

# ST. THOMAS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## ST THOMAS' NEWS - JANUARY 12TH 2018

A very happy New Year to all of you; we hope that everybody had a wonderful Christmas and is raring to get 2018 off to a brilliant start. The staff at St Thomas' would like to say a very heartfelt "thank you" for all the kind words and gifts they received before breaking up.

### Nursery Starters

We have five new faces in our nursery; welcome to Charlie, Francis, Joseph, Lewis & Thomas. Starting nursery can be a daunting experience (for parents as well as children) but we're really pleased with how well they're all settling in. We hope this is just the beginning of a long and happy time here at St Thomas'.

### Attendance

Overall attendance for last term was 96.7%. Our target for the year is 97%; we're hoping that we'll move closer to this target as we leave behind the winter months and any illness associated with it. We're delighted that 139 of our pupils had attendance of 97% or above last term—they will all be entered into a prize draw and the winning name will be picked out of a hat in Celebration Assembly next Friday. The winner will receive Odeon vouchers so that they and their family can enjoy a trip to the cinema.

### Housekeeping

Just a couple of bits to get the new term off to a good start. We still seem to be accumulating large amounts of lost property. Please ensure all clothing is labelled and if you're missing anything have a look in our lost property boxes.

Secondly, please ensure that all children bring a water bottle to school every day. Although we have water coolers in school we want to discourage the sharing of cups in order to minimise the risk of spreading germs at this time of year. School water bottles are available from the office for just £1.

### New website

Our school website is currently undergoing a revamp so please bear with us as some of the pages and images are updated. You can take a look at [www.st-thomas.co.uk](http://www.st-thomas.co.uk)—your thoughts are always welcomed!

### Congratulations!

Our PE coach Mr Waldron got engaged over Christmas; we wish him and his wife-to-be every happiness as they plan their future together.



### Year 6 Hoodies

You may have noticed our Year 6 pupils are sporting their very stylish Leavers' Hoodies this term. These were donated by the PTA and are a fantastic way to distinguish our oldest pupils as they prepare to move up to secondary school. A huge thank you to the PTA for this gift which has been made possible by their fundraising. Our Year 6 pupils are delighted with them. Several parents have asked if they can buy a spare—this is indeed going to be possible and letters will go home next week.



### **New activities**

There are several exciting activities in our timetable this term. Year 1 have just begun Music & Movement sessions with a specialist music teacher and were very enthusiastic in their first lesson today. Years 3 and 4 are enjoying swimming lessons at Broomfields; thank you to the parents who have volunteered to accompany them. Year 3 have also started African drumming and will be performing for their parents later this term (we recommend ear defenders!).



### **Ethos Group**

As a church school our Christian distinctiveness should be reflected in all that we do and we feel it is important that the pupil's voices are heard. To ensure Christian values are at the forefront of each pupil's mind we've formed an ethos group which is led by Adam Post. Adam is St Thomas' church Children's, Youth & Family Worker and joined the parish in September. He is becoming a familiar face in school as he leads some of our worship and will be supporting our older pupils who are thinking about being confirmed later this year. Adam and the Ethos Group will be arranging experiences throughout the year; the first will be a Values Day in which the children will look at the importance of friendship.

and you can bring a bottle, which may or may not enhance your general knowledge! Tickets cost £5 a head and are available at the school office, so round up some friends and enjoy a fun night.

### **PTA Meeting**

The PTA are holding their next meeting this coming Monday (15th Jan) at 7.30pm in the school's Community Room. All are very welcome to attend; we're always looking for fresh fundraising ideas and also value parents' views on how the money raised can be used to enhance our children's learning. For further details our PTA chair can be contacted at [tracyabuckley@hotmail.com](mailto:tracyabuckley@hotmail.com). We hope to see you there!

### **Wise Up! Awards**

We were delighted to learn this week that our school has been awarded Gold for the work we are doing to address bullying and how we celebrate difference and inclusion. The school council worked hard towards this on behalf of the whole school—well done! There will be an awards ceremony next month for the Warrington schools involved in the initiative.



### **Quiz Night**

Next Friday evening sees the return of the Quiz Night, which has been a longstanding event at St Thomas'. It is hosted by former Head Teacher Mr Hankey, and there is always a great atmosphere. Will the teachers beat the midday assistants this year, or will a team of parents be the victors? The event takes place in the school hall next Friday (19th Jan) at 7.30pm: a cold buffet is included in the price

