



**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 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Our first day back from our half-term break will be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **DIARY DATES**

Please find attached our updated diary dates for parents. Please make a note on all the dates that are relevant for your children, the dates run until the end of summer.

### **VALENTINES DISCO**

Our Valentine Disco's are taking place NEXT TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like your child to go please book and pay the £3 via Arbor using the 'TRIP' icon. REC/KS1 Disco is 3.15-4.15pm, please can Rec/KS1 children bring their party clothes in a bag into school in the morning so they can get changed at home time and go straight to the disco. KS2 Disco will take place at 4.15-5.15pm, they will need to be collected at normal time and brought back to school at 4:15pm (unless they are in wraparound). If you would like your child to attend wraparound that afternoon and also go to the disco you will need to book them onto wraparound in the usual way but you do not need to book or pay for the disco, BUT please let the office know they will be attending the disco so we can cater correctly for food and drinks!

### **NUMBER DAY**

Next Friday is the last day of half term and we are going to celebrate NUMBER DAY in aid of the NSPCC. For a £1 donation towards the NSPCC children can come dressed as a number or in number themed clothes. You do not have to buy new outfits for this occasion and can be as creative as possible!

### **PARENT WORKSHOP ON INTERNET SAFETY**

As you will be aware Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day and children will complete a series of internet safety focus lessons to help develop their knowledge and understanding around this VERY IMPORTANT topic. We understand how difficult it can be to effectively supervise your child online given the speed at which new apps are being created etc. Therefore we are hosting parent workshops next Friday morning (Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb). These sessions will provide you with some handy hints and tips to help protect your child online. The sessions will begin at 9am.

### **Y2 PARENT INSIGHT**

Thank you to all Y2 parents and carers who joined us in the hall this Thursday morning for our parent insight morning. We really appreciate your attendance in support of your child's education.

### **Y3 FAMILY LEARNING**

Thank you to all the families who attended Y3 family learning this Friday afternoon. We hope you found the session and resources useful.

### **HENRY 'HEALTHY FAMILIES' FREE 8 WEEK COURSE**

A fantastic free 8 week course is being run at various locations in St Helens to support parents and carers (aimed at families of children aged 0-5yrs). It aims to help families give their children the best start in life and covers topics including emotional well-being, healthy weight, parenting skills, oral health, nurturing relationships, physical activity sleep and activity ideas. Please see the orange flyer attached to this newsletter for more information.

### **TEARDROPS 'VALENTINS' DAY**

Teardrops have launched a campaign where you can donate food tins and other dried goods and toiletries to certain drop off points in St Helens. If you feel able to donate to this worthy cause, please see the attached pink flyer to this newsletter.

**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](mailto:stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk)

**Web** [www.sm-st.co.uk](http://www.sm-st.co.uk)

### **WRAPAROUND CARE**

Please remember to book your child in for wraparound care on Arbor once you have added money to their Afterschool club or Breakfast club accounts. We have had a few instances where no one has turned up to collect a child but they have not been booked into afterschool club. Please book your child in before 3pm that day to avoid phone calls home. If there are any issues with this or on the day please contact the school office on 01744 734 320. Please also remember children need to be collected from After school club by 5:30pm at the latest.

### **AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS**

Despite it being the last week of this half term next week all afterschool clubs are still going ahead as it is a short half term. However Mr Hodgkinson's Monday Multi-sports will be cancelled due to him not being in school that day.

