



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 27th November

CHRISTMAS READ

For the month of December, we are once again hosting our Reading Advent Calendar. Each day an adult reads a Christmas story to school. Mrs Lewis will be starting the festive cheer with the classic 'Father Christmas Needs a Wee'.

YN STAY AND PLAY

We have had a lovely time in nursery this Friday morning where parents and carers joined the nursery children for stay and play. The session including fun festive activities linked to our core curriculum. We want to thank you for joining us to stay and play with your children at this session.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We are collecting for Teardrops for our Reverse Advent Calendar this year. If you are in a position to help then all donations are greatly appreciated. Some of the food items they need are Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Sugar, UHT Milk, Soup, Beans, Tinned Fruit and Meat, Dried Pasta and Rice, Jars of Sauces, Biscuits, Crisps, Sweets and Chocolate.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

This exciting event is taking place next week and tickets are still available to book via 'Trips' on Arbor, the deadline for booking tickets in this Monday 4th December. The EYFS & KS1 breakfast in on Wednesday 6th December and KS2 is on Thursday 7th December 2023. The cost is £6 per child, children will receive breakfast, drink, selection box & a photo with Santa. This is always a wonderful event that commences the Christmas season with such joy!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Don't forget your Christmas jumper for our Christmas jumper day next Friday 8th December. Donations of £1 all in aid of Willowbrook hospice.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 8th December will be a very Christmassy day as it is also our Christmas Dinner day! If your child normally has packed lunch but you have ordered a school dinner they will not need a packed lunch that day. If your child is having a packed lunch that day they will still be able to enjoy the Christmas festivities in the hall.

BIKEABILITY Y5

If your child is taking part in Bikeability project you will have received a letter this week. Please return the consent from asap as it is due to start on Tuesday 5th December.

KS1 NATIVITY

Our KS1 children have been busy practising for our Christmas Nativity which is due to take place on Tuesday 12th December at 9:30am and 2pm. Each family is allocated 3 tickets which can be used for either performance. Please complete the form sent out this week to confirm your tickets by Thursday 7th December.

ALADDIN PANTOMIME AND PARTY DAY

This year's pantomime is fast approaching! The cost is £10 per child, so if you wish for your child to attend please pay via 'Trips' on Arbor, EYFS/KS1 are attending on Thursday 14th December and KS2 on Friday 15th December 2023. Children will go to the Theatre in the morning and return at lunchtime. They will be provided with a Party Box meal on this day, free of charge and they will dance the afternoon away! A special guest, Mr Stix, will also be making an appearance!

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

EYFS CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Nursery and Reception parents and carers are invited to join us for Carols around the Christmas Tree at 9:15am on Thursday 21st December. This is a lovely festive occasion so please join us if you are able.

ENTERPRISE WEEK

This year we will once again be hosting our Christmas Enterprise week. Please see the catalogue attached to this newsletter for details on what each year group will be making and selling. We will be selling these items on Thursday 21st December at 1:15pm in the school hall where there will be music and refreshments available to get us all into the Christmas spirit! A great opportunity to purchase last minute gifts and support our children's entrepreneurship!

REMINDER TOYS / PENCIL CASES / WATER BOTTLES

Unfortunately, we do not allow the children to bring in toys, pencil cases and water bottles from home as we cannot guarantee against loss or damage. Please do not send children into school with these items.

Y6 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Our Y6 Christmas service will be taking place on Wednesday 20th December at St Thomas Church. More details will be sent out nearer the date.

LAST DAY OF TERM

Our last day of term is Friday 22nd December. There will be NO WRAPAROUND service that day as it is the last day of term.

FIRST DAY OF TERM

A reminder that our first day back after our Christmas break is Tuesday 9th January.

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... Mrs Hall

I find joy in my children, particularly at this time of year.

This morning marks the first day of advent- a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas – the birth of Christ.

