



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 18th December

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your support this term. We have held so many events for parents and carers and we have had excellent engagement and feedback about the sessions. Our attendance is currently 96.9% which we are thrilled with. Thank you for your support with ensuring your children are in school and prepared for school. Finally, a big thank you from all staff for their Christmas gifts, cards and kind wishes. It is much appreciated, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

GOOD LUCK TO MRS PARRY

As some of you may be aware, Mrs Parry will no longer be a class teacher at St Mary & St Thomas- she has been successful in gaining the position of English Director in the trust. From January, she will remain with us one day a week until July as SENDCO, her working day will be a Monday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Parry luck in her new role and thank her for all her hard work over the past 6 years. She has worked tirelessly supporting pupils and staff during that time and has been a fantastic asset. We will miss seeing her smiling face on a daily basis!

ENTERPRISE WEEK

What a fun time our children have had this week making their crafts for the Enterprise fayre! Thank you to everyone who came along and sent money in with their children, I'm sure you will all agree the children did a great job in getting their items ready for the big day. Thank you to all staff who have helped prepare for this event. The money raised will help to buy new reading books for the children.

EYFS CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you so much to all Nursery and Reception parents and carers who came to support the Carols around the Christmas Tree for EYFS. The children's singing was beautiful, and it is clear how hard they have been practicing. It was such a special occasion to watch.

Y6 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Well done to our Y6 who gave us a wonderful Christmas service this Wednesday at St Thomas Church. Thank you to all parents and carers also who came along to support.

ENSURING SAFETY ON NEW DEVICES

I am sure lots of children will be receiving new devices this year for Christmas, which is very exciting, but it means that we need to be as vigilant as ever to ensure our children are safe online. Please have a look at the flyer on this newsletter which gives hints and tips as to how you can help to keep your child safe online. For more advice and guidance, please visit the following website:

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents-carers)

FIRST DAY OF TERM

A reminder that our first day back after our Christmas break is TUESDAY 9th JANUARY. We look forward to seeing you bright and early.

PARENT CONSULTATION

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

Tuesday 9th Jan – Y5 and Y6

Wednesday 10th Jan – Y1 and Y2

Thursday 11th Jan – Y3 and Y4

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

CHRISTMAS AT ST THOMAS CHURCH

Please take a look at the attached leaflet for a list of the Christmas services taking place at St Thomas Church. The children will particularly enjoy the crib service which takes place on Christmas Eve at 3pm.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you to all who have donated to our Reverse Advent calendar this year for those families in need. We are sure all items will be greatly appreciated.

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>

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FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from... Miss Pennington

Joy works as a cycle.

It is important that we take time to consider how we can give joy to others. For me giving joy to others involves baking cakes and doing nails. Seeing their happy faces when they see my creations just brings me so much joy!

However, as I said, joy is a cycle because doing all of these things for others brings the joy right back to me!

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How can you spread joy this Christmas?

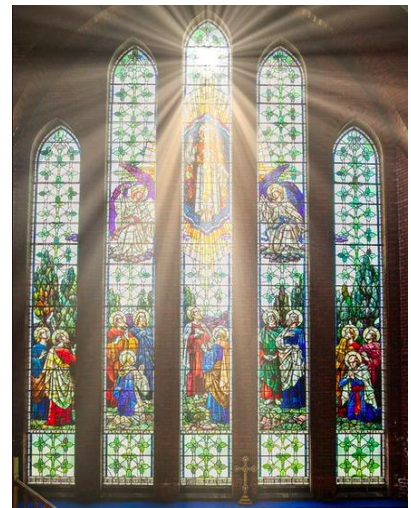
Our **Christian value** focus this half term is...

Joy

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

Galatians 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."



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

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Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The
National
College

NOS
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Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



Christmas

AT ST THOMAS CHURCH

WEEKLY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
EVERY SUNDAY AT 9.30AM

SUN 3RD DEC	3PM CAROL SERVICE
SUN 10TH DEC	11AM CRAFTY CHURCH
SAT 16TH DEC	11AM-1PM BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SUN 17TH DEC	4PM FAMILY CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE	3PM CRIB SERVICE 7PM CANDLELIT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM HOLY COMMUNION



ST THOMAS CHURCH
PETER STREET
ST HELENS



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 - All of nursery for their beautiful singing at carols around the tree!

YR - Freya for excellent singing!

Y1 - Joseph for hard work and lovely manners

Y2 - Lucas Y for always trying his hardest and showing respect

Y3 - Jessie-Mae for always trying her best every day!

Y4 - All of Y4 for a productive Enterprise - well done!

Y5 - Isaac for accuracy and precision

Y6 - Charlie for being resilient during our service

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Ross

Y1 - Theo

Y2 - Lucas Y

Y3 - Connor

Y4 - Jaxson

Y5 - Sophia

Y6 - Jaxon



**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...
96.5%

Class attendance winners...
Y5

Class Attendance

YN - 83.9%
YR - 88.3%
Y1 - 98.7%
Y2 - 99.0%
Y3 - 98.7%
Y4 - 98.4%
Y5 - 98.3%
Y6 - 100%



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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Please find below the information regarding closures over the Christmas and New Year period.

FOODBANK/HOPE CENTRE **_WILL BE CLOSED**

Friday December 22nd until Monday January 15th, 2024

On the following dates -

2nd, 5th, 9th & 12th January

Foodbank will be held at

Parish Church,

St. Helens Town Centre,

St. Helens

(Hall next to Halifax Bank)

WILL BE OPEN 11.00 – 14.30

Other Food Banks will be open as normal.

Monday - The Mount Church, Fingerpost open 12.30 – 14.30.

Wednesday – St. John the Baptist Church, Earlestown open 11.30 -13.30

Thursday – Parish Church, St. Helens open 11.00 - 14.00.

Friday – Newton Family Community Centre, Newton-Le-Willows open 11.00 – 14.30.

SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS MAY CAUSE

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Christmas

READING CHALLENGE

4 IN A ROW



<p>Read a Christmas story with your family</p>	<p>Read a poem aloud to your family and friends</p>	<p>Find a story that makes you laugh</p>	<p>Find a torch and read story under the duvet cover!</p>
<p>Listen to a story - maybe an audio book</p>	<p>Draw or write your own Christmas story</p>	<p>Read the lyrics to your favourite Christmas song</p>	<p>Read a story and then design a new book cover</p>
<p>Read a story about the true meaning of Christmas</p>	<p>Read a story with a snowman in it</p>	<p>Read a non-fiction book about your favourite animal</p>	<p>Find some fun facts in a non-fiction text</p>
<p>Choose a story to read to a cuddly toy</p>	<p>Make a hot chocolate and read whilst sipping</p>	<p>Read a recipe and maybe even make it too</p>	<p>Read a story whilst wearing a Christmas jumper</p>

CAN YOU COMPLETE 4 CHALLENGES IN A
ROW OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK?
WHY NOT TRY TO COMPLETE THEM ALL?

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