



Celebrating Six Weeks of Inspirational Cricket Coaching with Nick "Mr Cricket" Matthews – A True Chance to Shine

Over the past six weeks our EYFS, KS1 and ARB pupils have been privileged to be part of the *Chance to Shine* cricket provision, led by none other than the remarkable Nick Matthews—affectionately known from day one by the children as “Mr Cricket.”

From his very first session, Nick brought an infectious energy and genuine passion that lit up the school hall. Every member of staff has echoed the same sentiment: *"He was amazing."* Nick's approach to coaching was not only rooted in strong cricketing knowledge but grounded in deep care and inclusivity for every child he worked with.

He demonstrated an incredible ability to adapt his teaching to suit all needs, ensuring that every single child could participate, feel successful, and most importantly—have fun. As one member of staff beautifully put it, *"He was so inclusive and spoke to each and every one of them, remembering key things about them and making them feel special and recognised."*

Nick took a genuine interest in all the children, including those in our ARB (Area Resource Base), ensuring every session was both accessible and inspiring. Another colleague shared, *"He had a lovely, encouraging manner with the young children and those in the ARB. He made the sessions inclusive and adapted the teaching provision so all could have fun, be involved and achieve."* His patience, kindness, and respectful attitude meant that children felt safe to ask questions and push their own boundaries.

The excitement surrounding Nick's sessions became a highlight of the school week. The Headteacher noted, *"There was a buzz around the school every week—children were so excited when they saw him arrive. The joy and anticipation were infectious."*

The children themselves were full of enthusiasm and pride as they reflected on their time with Mr Cricket:

- *"I loved the final Cricket World Cup game we played where you had to catch the ball. He's really fun and made all the instructions clear!"*
- *"Mr Cricket taught me how to hold the bat properly—then I hit some 4's and 6's in the air!"*
- *"We had to run in a square and I got faster each week."*
- *"I was enjoying learning to throw and bat the ball!"*

Nick Matthews has not just delivered a sports programme; he's created lasting memories, nurtured confidence, and inspired children of all abilities. His time with us through *Chance to Shine* has had a powerful impact—not only developing skills in cricket, but fostering a love for sport, teamwork, and perseverance.

We are incredibly grateful for the past six weeks and cannot recommend the *Chance to Shine* programme highly enough. With leaders like Mr Cricket at the helm, it's no surprise the children—and staff—can't wait for more.

Thanks again Nick

We'd absolutely love to be part of this fantastic scheme again at any point in the future.