



Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father. – Matthew 5:16



St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

w/b: Monday 4th September

WELCOME BACK!

It has been so wonderful to welcome back our children this week after our summer break. We hope all families have had a restful summer and enjoyed time together. The children have settled back into their classes really well and have been working hard all week. We look forward to another year of hard work, exciting events and shared experiences together. We would like to welcome Mr Riley who is our new Y6 teacher. He has joined us from one of our trust schools. He has really enjoyed his first week with us and we hope that the Y6 children have really enjoyed their time too. Welcome to the SMST family, Mr R!

IN OUR HANDS

This week, the whole school have read a story called 'In Our Hands' that has so many amazing lessons in it. Each class have completed work inspired by this story and we have enjoyed engaging in projects to brighten our school, because we wouldn't want it to be dull like the world in the story! We encourage you to discuss the work with your child this weekend.

GOLDEN BOOK

We have introduced our whole school Golden Book this week and we know it will be a fantastic way to celebrate the children in our school family. Each week, staff will be adding names to the Golden Book when children WOW them. It can be something big, something small, but it will be something special that can then be shared with the whole school in our celebration assembly on a Friday.

NO WRAPAROUND 14.9.23

There will be no wraparound on THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER due to staff safeguarding training. Apologies in advance.

ARBOR

Can we please urge parents to log onto Arbor and check the following:

- *all your child's details are correct (address, phone numbers, doctors' details etc)
- *the list of people who are able to collect your child (you are able to add more to the list or delete people from the list.
- *the consents for your child and update accordingly.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please find attached to this newsletter our dates for the diary for the year ahead. Please have a look and make a note of any that are linked to your child's class so you can be well organised for events.

GROCERY PACKS

Each year we can support some families with groceries on a monthly basis. These are very kindly provided by Teardrops. Please find a letter attached to the newsletter providing more information with details about how to sign up. If you would like any further details, please see Miss Shields.

Y5&Y6 RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAYS

Before we broke up, I wrote to all parents to share information about the Y5&Y6 residential holidays. Please ensure you return your child's permission slip and deposit by the allocated date. If you need another copy of the letter, please see your child's class teacher.

CLASS INFORMATION

Please be sure to keep checking the school website and in particular your child's Class page. In the next week, you will find the class handbook, curriculum overviews for the term and homework information. If you have any questions or would like a hard copy of the information, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS Tel 01744 734320 Email stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

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BIRTHDAY OWN CLOTHES

Just a reminder that on their birthdays, children are allowed to wear their own clothes to school. If their birthday falls on a weekend they may choose to wear their own clothes on the Friday or Monday.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please be aware that children who are wishing to change from or to school meals must give the office a week's notice, due to the fact that our outside catering agency order their stock in advance.

INVEST IN PLAY COURSE

Please see the attached flyer for information about our next parenting support programme that will commence on Thursday 28th September. We really encourage any parents who are interested to sign up to this free, fun and informative course.

PE AND MUSIC

The table below details the PE for children across the school. Children should attend school wearing their PE kit on their allocated day, which must consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts or sports trousers and black trainers. Details and pictures of the appropriate kit can be found on our school website. Please be aware that children are **not permitted** to wear football kits or branded clothing. We have a limited amount of spare kit in school and children will be asked to change into this prior to their PE session where necessary.

PE Monday	PE Wednesday
YN	Y1
YR	Y4
Y5	Y2
Y6	Y3

Music brass lessons for KS2 are as follows: Wednesday for Y4/5 and Friday for Y6. The children should bring their brass instruments into school on these days as per the loan agreement.

Y4 SWIMMING

Y4 will continue with their swimming lessons from this Monday and therefore should attend school with the required kit.

WRAPAROUND LATE FEES

Please could we remind families that our after-school wraparound care runs until 5.30pm. If a child is not collected by this time, we have to implement a late fee as this service is run by our school staff. The late fee for collection is £1 per minute late.

CATCH APP- COMMON APPROACH TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Our school nurse, Laura, has informed us of the above app CATCH (please see the attached flyer). The app is designed to empower you to manage your family's health and wellbeing. It is a free app providing local NHS-approved support and information to parents and carers of children aged 0-5. Please have a look.

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... Mrs Lewis

We have certainly seen some strong and courageous young people (and adults too!) this week as the new year has started and children have returned to school. And as our bible verse this week tells us, God has been with them, he's been with us all in this time of transition.

