



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

WORLD BOOK DAY FRIDAY 8TH MARCH

We celebrated world book day today in school and had some wonderful costumes and pyjamas and the children have thoroughly enjoyed their book related activities. We would like to give a big thank you to all the parents who read to our classes at the end of the day, the children loved these stories. Thank you also to our school committee member Geoff Almond. A big thank you to St Helens Book Stop who hosted the children this week to spend their world book day voucher. The children are very pleased with the books they received!

WORLD BOOK DAY ASSEMBLY

We were lucky enough to be joined by the Saints player Moses Mbye who talked to us about his favourite book 'Tiddler' by Julia Donaldson. Thank you to Saints for organising this.

DEAR ZOO

Some Reception and Y1 children enjoyed a fantastic performance of 'Dear Zoo' at St Helens Theatre Royal this Wednesday. They were beautifully behaved and all children thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

Y1 PARENT INSIGHT

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined us on Thursday morning for our Y1 parent insight. We hope you found it useful and we really support your attendance in support of your child's education.

STORIES AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH

Stories at St Thomas' Church for Mother's Day will be this Sunday at 11am. Mrs Lewis looks forward to seeing you there!

SCIENCE WEEK

Next week we will be celebrating British Science Week and Mrs Caesar has a week of fun planned for the whole school. She kicked things off today with a launch assembly. Please have a chat to your children next week and ask them what they have enjoyed.

WEDNESDAY WEAR BLUE FOR BOBBY

The Bobby Collieran Trust was created following the fatal accident on 24th October 2014 of a young boy called Bobby Collieran. Bobby was just 6 years old and walking home from Blackmoor Park infant school with his mum when he was hit by a car. Since Bobby's accident, his family have developed The Bobby Collieran Trust, and we are showing our support as Blackmoor is a school within our Trust family. We invite all children to wear blue for Bobby next Wednesday 13th March.

Y2/4/5 SCIENCE TRIP TO WORLD OF GLASS

This takes place next Friday 15th March. Children will be walking to the World of Glass museum so please ensure they have suitable footwear and a coat. If your child normally has a school lunch a packed lunch will be provided. If your child normally has a packed lunch please send it in a disposable bag.

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

Y4 SLEEPOVER

The Y4 sleepover takes place at school next Friday 15th March. The evening activities will start at 6pm and finish at 10am on Saturday morning. The cost is £9 per child which includes their evening meal and morning breakfast, and this can be paid in the usual way on Arbour / Trips. We encourage all Y4 to attend, it is a great opportunity to experience an overnight stay with their friends, encourage independence and develop important life skills linked to the Forest School Curriculum.

OWN CLOTHES DAY FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

On Friday 22nd March we are asking all children to come in their own clothes in exchange for an Easter egg to be donated to our Easter raffle (more info to follow).

UNIFORM WEBSITE

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

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...Daisy Y6

In English, we have been reading the book 'Wonder' which is about a boy who has facial disfigurements. At the beginning of the book, we see him targeted by others and treated unfairly however towards the end, we see him develop friendships. The book gives me hope and shows that treating people with kindness is the most important thing.

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

Hope

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

Romans 15:4

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

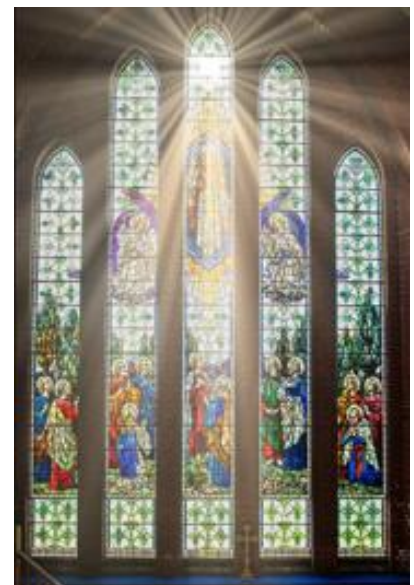
St Thomas Church

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 - Jessica for growing in confidence

R -

Y1 - Parker for working hard on his writing

Y2 - Alicia for super poetry writing

Y3 - Coles for his amazing problem solving skills in maths

Y4 - Matilda for being a super friend

Y5 - Sebastian for his outstanding work with decimals and fractions

Y6 -

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR -

Y1 - Sebastian

Y2 - Braxton

Y3 - Rina

Y4 - Maggie

Y5 - Keagan

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...

95.2%

Whole school attendance this week...

95.3%

Class attendance winners...

Y5 & Y6 both with 100%!

Class Attendance

YN - 83.0%

YR - 88.3%

Y1 - 95.3%

Y2 - 94.0%

Y3 - 97.3%

Y4 - 98.1%

Y5 - 100.0%

Y6 - 100.0%

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

A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

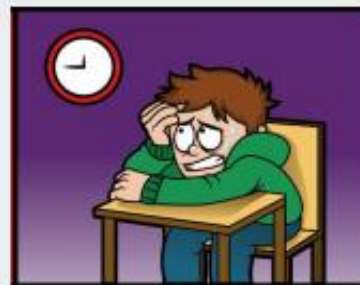
They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



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

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

🌐 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



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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