



**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 1st March 2024**

### **Y2 FAMILY WORSHIP**

Thanks to all families who joined us for family worship on Thursday morning. The children did an amazing job and we hope you enjoyed it.

### **CURLING COMPETITION**

Well done to Luke, Joshua, Keagan and Kai from Y5 who took part in a Curling competition held at Broadway Badminton centre. They came an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> in the whole competition, well done and we are very proud!

### **NURSERY STAY & PLAY**

Thanks to all Nursery parents and carers who joined us for stay and play sessions this Friday. It was lovely to see you all there and we hope you found it useful to spend time in the learning environment with your child.

### **POTTY TRAINING SESSION**

Thanks to all parents and carers who attending the potty training session on Wednesday led by our school nurse. We hope you found it useful.

### **WORLD BOOK DAY FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

We are celebrating World Book Day Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and doing things a bit differently this year and are aware of the rising costs of living. We are asking for children to come to school in their pyjamas and bring their favourite book in if they like. Children are also welcome to dress up as their favourite character from a book if they wish. We will be doing book related activities all day!

### **ATTENDANCE UPDATE FROM MRS SCHONEWILLE**

I have had a fantastic few weeks settling into my role as Attendance Officer and getting to know parents and children. I'm still learning names so bear with me!

I have come across some interesting statistics this week regarding the importance of Punctuality!

Minutes Late	Missed Learning
5 minutes late	3.4 School Days
10 minutes late	1.4 School Weeks
15 minutes late	2.8 School Weeks
20 minutes late	2.8 School Weeks
30 minutes late	4 School Weeks

As you can see consistent lateness can impact a student's academic progress and disrupt classroom dynamics. We have decided as well as our termly 'Awesome Attendance Award', we will be issuing a 'Perfect Punctuality Award'! All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning...is be on time!  
Let's work together to reinforce the importance of punctuality and ensure every student has the best opportunity for success

### **Y4 TRIP: BENIN WORKSHOP NEW DATE**

We have been able to move the cancelled Y4 Benin Workshop at The International Slavery Museum / World Museum in Liverpool to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Please keep this date on your diary.

### **PE UNIFORM**

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

Please remember that the correct PE kit to wear is a PLAIN white t-shirt, black shorts/black leggings/black jogging bottoms, pumps or trainers. If your child does not have the correct PE kit they will need to come into school in their school uniform and get changed into their PE kit at school, and they can get changed back into school uniform after their PE lesson. This rule also applies for After School sports.

#### **UNIFORM WEBSITE**

Please remember all uniform can be bought online from Price and Buckland:

[www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stmaryandstthomas](http://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stmaryandstthomas)

You can also order and have it delivered direct to school for FREE!

#### **ANNUAL PLANNER**

Please take some time to read our 2023/2024 monthly planner on this newsletter and make a note of the important dates over the next few months.

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## FAMILY OF FAITH

### ***A reflection from...Miss Bowen***

*I feel hope and the season of Spring are closely intertwined. The first buds of flowers and the slightly longer nights bring us hope for Spring to finally come. Today is the first day of March, and what many believe to be the first day or Spring! Our Bible verse this week teaches us about hope for things that even though we cannot see, we know are yet to come and encourages us to focus on this hope for the future. Although the weather may not reflect this, we know the longer warmer days lie ahead of us and will eventually arrive so we have much reason to be hopeful.*

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

## Hope

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

**2 Corinthians 4:18**

**“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”**

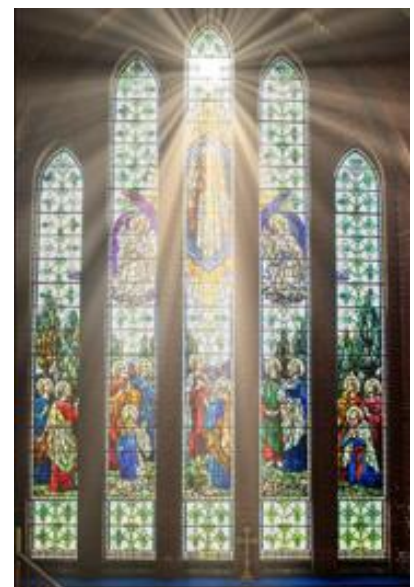
### **St Thomas Church**

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 - Michelle for careing and helping her friends

R -

Y1 - Lalin for lovely sentence writing

Y2 - The whole of Year 2 for a super class worship.

