



St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

w/b: Monday 11th December

PANTO AND PARTY DAY

We have had the most fantastic time the last 2 days at Nur/Rec and KS1 panto and party day yesterday and the KS2 panto and party day today. The children (and adults too!) have all really enjoyed the panto in the morning, we then came back to a festive party box lunch and had the brilliant Mr Stix to entertain us in the afternoon. We would like to say a big thank you to the Children's Charity who paid for Mr Stix to entertain the children, he was amazing!



EYFS CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Nursery and Reception parents and carers please come and join us this THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER at 9:15am for Carols around the Christmas Tree. This is a lovely festive occasion so please join us if you are able.



KS1 NATIVITY

Thank you so much too all parents and carers who came to support our KS1 Nativity this Tuesday. I think you'll all agree they gave a wonderful performance and all the hard work from the children and the teachers really paid off. Well done!

PARENT CONSULTATION

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

KINDNESS AT CHRISTMAS

How kind are these children? They have chosen to donate money from their own Christmas presents to buy their friends Christmas presents distributing them before we finish for Christmas. Well done Wynter, TJ and Hallie!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all who donated money for Christmas jumper day last Friday. We raised a total of £151 for Willowbrook Hospice.



ENTERPRISE WEEK

It's ENTERPRISE WEEK where children will be working hard to make their products to sell on THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER at 1:15pm in the school hall. Please see the catalogue attached to this newsletter for details on what each year group will be making and selling. This is a great opportunity to purchase last minute gifts and support our children's entrepreneurship! There will also be music and refreshments available on Thursday to help get us ALL into the Christmas spirit.

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

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We are still collecting for Teardrops this last week of school. 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.

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>

Y6 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Our Y6 Christmas service will be taking place on Wednesday 20th December at St Thomas Church at 9:30am. Y6 parents and carers are welcome to come.

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.

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 Caesar

What a time of year this is! At first I always long for Summer with its sunshine, long evenings and warm dog walks. Winter seems to start off slowly with a slide into dark mornings, cold weather, short days, coughs and colds. But then before we know it, it's time to practise the Nativity songs, dig out the costumes, put up the tree and plug in the fairy lights.

Then I remember I LOVE this time of year! The complete JOY that comes from singing together, reading Christmas stories together, remembering the last time Father Christmas visited us and anticipating the fun to come! Working with young children at this time of year is absolutely joyful. We explore the true meaning of Christmas and the joy we feel sharing the Good News with each other and our families. Joy can be found in all sorts of places at this time of year- visiting friends, attending church for carols, sharing food and giving gifts. I hope you all find your joy in this festive season.

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

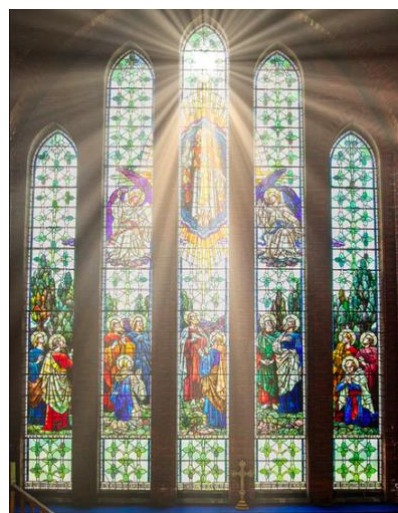
Our **Christian value** focus this half term is...

Joy

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

Luke 15:7

"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."



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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 Clodier 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

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

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 Pelly 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



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

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

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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 - Fynn for being a kind, caring friend.

YR - All of Reception for walking beautifully to and from the panto.

Y1 - All of Year 1 for excellent behavior at the panto

Y2 - Dottie for always working hard

Y3 - George for being so helpful in all lessons

Y4 - Isabella for super work during R.E.

Y5 - Riley for outstanding effort

Y6 - Daisey for her effort in writing

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Ava-Rose

Y1 - Lillie-Mae

Y2 - Anna

Y3 - Leighton

Y4 - Isla

Y5 - Iris

Y6 - Hudson



**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...
95.2%

Class attendance winners...
Y5

Class Attendance

YN - 74.1%
YR - 92.3%
Y1 - 95.3%
Y2 - 97.3%
Y3 - 95.0%
Y4 - 99.4%
Y5 - 99.7%
Y6 - 97.3%



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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