



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 13th November

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for all your kind donations for this very worthy cause today – together, we have raised £172! We observed the important day by wearing our own clothes and learning of the impact of Children in Need and their charitable work. We'll be watching the live show this evening to see more and encourage you to do the same as a family.

LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

Across the school, we've been learning all about very important parts of history and how they affected our local area. The children learned went on history walks, took part in role play to experience life from the past and found out about some significant people from history. Make sure to ask your child about the fascinating things they have discovered.

PARENT WORKSHOP: MENTAL HEALTH, FRIENDSHIPS AND CONFLICT

On Monday at 9am, you are invited to attend a free workshop led by our Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Emma. Emma's sessions are always so insightful, and parent feedback has been fantastic for every event she has led. We would love to see as many parents/carers there as possible and welcome you to join us in the school hall after drop-off.

READING AT SMST

We simply LOVE reading at SMST and we know how important it is to foster this love for reading in children. Friday is Book Club afternoon across school, where we explore our class libraries, read with children from other classes, review the books we've been reading, take recommendations from friends and teachers and generally immerse ourselves in the wonderful world of reading. Oh, and we also get an extra 10 minute playtime if we've read 5 times! Children who read 5 times are also put into a raffle, and at the end of the half term, they can win hot chocolate with Mrs Lewis – what fun! Please can families ensure that children are reading at least 5 times a week and their reading diaries are signed each time – not one comment that says 5 times, please! – so they can win their extra playtime and raffle ticket, but mostly because it is SO important for their learning in all areas. Thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please see below the amended diary dates for this academic year. A few dates have been changed and added, so make sure you have checked it if you've already added them to your diary!

Y4 PARENT INSIGHT

Next Thursday, parents and carers of Y4 children are invited to join us for a parent insight session. You will have the opportunity to watch your child's class taking part in a lesson, and we know the children love to see their family members there to showcase their wonderful work. Please join us in the school hall from 9am.

YR STAY AND PLAY

Next Thursday and Friday, families of Reception class children are invited to attend a stay and play session. Allotted session times will be shared by the Reception class staff if you need any more information.

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY TRIP

What a show! The children from Y5 and 6 had such a fantastic afternoon at the theatre this week. Despite the eventful journey home, they behaved so beautifully and were excellent representatives of our school. An extra special thank you to the staff and parents who supported in ensuring the children got home safely after the cancelled train – it was heart-warming to see us all join together as a school family!

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

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! The sessions will start at 11am. We really hope to see you there!

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. 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.

CINEMA TRIP

Next week, Y5 and Y6 will be heading out for their cinema trip. This is all taking place in school time and is a lovely opportunity for the children to enjoy some leisure time together.

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... Miss Sudlow

Joy to me is spending time with family and friends. I love to be surrounded by the people I love.

As for what I like to do when with family and friends, my life revolves around food! Good food. Enjoying this together with the people I love brings me such joy.

It's good sometimes to stop and reflect about what does actually bring us joy. Because as I was writing this, I thought, to myself... do I do this enough? Have I spent enough time with those I love? Have I been filled with joy?

Life can get busy and we need to remember to stop and find the joy in small moments. But we also need to make sure we choose joy by planning for the thing we know bring us that lovely feeling.

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

Joy

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

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

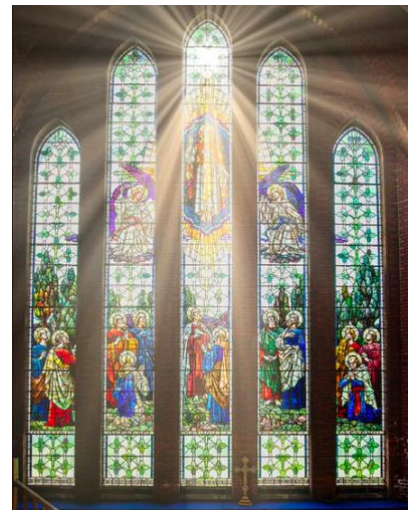
St Thomas Church

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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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 Chilter Opera

NOVEMBER

Thursday 9th:
Y5 Parent Insight morning
Thursday 16th:
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory trip
Friday 17th:
Y5 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
Wednesday 6th:
N/Rec/KS1 Breakfast with Santa
Thursday 7th:
KS2 Breakfast with Santa
Friday 8th:
Christmas dinner – wear a Christmas
jumper for £1
Tuesday 12th:
KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14th & 15th:
Rec&KS1/KS2 Pantomime & Party
Wednesday 20th:
Y6 Christmas Service @ St Thomas
Thursday 21st:
EYFS, carols around the Christmas Tree
Y5/6 Parent – teacher consultations

JANUARY

Tuesday 9th:
Y5/6 Parent-teacher consultations
Wednesday 10th:
Y1/2 Parent – teacher consultations
Thursday 11th:
Y3/4 Parent – teacher consultations
Wednesday 17th:
Nursery & Rec Parent-teacher
Consultation & 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
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 Petal Pools trip
Thursday 9th:
Y3 Ascension Day Service
Monday 13th:
KS2 SATs 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



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

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 - Arthur for being a kind and helpful friend

YR - Francisco for fantastic phonics work!

Y1 - All of Y1 for excellent work during History week

Y2 - Joseph for a great effort with all his work

Y3 - Ziggy for his amazing Industrial Revolution poster.

Y4 - Nicoleta for super effort in all lessons.

Y5 - Lucas S for outstanding effort in every lesson.

Y6 - Dexter for always being ready to learn.

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Winter

Y1 - Michael

Y2 - Joe C

Y3 - Sofia

Y4 - Isla

Y5 - Seb

Y6 - Charlotte



**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...
97.2%

Class attendance winners...
Y1 & Y2

Class Attendance

YN - 94.7 %
YR - 95.3%
Y1 - 99.3%
Y2 - 99.3%
Y3 - 97.7%
Y4 - 98.1%
Y5 - 96.0 %
Y6 - 95.7%