



St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

w/b: Monday 6th November

JEANINE, JEANINE THE DANCING QUEEN

We have a star in our midst everybody! A huge congratulations to our wonderful office manager, Jeanine, who cha-cha'd her away to third prize, along with her dance partner, in the Willowbrook Hospice Strictly Glitter Ball event. The event raised a whopping £37000 for the charity. And that's not all! Each year, Jeanine organises and hosts an event to raise money for the Burney Breast Unit. This fundraiser has been getting bigger, better and more glittery each time,

raising an incredible £2500 for the hospital this year! In recognition of her dedication to charity work and the huge amount of money her efforts have raised for some extremely worthy causes, we wanted to say WELL DONE, JEANINE! We think you're truly amazing, an inspiration to the pupils of our school in your giving, and remember...keeeeee dancing!



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK – PARENT WORKSHOPS

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for the parent workshops this week. It was brilliant to see so many families and we hope the resources shared will be useful for all.

LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

Next week, the children will be learning about some significant events in History as part of our annual Local History Week. They will learn of things from World Wars and of local historical events that have shaped our world today. Please make sure you ask your children about their learning to hear of the wonderful things they've discovered.

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY TRIP

For the children who have booked a ticket for the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory theatre trip next Thursday, we want to remind you that they are permitted to take a drink and a small snack. Please refer to the original letter for details of collection as we are asking parents to collect from St Helens Central Station.

STORIES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH

All families are invited to join us once a month at St Thomas' Church for story time. Mrs Lewis will be there for each session and would love to see you there! This week it will commence at 10.45am this week due to the minutes silence that will be observed for Remembrance Day. Usually, the sessions will start at 11am. We really hope to see you there!

CHILDREN IN NEED

Next Friday, we will be raising money for Children in Need with an own clothes day. If you wish for your child to participate, they can bring a £1 donation for the charity and are can come to school in their own clothes.

ANTI—BULLYING ALTRU DRAMA

We always love to welcome the team from Altru Drama as their performances for the children never fail to entertain, make us laugh, and most importantly...make us think! The theme was anti-bullying and some of the KS2 children also had the opportunity to take part in a workshop to further reflect and learn. Thanks to the Altru team!

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

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

MERSEYSIDE SUPPORTING FAMILIES SESSIONS

We are really pleased to inform you that a member of the team from DWP and Merseyside Supporting Families team has agreed to hold weekly parent drop-in sessions, right here at school, every Friday starting next week. Julie has worked with us to support parents before and is now available to discuss things such as benefits, financial support and housing with any of our families should they require it. If you would like to book an appointment, please speak to the school office.

Y5 PARENT INSIGHT

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us for Y5 Family Insight morning yesterday. We hope you enjoyed watching the children in their learning environment and know you will have been impressed with how hard they work.

CINEMA TRIPS

Y1-4 had a blast at the cinema! It was a lovely opportunity for the children to have a special visit to the cinema and they all behaved beautifully. The staff commented on how impressed they were the children's behaviour. Well done, children!

READING AT SMST

We simply LOVE reading at SMST and we know how important it is to foster this love for reading in children. Today, we started our brand new Book Club across school, working in our house teams to take part in a fun-filled afternoon of reading activities. We encourage you to ask your children all about this lovely event!

SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN

Next week, the school nurse will be available for sessions linked to any health queries or concerns. The sessions will be taking place between 9-12 on Wednesday 15th November. If you would like to book an appointment, please book one at the school office.

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... *Mrs Parry*

My October half term was filled with joy! I was blessed to be able to spend a few days away in a lovely little cottage up in Scotland with my husband and my lovely dog, Willow. Time away with my little family fills me with so much joy!

However, this week's bible verse speaks of joy in a very different way. A way that always challenges my thinking.

The bible teaches us that we should find the joy in all things. Joy is a fruit of the spirit and therefore, it is ever present if we draw close to God. So, joy in trials, when things seem tough, that really is something that we need to ask for God's help with.

In action, that looks like kindness even when it's hard, seeking positivity when the world feels heavy and smiling through the ups and the downs.

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

Joy

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

James 1:2

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."

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



Merseyside Supporting Families Newsletter

Autumn '23

Good news story

Sacha received a referral from Kirkby JCP for a mum of four who was struggling to with her own health problems alongside her youngest child's additional needs.

Sacha met with Charlotte who explained that her youngest child had started school nursery but they were struggling to cope with her due to her challenging behaviour. Her daughter was non-verbal, violent, hyperactive, had no fear and she didn't sleep. Nursery could only keep her for one hour a day.

Charlotte had mental health problems of her own and these were exasperated by dealing with her daughter and not knowing how to get help.

Sacha started by supporting Charlotte to get a fit note for her UC and she started the health journey. The Health Visitor was contacted to seek support and a referral into council services was made.

As Sacha got to know Charlotte, she disclosed that she was also struggling with debts and managing her money and she was unable to read and write very well.

Over the next few months Sacha supported Charlotte in completing her UC50 which resulted in her being placed in LCWRA. Sacha also supported Charlotte in claiming PIP for herself and gaining more support from her GP.

