

ST. THOMAS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

inspiring faith, love & learning

Parkgate Road Stockton Heath Warrington Cheshire WA4 2AP

Headteacher: Mr Ian Moss

Telephone 01925 268722

email: stthomas_primary@warrington.gov.uk

Twitter: [@stthomas_cofe](https://twitter.com/stthomas_cofe)

www.st-thomas.co.uk

ST THOMAS' NEWS - 25TH JULY 2018

Welcome to our very last newsletter of this school year— hasn't it flown? We'll be wrapping up the year with a service at St Thomas' church on Thursday, which will be all about changes and moving on. The service starts at 2.30pm, all families are warmly invited. Any parents who can help walk children from school to church are invited to come to school at 2pm. The service will finish at approximately 3.15pm; any children not collected from the church will be walked back to school for collection.

This week we say goodbye to two much-loved St Thomas' staff. Mrs

Beeley has taught our nursery class for over a year and is going to be much-missed by our nursery families. We're also saying farewell to Miss Cumberland who has worked as a midday assistant for over 7 year, completing countless head-bump letters over that time! We want to thank them both for their hard work and dedication, and wish them all the very best for the future.



Attendance

As you'll all be aware, one of our focuses this year has been on improving school attendance. Our target for overall attendance was 97%. We have finished at 96.3%. It's interesting to note that if there were no unauthorised absences we'd be above target at 97.3%. Over 400 school days have been missed due to term-time holidays this year; please do bear this in mind when making plans for next year.

We do of course recognise and celebrate all those with fantastic attendance. This morning we were delighted to award certificates to 22 pupils with 100% attendance and another 5 pupils who have only missed half a day of school this year. This is brilliant and definitely worth celebrating. Next year we will continue to do our termly prize draw for all pupils with attendance over 97%.

100%

Drumming Assembly

Following the success of their African drumming lessons the previous year, Year 4 have continued with a block of lessons this year, culminating in a vibrant performance for their families yesterday. We were treated to a traditional African welcome song followed by a demonstration of the powerful call & response rhythms that pupils have been learning in recent weeks.



Rugby Festival

After learning the rudiments of rugby with Warrington Wolves Foundation this term, last week some of our Year 3 & 4 pupils took part in a rugby festival at Victoria Park. Along with other local primary schools they were able to showcase their newly acquired skills and had a fantastic day.

Wheelchair Rugby

On Monday, the whole school had the chance to learn about wheelchair rugby. We had a fascinating assembly from the manager of Liverpool Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club, in which we learnt how sport can be accessible to all. Our KS2 pupils were then able to experience wheelchair rugby first-hand, cheered on by our younger pupils. The children entered into their games with gusto, with many declaring it the highlight of their school year!



School Council

A big thank you to our outgoing school council reps who have done a fantastic job this year, raising funds for Children In Need & the Anti-Bullying Alliance, working to achieve gold in the Wise Up! Awards and making suggestions to make our school even better. Our new reps have been elected and will be introduced in September.



Ali Baba & the Bongo Bandits

Last week Year 6 put on an absolutely dazzling end of year performance of “Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits”. The cast included evil villains, double-crossing sultans, an acrobatic monkey and a dancing camel, to name but a few. There was dancing, singing, plenty of comedy (some intentional, some not!) but what really stood out was the effort that every single child put into their performance, and the joy and enthusiasm that shone through. We know our Year 6 class will be leaving St Thomas’ on a high! The raffle raised well over £200 which will go towards music and drama provision in our school. A huge amount of time & energy goes into these productions; a massive thank you to Mrs Mercer-Wilks for all her dedication, along with all the family, staff and governors who give up their time to help with sets, costumes, lighting, sound effects and choreography amongst other things.



All the staff wish the very best to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their education at their high schools in September. This is the end of an era for many families who have had children at St Thomas’ since as long ago as 2005. Please do keep in touch—we always enjoy hearing about our former pupils’ adventures!

Church activities

School may be closed over the holidays, but St Thomas’ church is always open. There are “Story Church” services at 10am every Sunday in August, aimed at families with younger children. Additionally, each Wednesday at 2pm there are fun & games on offer in the church hall for just £2 per child.

Reading Challenge

Don’t forget the Summer Reading Challenge which is already up & running. If you’ve not already done so, pop along to Stockton Heath library to sign your children up for it; the challenge is a fantastic way to encourage children to keep on reading over the holidays. We’re very fortunate to have such a wonderful resource on our doorstep, so please show your support if you can!

Save the Date

Our parents’ evenings will have a new format next year. We’ll be holding “Meet the Teacher” sessions on 25th September from 3.45—5.45pm; these will consist of presentations by class teachers to introduce themselves and share important information about what will be achieved over the course of the year. More information will follow in September.

The whole team at St Thomas’ hope that everyone has time for fun and relaxation over the holidays. We return on Tuesday 4th September and look forward to seeing you all then.