It is a time for us to prepare our homes and hearts. One of our preparations involves our elves- Alf and Ernie. My two sons love to see the mischief that the elves bring into our homes. This morning our elves brought the boys' advent calendars.

I make sure that whilst we enjoy the mischief of the elves, we make sure we spend time thinking about the real meaning of Christmas- the birth of Jesus Christ.

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

Joy

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

Psalm 32:11

“Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”

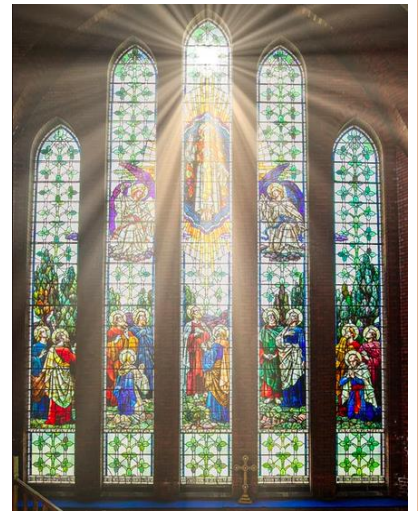
St Thomas Church

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****

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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A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
With Traditional Carols at
St. Thomas's Church, Westfield St.
On Sunday, December 3rd. At 3.00 p.m.



The Vicar of St. Thomas's Rev. Harry Wood
The Pilkington Choir
The Sea Cadets

ALL WELCOME

Coffee and Mince Pies
Served After the
Celebration.

MS Society

The Event Hosted by
St. Helens & District Multiple
Sclerosis Society.

MS Society



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!

Headteachers Award Winners

YN - Ruby for a beautiful rainbow and knowing all the colours

YR - James for trying hard with his name writing

Y1 - David-Costin for trying very hard in writing lessons.

Y2 - Kerris for super maths work

Y3 - Oscar Ashcroft for such an amazing week in school!
He has tried his best in every lesson.

Y4 - Ellie for always trying hard in class

Y5 - Tinofara for outstanding effort in all subjects

Y6 - Logan S for his attitude towards learning

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Florence

Y1 - Matthew

Y2 - Kerris

Y3 - Katie

Y4 - Amelia-Rose

Y5 - Lucas S

Y6 - Jake



**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...
95.6%

Class attendance winners...
Y5

Class Attendance

YN - 86.9%
YR - 94.0%
Y1 - 94.5%
Y2 - 96.0%
Y3 - 96.0%
Y4 - 97.7%
Y5 - 98.7%
Y6 - 96.0%



Urgent Winter Water Safety Message

RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

1. Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet
2. Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Keep calm and shout for 'help'
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice
 - Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you anyway
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water
 - Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up

What to do if you see someone fall through the ice:

- Shout for assistance and phone the emergency services – call 999 or 112
 - Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm
- Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach
 - When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety>

[Winter water safety](#) | [Staying safe on our canals](#) | [Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](#)

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ENTERPRISE



MERRY

CHRISTMAS

**NURSERY AND
RECEPTION
CHILDREN
WILL BE MAKING:**

Magical Reindeer Food

£1



Reindeer chocolates

£2



Christmas-themed Photobooth pictures.

Your child's picture will be taken in school with Christmas themed props.

You will receive a photo of your child.

1 photograph £1



YEAR 1
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Wooden Ornaments

£1



Christmas Cards

50p



Hot Chocolate Reindeers

£1



YEAR 2
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Build-a-Snowman kits

£1.50



Wooden Gift Tags

£1.50



Christmas Mugs

£4.00



YEAR 3
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Christmas Pick-n-Mix

£2



Rocky Road

£1



Gift Boxes

£1



YEAR 4
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Bath Bombs

£1.50



Tree Decoration

£1.50



YEAR 5
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Refreshments

Tea, coffee, juice, crisps, cakes to enjoy
while you browse the enterprise fayre
All priced on the day



YEAR 6
CHILDREN WILL BE
MAKING:

Slime

£1.50



Name the Snowman

£1