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## FAMILY OF FAITH

### A reflection from...*Mrs Murtagh*

*Forgiveness is often difficult for adults to grant however children appear to give this freely. It is lovely to witness children doing this easily in and around school.*

*Whilst thinking of the reflection this week it reminded me of [Ephesians 4:31-32](#): "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

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

## Forgiveness

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

### **Matthew 6:14**

*"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."*

### **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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# 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

N - Arthur for coming to nursery with a beautiful smile

R - Tommy for joining in with songs and talk tasks

Y1 - Sebastians for a huge effort on English this week

Y2 - George for a great effort with reading

Y3 -

Y4 - Keira for being a good role model

Y5 - Terence for amazing effort and concentration

Y6 - Lucas for always being ready to participate

## Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Alfie

Y1 - Franky

Y2 - Amelia J

Y3 -

Y4 - Nicoleta

Y5 - Lucas M

Y6 - Isobel



**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...**  
**95.3%**

**Whole school attendance this week...**  
**94.8%**

**Class attendance winners...**  
**Y6**

## Class Attendance

YN - 86.7%  
YR - 90.0%  
Y1 - 95.3%  
Y2 - 98.0%  
Y3 - 96.0%  
Y4 - 94.8%  
Y5 - 94.3%  
Y6 - 99.3%



# 2023/24 PLANNER

## ST MARY & ST THOMAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### JANUARY

**Thursday 1st:**  
Y2 Parent Insight morning  
**Friday 2nd:**  
Y3 Family Learning  
**Tuesday 6th:**  
Valentine's Disco & Safer internet day  
**Friday 9th:**  
Y6 Family Learning  
**Thursday 22nd:**  
Y3 Family Worship  
**Friday 23rd:**  
Y5 Ash Wednesday service @ St Thomas  
Y4 Slavery Museum  
**Thursday 29th:**  
Y2 Family Worship

### FEBRUARY

**Friday 1st:**  
YN Stay and Play  
**Wednesday 6th:**  
Rec/Y1- Dear Zoo trip  
**Thursday 7th:**  
Y1 Parent Insight morning  
**Friday 8th:**  
World Book Day  
**Friday 15th:**  
Y4 Sleepover  
**Wednesday 20th:**  
Rec trip to Transport Museum  
**Thursday 21st:**  
Reception stay & play  
**Friday 22nd:**  
Reception stay & play  
**Tuesday 26th:**  
Easter Bingo  
**Thursday 28th:**  
Y4 Easter church service

### MARCH

**Monday 15th:**  
Y1/2 Parent Consultations  
**Tuesday 16th:**  
Y3/4 Parent Consultations  
**Wednesday 17th:**  
Y5/6 Parent Consultations  
**Thursday 25th:**  
Y1 Family Worship  
**Friday 26th:**  
Y2 Family Learning

### APRIL

### OTHER INFO

Half Term Dates:  
**Friday 9th February**  
Children break up for half term  
**Monday 19th February:**  
Children return to school  
**Thursday 28th March:**  
Children break up for half term  
**Monday 15th April:**  
Children return to school  
**Wednesday 22nd May**  
Children break up for half term  
**Monday 3rd June**  
Children return to school  
**Tuesday 23rd July**  
Children break up for half term  
**Wednesday 4th September 2024**  
Children return to school



### JULY

**Wednesday 3rd:**  
BAS Award night  
**Monday 8th:**  
Sports Day  
**Friday 12th:**  
Mini Police visit to the Museum  
**Thursday 18th:**  
Reception end of year assembly  
**Friday 19th:**  
Y6 Leavers' Service

### JUNE

**Monday 3rd:**  
Y4 Multiplication test period  
**Wednesday 5th:**  
Whole school Eucharist  
**Tuesday 11th**  
Y6 Moving on service  
**Thursday 13th**  
Y2 Eureka  
**Friday 14th:**  
Nursery stay & play  
**Tuesday 18th-20th**  
Y6 London Residential  
**Friday 21st:**  
Class photos  
(Change for Life week)  
**Tuesday 25th:**  
Y3 to Rock & River  
**Wednesday 26th:**  
Y1 Liverpool Beatles tour &  
**Thursday 27th:**  
PSE Day

### MAY

**Tuesday 7-8th:**  
Y5 Petty Pools  
**Wednesday 8th:**  
Y3/4 Horrible Histories' @ Theatre Royal  
**Thursday 9th:**  
Y3 Ascension Day service  
**Monday 13th -16th:**  
KS2 SATs  
**Tuesday 21st:**  
Y3 Parent Insight



