them to look through the menus with you.

**HOMEBAKED & SWEET TREATS**

Cake Slice	£1.15
Rocky Road	£1.70
Croissant	£1.55
Pain Au Chocolat	£1.55
Cookie Small	£1.15 / 85p
Muffin Small	£1.30 / 85p
Flapjack Small	£1.15 / 85p
Brownie Small	£1.15 / 85p
Chocolate Straw	£1.15
Cheese Straw	£1.15

**COLD DRINKS**

Water 330ml	80p
Fruit Slush Small	£1.45 / £0.90
Capri Sun	£1.30
Dalston's Cans	£1.40
Radnor Fruit Carton - 200ml	£1.10
Radnor Splash Bottle - 500ml	£1.15
Milk Cartons	£1.00





## What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

The Blue Dot Deal is exceptionally good value allowing your child to chose 4 items, for example; if they wanted something to eat at break they could chose something from the hot deli, get a roll for lunch from the cold deli, select a drink and get a fruit pot or something from the Homebake all for £2.50.

**4  
AMAZING  
ITEMS  
£2.50**

**HOT DELI**

- Garlic Bread
- Pizza Melt Bap/Boat
- Cheese On Toast/Bap
- Pizza Melt Quesadilla
- BBQ Melt Bap

**COLD DELI**

- A Selection of Rolls:  
Ham, Cheese, Tuna, Chicken  
Mayo, Egg Mayo

**DRINKS**

- 125ml Radnor Drink Carton
- 330ml Water Bottle
- 8oz Slush
- Small Generation Juice

**40Z POTS**

- Selection of Fruit Pots
- Selection of Jelly Pots
- Selection of Yoghurt Pots
- Selection of Seed Pots

**HOMEBAKES**

- Mini Muffin
- Mini Cookie
- Mini Shortbread
- Mini Flapjack

\* Not all items are available everyday



## What's On Offer At Break & Lunch time

*Innovate IFG*

### GRAB & GO

#### HOT

<b>Breakfast Roll</b>	£2.05
<b>Breakfast Pot</b>	From £2.00
<b>Breakfast Baguette</b>	From £1.40
<b>Pasta Pots</b>	Small £2.15 Large £2.50
<b>Ciabatta</b>	£3.20
<b>Toastie</b>	£2.15
<b>Panini</b>	£2.60
<b>Combo Pots</b>	£2.65
<b>Loaded Nachos</b>	£2.25
<b>Dough Balls</b>	£1.40
<b>Burrito</b>	£2.65
<b>Chicken Wings</b>	£2.15
<b>Pizza Slice</b>	£1.50

#### COLD

<b>Roll</b>	£1.00
<b>Sub</b>	£2.05
<b>Wrap</b>	£2.60
<b>Pasta Pots</b>	Small £1.00 Large £2.50
<b>Baguette</b>	£2.65
<b>Sushi</b>	£3.00
<b>Fruit Fruit Pot</b>	55p £1.00
<b>Naturally Range</b>	From £2.85
<b>Dip Pot - Houmous</b>	£1.20
<b>Edamame Beans</b>	£1.60
<b>Self-Serve Salad</b>	From £1.80
<b>Yoghurt/Jelly Pot</b>	£1.00