Our brand new Reception and Nursery cohorts have settled in beautifully, enjoying their time exploring their new environment and making new friends who will soon feel like family.

Our returning year groups have stepped up into their new classes so seamlessly, showing bravery, strength and dedication.

And of course, we can't let this week of sunshine go by without saying: the staff and children have truly embodied our Christian value of perseverance, working so hard in this heat!

Our **Christian value** focus this half term is...

Perseverance

Our school **bible verse** of the week is...

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

St Thomas Church

Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB
01744 732463 / stthomaseccleston@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Parish Mass: 9.30am – 10.30am

Evening prayer: 6.30pm

"Seeking to love God and neighbour in the community of which we are part."



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ST MARY & ST THOMAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

2022/23 PLANNER

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 13th September:
Individual & sibling photographs
Friday 22nd:
Y2 Family Learning (2:15pm)
Tuesday 26th:
Interfaith Day
Thursday 28th:
Y6 Parent Insight morning
Friday 29th:
Rec Family Learning (2:15pm)

OCTOBER

Wednesday 4th:
Y5&Y6 Eucharist
Thursday 5th:
Y5 Family Worship
Friday 6th:
Y1 Family Learning (2:15pm)
Wednesday 11th:
Y2 Harvest Service @ St Thomas
Thursday 19th:
Y4 Family Worship
Friday 20th:
Rec Family Learning (2:15pm)
Tuesday 24th:
Autumn Disco
Wednesday 25th:
Y4 & Y6 Trip to Clontar Opera

NOVEMBER

Thursday 9th:
Y5 Parent Insight morning
Thursday 16th:
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory trip
Friday 17th:
Y3 Family Learning (2:15pm) &
Children in Need
Thursday 23rd:
Y4 Parent Insight morning
Friday 24th:
Rec Stay & Play
Thursday 30th:
Y5 & Y6 Eucharist

DECEMBER

Friday 1st:
Nursery Stay & Play
Friday 8th:
Christmas dinner
Tuesday 12th:
KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14th & 15th:
Rec&KS1/KS2 Pantomime & Party
Monday 18th:
Y1/2 Parent-teacher consultations
Tuesday 19th:
Y3/4 Parent-teacher consultations
Wednesday 20th:
Y6 Christmas Service @ St Thomas
Thursday 21st:
EVFS carols around the Christmas Tree
Y5/6 Parent-teacher consultations

OTHER INFO

Half Term dates:

Tuesday 5th September 2023:
Children return to school
Thursday 26th October 2023:
Children break up for half term
Monday 6th November 2023:
Children return to school
Friday 22nd December 2023:
Children break up for half term
Tuesday 9th January 2024:
Children return to school
Friday 9th February 2024:
Children break up for half term
Monday 19th February 2024:
Children return to school
Thursday 28th March 2024:
Children break up for half term
Monday 15th April 2024:
Children return to school
Wednesday 22nd May 2024:
Children break up for half term
Monday 3rd June 2024:
Children return to school
Wednesday 23rd July 2024:
Children break up for half term

Additional Dates:

27th/28th September & 16th October:
Y5 Debate academy
Tuesday 10th October:
Flu jabs

JANUARY

Wednesday 17th:
KS2 Eucharist
Thursday 18th:
Y3 Parent Insight morning
Friday 19th:
Y4 Family Learning (2:15pm)
Friday 26th:
Rec Stay & Play

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st:
Y2 Parent Insight morning
Friday 2nd:
Y5 Family Learning (2:15pm)
Tuesday 6th:
Safer Internet Day & Valentine Disco
Wednesday 7th:
Y5 Ash Wednesday Service @ St Thomas
Friday 9th:
Y6 Family Learning
Thursday 22nd:
Y3 Family Worship
Thursday 29th:
Y2 Family Worship

MARCH

Friday 1st:
Nursery Stay & Play
Thursday 7th:
Y1 Parent Insight morning
Friday 8th:
World Book Day
Friday 22nd:
Y4 Sleepover
Tuesday 26th:
Easter Bingo
Wednesday 27th:
Y4 Easter Church Service @ St Thomas

APRIL

Monday 15th:
Y1/2 Parent-teacher consultations
Tuesday 16th:
Y3/4 Parent-teacher consultations
Wednesday 17th:
Y5/6 Parent-teacher consultations
Thursday 25th:
Y1 Family Worship