Sacha supported Charlotte in getting debt advice and contacting her creditors to arrange manageable payments. The extra money on UC and PIP made life a lot more manageable.

Charlotte's daughter was given additional support in school and is on the ASD Pathway.

Sacha has supported Charlotte in claiming DLA for her daughter and Carer's Allowance.

After addressing all of the above Charlotte's mental health had started to improve and her daughter was now in full time school. Charlotte had never worked but she decided that she was ready to look for work. Together they completed an application form for a Lunchtime Supervisor role in a school and Charlotte was successful.

A year after the initial referral Charlotte started work and she has now been employed for four months.



Team Leader:
Debbie Ford-07881842724

Liverpool:
South-Sharon Adidi-07741837178
Central-Dawn Hoey-07795452906
North-Linda Levy-07900165720
North-Julie Power-07341999697

Knowsley:
Sacha Manning-07766815630
Jeanette Simm-07407821694

Sefton
Colette McCully-07768466745
Pam Gostelow-07825734228
supportingfamilies.sefton@dwp.gov.uk

St Helens
Julie Fisher-07795091351
Kellie Tobin-07435660323

Wirral
Karen Newell-07917072945

Halton
Rachel Cannon-07467458955

****Contact us by phone, email or MS Teams at any time if you have a question or a referral****

CHRISTMAS

FAYRE



❄️ Various Stalls

❄️ Refreshments

❄️ Tombola

❄️ Morning Coffee

❄️ Cakes

❄️ Light Lunches

❄️ Lucky Dip

❄️ Afternoon Tea

❄️ Raffle & Games

❄️ Uniformed Groups



Meet
Father Christmas
in his Grotto



SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

11.00AM - 3.00PM

ST THOMAS CHURCH

PETER STREET, ST HELENS



ADMISSION FREE - EVERYONE WELCOME



FIRST STEPS TODDLER GROUP

Toys Singing Crafts Dancing

Fun for Everyone!

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Every Wednesday During Term Time

St Thomas' Church

Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB

all under 5s welcome

Any enquiries please email: stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

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BEHAVIOUR MATTERS!

Ready, Respectful, Resilient



Mrs Lewis' Golden Book

Each week, staff write the names of children who have gone above and beyond in Mrs Lewis' Golden Book. It is so exciting when the names and reasons are read out in our celebration assembly!

It may be that a child has been ready to learn every moment of every day. Maybe they have been incredibly respectful to a visitor or a friend. Or maybe they have been resilient in a way that has wowed the staff!

OUR SCHOOL RULES

READY

"WE ARE ALWAYS
READY TO LISTEN
AND LEARN!"



RESPECTFUL

"WE SHOW RESPECT
TO EVERYBODY IN
SCHOOL AND IN THE
COMMUNITY!"



RESILIENT

"WE NEVER GIVE
UP AND TRY
OUR BEST IN
ALL WE DO!"



Class Dojos

Children can receive Dojo points for being ready, respectful and resilient throughout the school day. They receive 5 Dojos if they read five times, which they should do every single week.

Each child has their own Dojo character and milestones are celebrated with certificates and prizes each time they meet one.

We celebrate milestones such as 100, 200 and 300 dojos in assembly too!

Headteacher's Award Winners

YN - Leo for fantastic counting!

YR - Grayson for being kind, helpful and respectful!

Y1 - Elijah for working his socks off!

Y2 - Dylan for great explanations in Maths.

Y3 - Sofia for always being so helpful and kind.

Y4 - Terence for outstanding effort in PE and swimming.

Y5 - Scarlett for excellent Maths involving time

Y6 - Sophie-Louise for her enthusiasm in class.

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Amelia

Y1 - David C

Y2 - Joe M

Y3 - Adam

Y4 - Elizabeth

Y5 - Lucas

Y6 - Michael



**ALWAYS ON TIME
TONI**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS. ALL DAY, EVERY DAY



**ALWAYS IN SCHOOL
SANDY**

TONI SAYS,

"Our school starts at 8.45am; that's when the doors open!

Children should arrive at school on time, so they don't miss any learning! Regularly missing lessons can have a negative impact on wellbeing and on your academic achievement too.

Being on time is such an important skill for life and sets you up for a life of success and positive wellbeing!"

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School and **future success** starts with good attendance!



Remember - your education is important - **don't miss out!**

SANDY SAYS,

"Children should be in school EVERY DAY... unless you're poorly. Every day counts!"

Every minute in school is a learning minute. The research tells us that children who are in school every day achieve more, and their wellbeing is better too!

Please let school know if you'll be absent before 9.15am or we'll have to contact you to check in."

**Whole school attendance this year
to date...
95.6%**

**Whole school attendance this week...
94.1%**

**Class attendance winners...
Y4**

Class Attendance

YN - 89.5 %
YR - 81.7%
Y1 - 93.1%
Y2 - 96.7%
Y3 - 97.5%
Y4 - 98.4%
Y5 - 98.3 %
Y6 - 95.0%