



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 March 2024

Y4 SLEEPOVER

The Y4 sleepover took place last Friday and what an amazing time they all had! We hope you enjoyed following all the fun on Twitter. Once again, a huge thank you to Mr Brooks who joined us for the fun and all the staff who have volunteered their own time to make this event happen.

RECEPTION TRANSPORTS MUSEUM TRIP

Our Reception class had a fantastic time on Wednesday at the Transport Museum! The children enjoyed seeing and learning about all the different vehicles and we particularly enjoyed seeing the 'Naughty Bus', which we have been reading in school.

RECEPTION STAY AND PLAY

Thank you to all parents who attended a Reception stay and play session on Thursday or Friday with their child. We hope you found it useful and enjoyed spending this time with your child within the school environment.

EASTER BINGO

Easter bingo will take place next Tuesday 26th March after school for reception to Y6, from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Tickets are available now on Arbor for £2.00 under TRIPS / EASTER BINGO. Please book your child on if you wish them to go.

Y4 EASTER CHURCH SERVICE

Our Easter church service is being led by Y4 this year. It takes place next Thursday morning at 9:30am at St Thomas's Church and all Y4 families are welcome.

BIKE RIGHT FREE LESSONS

BikeRight are offering 3 free Learn to Ride sessions on the 12th April for age 7+ (Y3 upwards). The location is Taylor Park. To sign your child up please use the below link:

<https://www.bikeright.co.uk/courses/child-group/>

NO WRAPAROUND CLUB

There will be no after school wraparound club on Wednesday 27th March and Thursday 28th March next week. Please ensure your child is collected at the normal time.

BACK AFTER EASTER HOLIDAYS

The first day back after the Easter break is Monday 15th April. We look forward to hearing about all the Easter fun you've shared in when we return.

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.

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



FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from...Mrs Parry

As I sit and reflect, the sun is shining and the sky is blue. It feels as though Spring is finally here! Spring, for me, is a season filled with hope.

I am no gardener, but each Spring, in my front garden, beautiful tulips bloom and they fill me with joy. I didn't plant the bulbs, they were left for me by the previous homeowner. These tulips always bring me hope. Hope for the brighter days to come; hope for a season of sunshine. And I am so grateful that somebody took their time to plant these symbols of hope that remind me of the beauty of our world.

Of course, another symbol of hope we recognise is the cross, like the one on our school logo. Jesus is the hope of the world, who gave his life on the cross to forgive our sins. When we see this symbol, we are reminded of his great sacrifice, of his love for us and of our duty to embody Christ.

What are the symbols of hope in your life?

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

Hope

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

Isaiah 40:31

“ But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

St Thomas Church

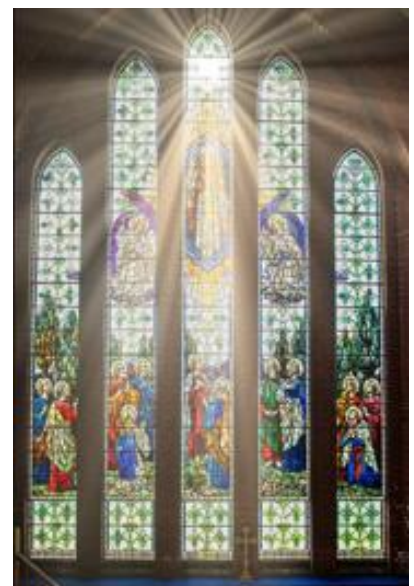
Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB
01744 732463 / stthomaseccleston@gmail.com

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 - Using the toilet independently!!

R - Florence for always being a kind friend

Y1 - Dunnie for amazing progress in his reading!

Y2 - Chloe for always working hard

Y3 -

Y4 - Leo for super RE work

Y5 - Sonny Blyth for making good choices

Y6 - Logan Stacey for his amazing effort during assessment week

Lunchtime Award Winners

YR - Aiyah

Y1 - Lillie-Mae

Y2 - Melia

Y3 -

Y4 - Joe-Meeks

Y5 - Lucas M

Y6 - Nevaeh



**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 last week...

94.9%

Class attendance winners...

Y2 with 100%

Class Attendance

YN - 87.8%
YR - 90.7%
Y1 - 97.3%
Y2 - 100%
Y3 - 92.7%
Y4 - 98.4%
Y5 - 93.0%
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



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EASTER FAYRE

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024
11AM - 4PM

MELLOR AND BLACK ENCHANTED
TEA GARDENS
22 DUKE STREET, ST.HELENS, WA10 2JP

STALLS
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS
EASTER GAMES AND RAFFLE
MEET THE EASTER BUNNY!

TO BOOK A STALL PLEASE EMAIL FLORENCE@TEARDROPS.ORG.UK



Made with PosterMyWall.com



A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



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

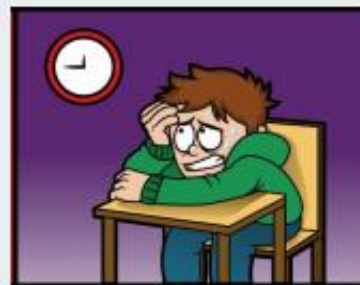
They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



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@skipssafety.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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