

ST. THOMAS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER MAY 24TH 2017

Bon voyage

Our Year 2 teacher Miss Emma Jones has decided to follow her dreams and take some time out to go travelling. Miss Jones first came to St Thomas' on a student placement before being offered a teaching post here when she qualified two years ago. In this time she has become a much-loved and respected member of staff—we'll all miss her. But, we know she'll have an amazing

experience and will make the most of every moment as she explores Australia. We wish her all the very best!



Recruitment

Our new Year 2 teacher will be Miss Hannah Gee who will be joining us from Ditton Primary in September, but is planning on spending some time here at St Thomas' getting to know her new class before the summer holidays.

Another new face for September is Miss Emily Stelfox, who is relocating to the area from Lancashire to be our new Year 6 teacher. Miss Stelfox has been teaching Upper Key Stage 2 for 7 years and is looking forward to her new role here at St Thomas'.

She'll be spending time in school on Thursday meeting the team and getting to know her new class.

Ms Toft, our new Year 5 Teacher and Deputy Head spent the morning with us today and has some more visits lined up in the coming weeks.

We are also continuing the recruitment process for a nursery teacher and look forward to sharing further news soon.

Early Years 30 hour offer

Many thanks to those who completed the questionnaire to gauge interest in increasing our free childcare offering from 15 to 30 hours a week. Although at present the demand is not sufficient to make afternoon sessions viable, we will continue to monitor interest and explore possibilities in the months to come.

Attendance

Congratulations to Emma in Year 3 who won cinema vouchers in our termly prize draw for pupils with excellent attendance. We hope the whole family are able to enjoy a lovely trip out. Our average attendance for the year to date is 96.9%. Our target for the year is 97% so keep up the good work, we're nearly there!

Spring chickens

We hope you've had the chance to meet the new intake at St Thomas'. Our 10 eggs all hatched successfully and the chicks are growing every day, hopping around excitedly whenever anyone comes into the library. On Friday they are being re-homed at a free range farm where we know they'll enjoy a long & happy life.



Along with the chicks, we also had some creepy-crawly visitors in school last week. Nursery, Reception and Year 2 got to meet snakes, spiders and an owl called Merlin to tie in with their topic work.



Residentials

Pupils have been busy making memories on their residential trips in recent weeks. In our last newsletter we heard about Year 5's exploits at the Conway Centre; next up was the turn of our Year 2 class who had a fantastic trip to Foxhowl at Delamere. They constructed dens and hammocks, searched for mini-beasts & pondlife and engaged in the ancient ritual of nose-jousting!



Then last week Year 6 experienced some thrilling challenges at the PGL Winmarleigh Hall venue where they got to tackle zipwires, Jacob's ladder and low ropes. Much of the trip's focus was on teamwork & problem-solving and the children rose to the challenges admirably.

Meanwhile Year 3 delved into the history and wildlife of Cheshire on the Burwardsley Residential when they explored the castles at Beeston & Peckforton, were treated to a falconry display and of course enjoyed toasting marshmallows as is traditional on all our residentials!



We hope you agree that the residentials are an exciting and enriching experience for our pupils. They may come home exhausted, but with some amazing memories. None of this would be possible without the support and commitment of the staff who accompany them, for which we are very grateful.

Playground Reminder

Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds at any time as some children can find this distressing; thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Bags2School

Thank you to everybody who brought their unwanted clothing in to school for the Bags2School appeal. Your de-cluttering raised over £80 for the school—thank you!

Outdoor Classroom

Groundworks have been completed for the outdoor classroom and it is being installed during the Whit holidays.

Fair Funding for Schools

We recently distributed details about the Fair Funding for Schools protest that was due to take place this Thursday at the Town Hall. Due to the tragic events in Manchester this week this event has been cancelled.

Dress Down for Manchester

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the attack in Manchester on Monday. The PTA & staff all felt that it was important for the school to do something to show our support, so we have decided that this Friday's dress down day will now be in return for a monetary donation in aid of the families & victims of the attack.

Staff at St Thomas' have received guidance on how to talk to pupils about the event should this be necessary. Parents who may need to talk to their children about what happened may find the following links useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38949047>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/>