

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

www.st-thomas.co.uk

ST THOMAS' NEWS - 16TH NOVEMBER 2018

We seem to be hurtling towards Christmas already! The pile of wrapped Christmas gifts that were donated last week was a sight to behold; thank you so much for your generosity. The gifts really will help to make Christmas special for local children who find themselves in difficult circumstances. We do appreciate the trouble and expense that our families have gone to with contributions towards our Christmas appeals. Next up it's the Christmas shoeboxes which are being collected on Monday. Remember you don't have to put together a whole shoebox; any donations of items will be gratefully received: small toys, hats, scarfs, gloves, sunglasses, toothpaste, soap, hairbrushes etc. Thank you all in advance for your support.



Attendance

Figures for the school year to date show that attendance is at 97%. This time last year it was 97.4% so we've slipped a bit, but are still on target. Thanks as always for your support in ensuring that children are always in school when they're well enough.

New faces

This week we welcomed Noah to Year 1, whose family has moved back to the area all the way from Australia. Although we can't guarantee warm weather, we know Noah & family will receive a very warm welcome from all at St Thomas' and we wish him every happiness at our school.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week has just taken place; pupils had an assembly from PCSOs Chris & Becky in which they were reminded about how words & actions can be hurtful and that it's important to let an adult know if you think someone is being bullied.

On Monday we all dressed in odd socks to show that everyone is unique and individual. Thank you for your donations which totalled almost £150; this will be shared between the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Children in Need.



On Thursday we enjoyed an assembly from Red Tiger Karate who taught pupils defensive blocks and explained how karate can be a useful tool for building confidence. They handed out flyers for their sessions which take place in our school hall on Tuesday & Thursday evenings.

NSPCC workshop

Last week children also had an assembly from the NSPCC in which they learnt the importance of speaking up if you're worried about something. This was followed by more detailed workshops for our Year 5 & 6 pupils to help equip them with the knowledge & understanding to stay safe by speaking to a trusted adult.



Animal Magic

Year 6 spent a day at Chester Zoo where they took part in a workshop to learn how animals have changed and adapted over time to suit their environment, before exploring the zoo to see how this related to the animals there.

Active Experience

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic day with other schools at Orford Hub; the focus was all about engaging children in fun, physical activities to make their learning more effective. Our pupils took part in an orienteering activity linked to geography, dancing to learn about the science behind shadows, while the highlight of the day was exploring how Stone Age hunters caught their prey by throwing spears (don't worry, we just used sticks!)

Works of Art

Year 2 pupils Ava C, Ava H, Jack & Oliver took part in an art workshop with pupils from other local primary schools this week. They had the opportunity to decorate a background with a theme of their choice, using an array of materials from beads to string & tissue paper. Our pupils were able to bring their masterpieces home which we're sure are now proudly displayed at home.

African Adventure

This week Year 5 spent a morning devoted to their topic on Africa; they created amazing masks based on those worn by the Dan people in regions of West Africa before learning an energetic traditional dance from Ghana, exploring the mask ritual. It was wonderful to see their learning brought to life in such a vibrant way.



Poppy Appeal

It was lovely to see so many of our pupils at the Remembrance Sunday service at St Thomas' church. The cenotaph was decorated with over 200 poppies made by our pupils; after the names of all those from the area who lost lives in the World Wars were read out, a moving service took place in church where we learnt about the lives & backgrounds of some of those people. In school we sold poppies on the playground to collect funds for the Royal British Legion. Thank you to Mrs Moss and to our chair of governors Peter Speed & his wife Brenda who all helped make the poppy display look so spectacular.



Christian Union

The first session of this new group, led by Youth & Children's worker Adam, took place on Wednesday lunchtime. KS2 pupils came along to talk about how each one of us is "wonderfully made". They played human bingo and discussed what it means to be created by God.

Confirmation Classes

If your child is in Year 6, now is the time to start thinking about whether they would like to be confirmed. There will be a meeting for parents in January to talk about this important step in the journey of faith and learn more about what happens. The confirmation service will take place on Sunday June 9th, led by Bishop Keith. More details will follow.

Christmas Fair

The date of our Christmas Fair, Saturday 24th November, is fast approaching. This weekend the children are being asked to decorate jam jars and fill them with treats for our ever-popular jam jar tombola. On Friday, children can dress down in return for donations for the fair: books, toys, cuddly toys, bottles, chocolates, sweets, DVDs and new items. We also need cakes, but if you're baking your own please include a list of ingredients for allergy sufferers.



Reminders for next week:

Monday:

Christmas shoebox appeal

Throughout week:

bring in decorated jam jars (there will be a prize for the best design in each class)

Friday:

Dress Down Day: bring in contributions for the Christmas Fair.

Saturday:

Christmas Fair in St Thomas' church and hall 11am-3.30pm.