Y3 -

Y4 - Eleftherios for being a super role model

Y5 - Mia for outstanding application of fractions

Y6 -

## Lunchtime Award Winners

YR -

Y1 - Wynter

Y2 - Jason

Y3 -

Y4 - Phoebe

Y5 - Lucas M

Y6 -



**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...**  
**95.1%**

**Whole school attendance this week...**  
**95.1%**

**Class attendance winners...**  
**Y3 & Y5**

## Class Attendance

YN - 82.4%  
YR - 93.6%  
Y1 - 92.3%  
Y2 - 96.0%  
Y3 - 98.3%  
Y4 - 97.4%  
Y5 - 98.3%  
Y6 - 96.3%

# 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 26:**  
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

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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## Gorgeous gifts and yummy treats

Enjoy warming lunches, freshly brewed teas and coffees, and delicious cakes at our Mere Side Cafe. Browse our shop for a range of gifts, books, and toys. Every penny spent supports our vital conservation work!

## Everything you need for an unforgettable day out...

### How to find us

**Our address** – Fish Lane, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 0TA.

**By car** – follow the brown duck signs from Junction 8 on the M61, Junction 3 on the M58 and Junction 27 on the M6.

**By bike** – use New Lane Circuit and A Grand Tour of West Lancashire routes.

**By train** – Burscough Bridge Interchange (2 miles), New Lane (0.8 miles) and Burscough Junction (3 miles).

### We're open

**Visit us 364 days a year** – that's every day except Christmas Day.

You can visit us between **9.30am – 6pm** (4.30pm in winter and 3pm on Christmas Eve) and our last admission is one hour before closing.

### We're buggy and wheelchair friendly!

### Get in touch

Call us on 01704 895181

✉ [info.martinmere@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.martinmere@wwt.org.uk)

🌐 [wwt.org.uk/martin-mere](http://wwt.org.uk/martin-mere)

📷 [@WWTMartinmere](https://www.facebook.com/WWTMartinmere)



WWT is the leading conservation charity that protects, preserves and promotes wildlife and wetlands. Come along, explore, get close to the animals, enjoy unique experiences and learn about these amazing habitats.

WWT reg. charity in England & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland, no. SC039410

# THIS WINTER

at **Martin Mere Wetland Centre**



Find out more  
[wwt.org.uk/martin-mere](http://wwt.org.uk/martin-mere)



Cold, crisp mornings, amazing sunsets over the mere and an influx of wintering birds on the reserve makes winter a brilliant time to visit.

Our centre becomes a true **wildlife haven** in winter with visitors from the Arctic including pintail, wigeon and pink-footed geese. The most impressive visitor, the Icelandic whooper swan, will return and fill our reserve with the most spectacular sights and sounds.

To celebrate the return of the swans, we have a number of activities to find out more about these and other species, including our **daily swan feed and talk** and floodlit swans event.

**Wrap up warm and experience an unforgettable winter at Martin Mere!**

**Share your visit with us**    **@WWTmartinmere**



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## Drawn to Water: Winter

Dec - Feb

Discover our wetlands through the eyes of Quentin Blake this winter, with amazing wildlife including whooper swans and pink footed geese, plus illustrated trails, art activities and more. **FREE.**



## Drawn to Water: Quentin Blake exhibition

Oct - 24 Feb

As part of our Drawn to Water: Quentin Blake at WWT partnership, enjoy a unique opportunity to explore some lesser-known works from Sir Quentin Blake's personal archive, on display at our gallery. **FREE.**



## Sail to Santa

2 - 17 Dec (weekends only) & 21 - 23 Dec, timed slots

Have a magical Christmas experience at our Sail to Santa event. Sail across to Santa's Island to meet Santa and get busy in the elves' workshop making reindeer food, designing a wooden Christmas tree decoration, and decorating a biscuit. **£17 per child. Booking essential.**



## Floodlit Swans

Tues 9, 16, 23, 30 Jan

See up to 2,000 whooper swans on our mere. Join a warden in our hide to learn about these amazing creatures and their migratory journey. **£8.50 (child), £13.10 (adult), £11.80 (concession). Booking essential.**



## Mudfest including Puddle Jumping Championships

10 - 18 Feb

We're celebrating all things mud! From mud-soaked obstacle courses, mud kitchens, and mud shows, get ready for a sludge-tastic time! We'll also be returning with the North West Puddle Jumping Championships as part of our brand-new mudfest event. **FREE (puddle jumping 50p per entry).**



## Wild Bird Feeds

Mid Oct 2023 - Mar 2024

Join the wardens as they feed thousands of wild birds outside the Discovery hide and Raines Observatory. Hundreds of whooper swans will join the feed whilst you learn more about these amazing birds and why they spend winter at Martin Mere. **FREE.**

## **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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