**Free 8-week programme starting  
February 2024!**  
**Supporting parents and carers to give children the best  
start in life.**

**The programme covers:**

- Emotional wellbeing
- Healthy weight
- Parenting skills
- Oral health
- Nurturing relationships
- Physical activity
- Sleep
- Activity ideas

**Drop in sessions will be available to sign up  
and find out more information.**

**Wednesdays 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Thatto Heath Children's Centre**

**Mondays 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Sutton Family Hub**

**Tuesdays 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Central Link Family Hub**

**Tuesdays 1.00pm - 3.00pm  
Moss Bank Children's Centre**

**BSL Interpreters are available on request. To get in touch  
with us please contact:**

**Email: [childrenscentres@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:childrenscentres@sthelens.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01744 673420    Text: 07761045427**



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# Happy ValenTIN'S Day!



**Donate a tin of food and  
Spread  this  
Valentines Day!**



**We are currently collecting the following items:**

- UHT long life milk
- Tea, Coffee, Hot chocolate, Cordial
- Tinned meat: Corned beef, Ham, Hot dogs ect
- Tinned Vegetables and fruit
- Tinned custard and rice pudding
- Jam, Marmalade, Chocolate spread
- Tinned Beans, Spaghetti hoops/Ravioli
- Jars of pasta and curry sauce
- Gravy granules
- Pot noodles/packet noodles
- Biscuits/Sweets/Chocolate
- Toiletries: Shower gel, shampooo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothburshes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream

**Donations can be dropped off at the following places:**

- **Teardrops Hub, 110 Crab Street, St.Helens, WA10 2DJ.**  
Monday – Friday (9:30am – 4pm) and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings (6:30pm till 8:30pm)
- **Tesco, St.Helens Linkway Store (Katie's Project Trolley)**

♥ **THANK YOU!** ♥



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Mental Health Support Team

# WELLBEING WEBINARS



Your MHST is running a series of webinars one Friday a month on a number of topics relating to mental health and wellbeing.

## TOPICS AND DATES

- Worry Management - 19 January
- Parenting for Anxiety - 23 February
- Low Mood - 22 March
- Neurodiversity - 26 April
- Parent Skills for Behaviour - 17 May
- LGBTQ+ - 21 June
- Emotional Regulation - 19 July



### WHEN

4pm to 4:45pm



### WHERE

Zoom

(link will be emailed)



To register please email which webinar you want to attend to

**[events@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:events@merseycare.nhs.uk)**

Webinars will be recorded.  
No chat function will be available  
for safety purposes.

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## **Advice for parents in School and Childcare settings during the winter.**

At this time of year it is common for many respiratory and stomach bugs to circulate, also other illnesses such as scarlet fever and chickenpox, which usually peak in late winter and early spring. Therefore it is important to re-emphasise basic infection prevention and control principles to reduce the spread of illness and infections in school and in the wider community.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) recommend some simple key actions:

### **1. Follow Good Hygiene Habits:**

Encouraging good hand-washing habits is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread. Regularly wash hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds.

When should hands be washed?

- Whenever they are visibly dirty.
- Before eating.
- After using the toilet.
- After touching any potentially contaminated surfaces.
- After sneezing or blowing your nose.
- After handling pets.
- Before and after messy play.

Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, binning it and then washing hands will help prevent infection from spreading.

### **2. Stopping the Spread of Stomach Bugs**

If you or your child have diarrhoea and vomiting, washing your hands with soap and warm water and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces will help stop infections from spreading.

Don't prepare food for others if you have symptoms or for 48 hours after symptoms stop.

If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their symptoms clear up – this will help stop the spread of stomach bugs.

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### **3. When to keep your child at home**

If your child has a fever and is unwell, they should stay home from school or nursery until fever has passed and they are well enough to attend.

If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should stay off school or nursery for 48 hours after their symptoms clear up – this will help stop the spread of stomach bugs.

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