

ST. THOMAS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

inspiring faith, love & learning

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ST THOMAS' NEWS - 15TH JUNE 2018



Welcome back—we hope everyone is settled back in after an enjoyable and sunny half-term break. We've been welcoming some new faces this week: a very warm welcome to James & Niamh who have started in our nursery and to Katie who has joined Year 2. We wish all of them a very happy time here at St Thomas'.

This week we've also been getting used to a new name: our Year 2 teacher became Mrs Williams when she got married in the holidays. She would like to thank the Year 2 families for their thoughtful & generous wedding gifts. As a school we wish the new Mr & Mrs Williams every happiness for their married life together.



Attendance

Attendance figures aren't looking as strong as we'd like. In recent weeks, almost 40% of absences were unauthorised absences, due to holidays being taken in term time. Please do think carefully about taking your child out of school during term time. Research has proven that time off school really does impact on pupils' attainment, so please bear this in mind when planning your holidays.

School Matters!



We do recognise that there is also much to celebrate. Currently 113 pupils, which is over half the school, have attendance of over 97% this year. There will be a prize draw in our next celebration assembly to recognise and reward good attendance.

New Nursery teacher

Following a recruitment process, we have appointed a new nursery teacher who will be joining us in September 2018. Mrs Paula Clarke is an experienced Early Years teacher and is looking forward to working with the pupils and staff here.

Reading Morning

Following the success of our Maths Morning last term, we will be holding a Reading Morning for parents this Friday (22nd June). Drop in between 8.30am—9.30am to spend time with your child in their classroom and learn more about how reading is taught across our school. In addition, Stockton Heath library will be here to tell you more about this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Book Fair

Our popular Book Fair also returns next week—a fantastic selection of books for all tastes and age ranges will be available to browse and purchase in the KS1 corridor every day after school. This time round there's a special 3 for 2 offer, so you'll be able to stock up on books for the summer holidays at bargain prices. Don't forget that all purchases help earn new books for our school.



Alexandra Park Poster

The Friends of Alexandra Park have invited St Thomas' pupils to take part in a poster competition. The majority of dog owners are brilliant at clearing up after their dogs, but we've probably all had the unpleasant experience of having to clean stuff off shoes or pushchair wheels at some point. Pupils are invited to design a poster to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs; the winning entries will be featured around Alexandra Park. Posters should be on A4 paper and can be handed in to the school office any time next week. Good luck!

Cultural Diversity Day

Before the holidays we enjoyed a day of learning about different countries and cultures. Pupils entered into the spirit with some fantastic costumes and enthusiastic dancing.



Fitness Fanatics

This week we were joined in school by Freddy Fit who delivered fun fitness sessions across the school, which saw our pupils hoola-ing, dancing, stretching and competing energetically.



Goodison Greats

Our Year 4 footballers made it all the way through to the finals of the Road to Goodison tournament which took place at Everton's training ground, Finch Farm. They played brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship—well done team!



Netball Stars

Our Year 5 & 6 netballers took part in an inter-school tournament this week and played some fantastic matches against other local schools, reaching the semi-finals and finishing 4th overall thanks to their splendid teamwork.



Residentials

Our recent residential assemblies have been a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to see just what fun & adventures the children have during their time away. Thank you for your support. We'll be sharing the pictures on our website so you can relive the memories!



Congratulations to those Year 6 pupils who were confirmed at St Thomas' church by Bishop Colin Bazley during a stirring service. Thank you to Adam, St Thomas' youth worker for all his hard work in preparing the children for this important step in their journey of faith.

150th Anniversary

This summer St Thomas' church is celebrating its 150th anniversary with an array of events. Our school will be creating its own floral display for the flower festival and taking part in other celebrations throughout the summer.

Allsorts Service

This Sunday, all are warmly invited to a family-friendly Allsorts Service where we will be celebrating Fathers' Day and remembering all those who are father figures in our lives. There will be a noisy collection for Prostate Cancer so please bring your change. The service starts at 10.45am at St Thomas' church.

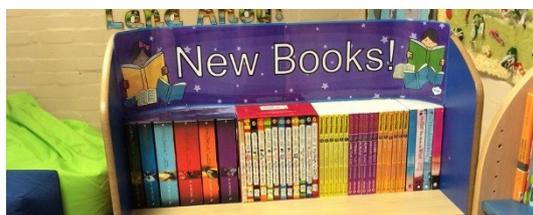
E-Safety

Don't forget to read the latest e-safety newsletter which accompanies this—as usual you will find handy hints to help your children stay safe online. If you follow us on Twitter we regularly share useful advice here too @stthomas_cofe



Next Saturday our ever-popular Summer Fair takes place. This always proves to be a fantastic afternoon, with stalls selling toys, books, sweet treats and plenty of fun and games on offer. Pupils are being asked to dress down on Thursday (21st June) in return for donations for the stalls—books, toys, plants, bottles, nearly new items, raffle prizes, cakes: all will be gratefully received. Flyers with full details were sent home in book bags yesterday. We're also in need of some parental help— if you can offer an hour or so to help on a stall then you'll be able to sign up on the playground next week. If anyone can offer their services as a face-painter, or to go in goals for Beat the Goalie, please let Mrs Parker know. Thank you—we hope you'll be able to join in the fun next Saturday.

Funds raised at the Summer Fair are shared between church and school. We are very grateful to the PTA for all their hard work throughout the year to raise funds for our school. We were delighted with the new additions to our library; not just books but shelving and beanbags—we're sure you'll agree it looks fantastic. Thank you!



Parent Survey

Many thanks to all those of you who took part in our annual parent survey. The responses really help in our planning for the future. Last year, we listened to your feedback about homework; changes to our homework policy have been implemented and have been very well received. We were pleased to see that satisfaction levels in the vast majority of areas have increased since last year's survey.

Key Findings:

97% of respondents agreed that "Overall, I am satisfied with my child's school".

100% of respondents agreed that "The school provides a safe environment for my child".

Compared with other schools, St Thomas' scores particularly well in the following areas:

- I would recommend my child's school to other parents
- The school encourages my child to treat others with respect and dignity
- The school's senior leaders do a good job

The following have been identified as areas for development:

- The school encourages my child to eat healthily
- The school provides a healthy dinner menu
- The school encourages my child to exercise

With this feedback in mind, we have been reviewing the ways in which we can make our school more healthy and are doing the following:

- * looking at ways of creating opportunities for children to exercise during curriculum time
- * exploring new offerings for after-school clubs in September
- * liaising with the school meals service to ensure parents are able to make informed choices about the food their children eat in school
- * planning a "Healthy School" week
- * investigating fun and accessible methods for teaching pupils about nutrition and healthy eating.

Please remember that we welcome parental feedback throughout the year. Don't feel you have to wait for a survey or talkshop to share your views; if something is on your mind then please come and chat.