



St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

w/b: Monday 4th December

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As you know 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 and there is a basket in the main school entrance. 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.

STORIES AT ST TOM'S

Please join us on Sunday at St Thomas' Church at 11am for stories, crafts and activities. The session will be for 1 hour and all are welcome. Juice and biscuits will be provided.

WINTER HAF CLUB

We are so pleased that the HAF club is running over the Christmas holidays. The HAF programme is primarily for children aged 4-18 years who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child In Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school then you are also eligible for the HAF programme. The aim of the HAF programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition, as well as be more engaged with school and other local services.

Please follow the link below to find out more and to book sessions- it is advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/HAF-Winter-2023>

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Thank you for bringing your children to our Breakfast with Santa events which were such fun! Each child had their photo taken with Santa Claus and will receive a copy shortly, we are just in the process of ordering. Also, please take a look at the poster attached to the newsletter advertising Breakfast with Santa at St Thomas' Church on Saturday 16th December.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

What fun we've had today celebrating Christmas with our Christmas dinner and festive outfits! Thanks to all who contributed to our collection in aid of Willowbrook hospice. So far we have raised a total of £145, thanks to all who have donated to such a local and worthwhile cause.

BIKEABILITY Y5

This week, Y5 have been taking part in Bikeability workshops which have been a great success. Thank you to the team who led the sessions and well done to the children who took part.

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 with the number of tickets required and send into school by the latest Monday 11th December.

ALADDIN PANTOMIME AND PARTY DAY

Next Thursday 14th is EYFS/KS1 Panto and party day and next Friday 15th is KS2 Panto and Party Day. Children can come in their own clothes, they must have a warm coat and sensible shoes as they are walking to the Panto. Children can bring a carton of juice and a small bag of sweets. They will be provided with a Party Box meal on this day, free of charge and then they will dance the afternoon away! A special guest, Mr Stix, will also be making an appearance! Please ensure you have paid for the Panto via Arbor or cash in an envelope to the office with your child name on.

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.

PARENT CONSULTATION

A reminder that Parent/Guardian Consultations for January Y1 to Y6 are now available to book in on Arbor.

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 at 9:30am.

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. We will look forward to seeing you bright and early.

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... Mrs Heaton

It is the perfect time of year to think about 'joy' and all of the ways we can be joyful and see joy in things.

Christmas is all about joy. I love seeing the joy in my children's faces in the lead up to Christmas. The adverts on the TV, decorating the Christmas tree, seeing family, the Smyths catalogue!

However, it is not just about giving and receiving presents, but about spending time with loved ones and spreading joy through other ways- not just gifts. In year 1, we have been thinking about how we can give gifts that don't cost any money. For example: a hug, a smile, a kind word, being helpful, tidying our rooms!

Spreading joy at Christmas does not have to cost anything. That is the beauty of joy- it is all around us!

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

Joy

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

John 15:11

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.."

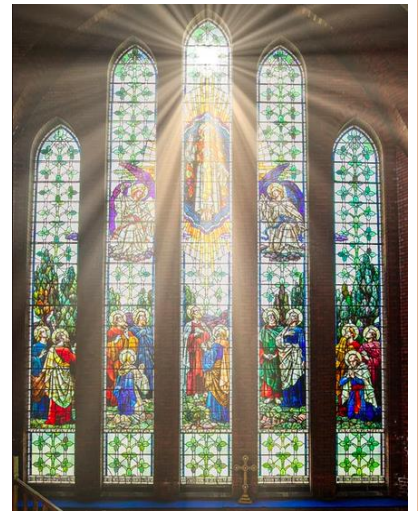
St Thomas Church

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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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 - Simide for being a kind, caring and helpful friend

YR - Aiyah for trying really hard during her maths job!

Y1 - Teddy for big efforts in writing lessons

Y2 - Jayden for super writing

Y3 - Noah Ball for excellent work ethic towards his school work

Y4 - Taelynn for super maths work

Y5 - Logan Spark for a positive attitude towards all his work

Y6 - Autumn for a consistent week of being ready

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Freya

Y1 - Chimdaalu

Y2 - Anna

Y3 - George C

Y4 - Lucy

Y5 - Lucas Mann

Y6 - Sophie-Louise



**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...
96.1%

Class attendance winners...
Y2

Class Attendance

YN -89.9%

YR - 95%

Y1 - 97.9%

Y2 - 98.7%

Y3 - 95.3%

Y4 - 98.4%

Y5 - 94%

Y6 -96%



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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Web www.sm-st.co.uk

Please Contact -

David: 07548 929917

or Rev Michelle: revmichellegoodwin@gmail.com

to book a ticket

St Thomas Church

Peter Street, WA10 2EB

Breakfast with

SANTA

10:30^{am} - 12:00^{pm}

Including...

Stories, Crafts

& Photo with Santa

Saturday 16th December

£5

per child

if you are suffering financial hardship, please get in contact with us



YOU ARE INVITED TO

STORIES AT ST TOM'S
SUNDAY 10TH DEC
11AM

JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS GAME,
STORY, CRAFT AND
SNACK!

ST THOMAS CHURCH,
PETER STREET,
ST HELENS

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

