

St Thomas' CE Primary School
"Let all that you do be done in love"



Newsletter 17th September 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of our new school year. We've said it several times already, but it's worth repeating once more how happy we are to have our school family back together.

Your children have been absolute stars, coming in to school with smiles on their faces and taking new routines in their stride. They've shown resilience and a real enthusiasm for learning, it really is a joy to have our classrooms bubbling away again.

Obviously, school life as we knew it has changed for everybody and we're having to constantly adapt and respond to changing circumstances, balancing the safety and welfare of our pupils with our desire to deliver a rich and engaging curriculum. All this against a backdrop of uncertainty, as we never quite know what announcements or new guidance may be round the corner.

In the Bible, Moses tells us:

"Then the Lord said to us, "Now get up and cross the Zered Valley". So we crossed the valley". (Deuteronomy 2:13)

We've all had to take a leap of faith as we've sent our children back to school or returned to work; hopefully now that we've crossed that valley, with God by our side we can focus on doing what we know and love best. Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement.

DIARY DATES

Monday 21st Sept
Balance Bike training
EYFS

Thursday 24th Sept
School photos
Whole school

Friday 25th Sept
Victorian workshop
Year 2

Tuesday 6th Oct
Flu immunisations
Reception to Y6

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20

WELCOME!

Our new starters in Nursery & Reception have been amazing, saying goodbye to their parents at the classroom door and coming in on their own to put their things away and get ready for the day ahead. We're very proud of how independent they've been in what can be an anxious time and how they have grown in confidence with each day. Well done!

We'd also like to say a very warm welcome to Ruby in Y4 and Mollie-Lou in Y5 who have joined us this year and to Eleanor in Y3 (who actually started with us remotely back in April, but couldn't meet her new classmates properly until now!)

And finally a big welcome to Miss Quayle who is our new nursery teacher. We hope that every single one of you enjoys your time at St Thomas' and that you quickly feel a part of our school community.

Thank You

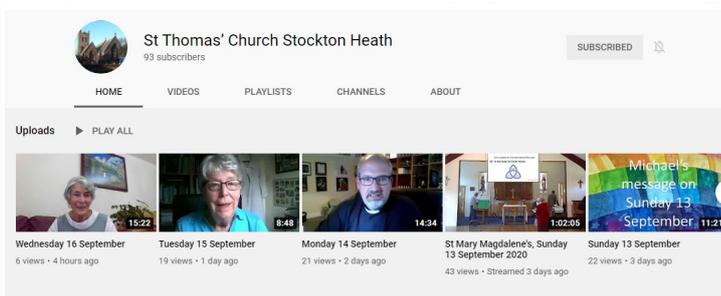
All the staff want to say a big thank you for the kind gifts that they received before we broke up for summer. There seemed to be a constant stream of people dropping off gifts on the last couple of days of term and it really meant a lot to staff that their hard work in such strange times was acknowledged and appreciated. Thank you!

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL IN ACTION

For the time being, whole school worship cannot take place, so each class has its own worship session in the afternoons. We're missing our assemblies with Vicar Michael but hopefully we will soon be able to beam him onto the whiteboards in our classrooms to deliver worship remotely.

Don't forget that St Thomas' & St Mary Magdalene's churches are both open for worship every Sunday—spaces are limited so you need to pre-book a place by ringing the vicarage on 261396.

Or you can watch from the comfort of your own home: services are livestreamed every Sunday and there's a Thought for the Day posted by 9:30am each morning.



For children in Year 6, or any young person considering confirmation, Pathfinders resumes on Tuesday 22nd September at 4:30pm via Zoom. Contact adam@warrington.yfc.co.uk if you'd like to join.

Sunday School also restarts on Sunday 27th September; please contact Brenda on 07890 410443 for more details.

“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Individual school photos are scheduled for next Thursday. We will send a separate letter detailing the arrangements—as with everything this year, we’ve had to rethink the way we do some things to help keep everybody safe, so please take the time to read this information when we share it.



Similarly we are reviewing our process for Parents’ Evening and will update you with our plans in the coming weeks.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

This winter, it is likely that flu and Covid-19 will both be circulating at the same time, so it is more important than ever to help protect against flu. Children can pass flu on to others in their family and wider community, some of whom may be at higher risk from the complications of flu. The flu vaccination won’t protect against Covid-19 but it is critical to protecting the health of the general population, particularly those at high risk from Covid-19. Flu immunisation consent forms were sent home at the end of last week; please return them to school by this Friday. The school nurses will be in school on **Tuesday 6th October** to administer the vaccine which is a quick and painless nasal spray to pupils in Reception up to Year 6.

SAFEGUARDING

As a school, the safety and welfare of our pupils is at the forefront of all that we do. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on our school website and has been updated to reflect the recent changes in “Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020”.

Should you have any concerns that a pupil is experiencing abuse or neglect of any kind, in the first instance please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Person, Headteacher Mr Ian Moss or our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Vickie Toft. Our Safeguarding Governor is Teaching Assistant Mrs Elaine Smith.



“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20

ABSENCES

Please can we remind all families that if their child is going to be absent from school, you should ring the school by 9.30am on 01925 268722 and leave a message on the absence line (option 1), including what their symptoms are. If you let us know what symptoms your child is displaying this helps us track any illness within a class and is particularly important at the moment. If your child has Covid symptoms, please do make us aware of this and refer to the letter that was emailed last week for procedural information. As you'll no doubt be aware, families are struggling to get appointments for Covid tests at the moment as demand has increased massively in the last couple of weeks. Please do let us know if you experience difficulties in this area.

YEAR 2 TEACHER

As we shared with you in July, our Year 2 teacher Mrs Williams is expecting her first baby in December; we're all very excited for her. We have begun the recruitment process for a teacher to cover Mrs Williams' role once she goes on maternity leave and will update you when a successful and suitable candidate has been appointed.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Thank you for your support in helping to implement a one-way system round the school building. Please continue to enter via the park steps and leave through the main car park. Your support in ensuring that pupils are dropped off punctually at either 8:45 or 9am is much appreciated. We would also politely request that parents do not remain on the playground once they have collected their children but leave promptly. And one final piece of housekeeping: please remember that dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school grounds. Thank you.

HARVEST

St Thomas' church Harvest Festival takes place on Sunday 27th September. Although we may not be able to have any renditions of "Cauliflowers Fluffy" in singing assembly this year, we can still show our support by donating harvest gifts. The recipients, Warrington Food Bank, really need all they can get to support the increasing number of families experiencing serious hardship due to the current situation. Any tinned or packaged food items with a long shelf life can be donated, but they're in particular need of the following items:

Tinned Spaghetti & Tinned Carrots

Cream Crackers

Dried Pasta

Sugar

Washing-up Liquid

Soap, Shower gel & Shampoo

Shaving foam & Disposable razors

Washing Powder

Items can be left in the trolley outside the school office from any day next week. Thank you.

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