MAY

Friday 3rd:
Rec Stay & Play
Tuesday 7th - 8th:
Y5 Petty Pools trip
Thursday 9th:
Y3 Ascension Day Service
Monday 13th:
KS2 SAT's week
Wednesday 22nd:
Sports Day

JUNE

Wednesday 5th:
Whole School Eucharist
Tuesday 11th:
Y6 Moving on service
Friday 14th:
Nursery Stay & Play
Tuesday 18th - 20th:
Y6 London Residential
Friday 21st:
Class photos
Thursday 27th:
RSE Day

JULY

Wednesday 3rd:
Believe, Achieve, Shine awards evening
Thursday 18th:
Rec end of year assembly
Friday 19th:
Y6 Leavers' Service





St Mary & St Thomas

Church of England Primary School

Executive Principal: Mrs. Kirsty Tennyson B.Ed (Hons)

Headteacher: Mrs. Lyndsey Lewis BA (Hons), M.A.



7th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

FOOD AND TOILETRY PACKS

Due to the tremendous support we give to our local charities we have been chosen by Teardrops Hub to continue to receive monthly grocery packs to support our families.

We will receive a selection of items such as tea, coffee, tinned goods, cereals, pasta, rice and toiletries etc, however we cannot guarantee every item will be available.

If you feel your family would benefit from receiving a grocery pack please return the slip below and we will contact you when goods arrive. If demand is high, we may not be able to guarantee everyone gets a grocery pack every month but we will do our best to ensure needs are met. School does not have storage facilities so as soon as you are contacted you will need to make arrangements to collect your grocery pack. **Families who registered last year, will need to register again for future packs.**

Please also be aware that we are able to issue Foodbank Vouchers to families who may need this support. Please contact Miss Shields, Family Support Worker in school to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Lewis
Headteacher

GROCERY PACK REQUEST

Child's Name Year Group

Parent Name

PLEASE RETURN TO : Miss Shields by Friday 15th September 2023

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Common Approach To Children's Health

Empowering you to manage your family's health and wellbeing

A free app providing local NHS-approved support and information to parents and carers of children aged 0-5

🖱️ catchapp.co.uk
🐦 [catchapp_uk](https://twitter.com/catchapp_uk)



search for catch app





The **LEGO** Foundation

St Mary and St Thomas in collaboration with St Helens council are offering a brand new, exciting course for parents. The course focusses on developing boundaries and routines through the medium of...play! It is innovative, accessible and completely free of charge. The course aims to strengthen your bond with your child, promotes healthy relationships and provides you with practical strategies to manage behaviour. This course offers the building blocks for secure attachment, parental confidence and happier home. The course is available to any of our families.

The course runs for 11 weeks (term time only) and is held at St Thomas's church

Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am, tea and coffee provided.

If you would like to attend please give your name to the front office and you will be contacted.

Focused commenting	Building social, emotional and learning skills
Play	Building attachment, relationships and self-worth
Thoughts, feelings and behaviour	Building parental self-efficacy and confidence
Selective attention	Building co-operation
Predictable limits	Building security
Praise and rewards	Building confidence and self-esteem



Invest in play (iip) is an international not-for-profit organisation with a mission to support children and their caregivers using practical and compassionate strategies which have been proven to work over many decades.

We have co-created our programmes with local communities to provide the most current and culturally appropriate, research-based interventions to support parents and other caregivers around the world. We are an international team of psychologists who have been working with children and families for over 25 years.

The study compared measurements before and after the intervention from 4 invest in play (iip) groups. The outcomes were compared to control and intervention groups derived from a meta-analysis of 14 trials of a well-established evidence-based behavioural parent training programme.

The results show that:

iip effectively reduced child behaviour problems with effects comparable to the well-established intervention.

iip effectively reduced parenting stress with considerably larger effects compared to the well-established intervention.

Parents in the iip groups were more satisfied with the programme materials.



Believe i

very day!

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Well done to the following children, who have won the Headteacher's Award this week!

Year	Head Teacher's Award	
N	Isaac	For being a kind friend to the new nursery children
R	All of Reception	For a fantastic first week!
1	All of Year 1	For settling in beautifully!
2	Braxton Baker	For being so resilient all week!
3	Piper Houghton	For her amazing writing in English
4	Nicoleta	For settling in nicely to SMST
5	Alicia Lea	For an excellent attitude towards school
6	Ruby Rimmer	For always being ready to learn

Year	Lunchtime Award
R	All of Reception
1	Luke
2	Yusuf
3	Kia
4	Emmanuel
5	Alicia
6	Logan

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