

St Thomas' CE Primary School

"Let all that you do be done in love"



Newsletter 12th March 2021

It really has been wonderful to have all the children back in school this week. Once more we have been left in awe of the way our pupils have responded to the uncertain time we're living through and it was heart-warming to see so many smiling faces when we opened our doors on Monday. Thank you to parents and staff for all their hard work in making the transition back to school go as smoothly as possible.

Our focus in the coming weeks will be to ensure that all our pupils are settled and happy, using a range of approaches and resources to support children's learning and emotional wellbeing. We started the week with a virtual assembly from Vicar Michael and Reverend Rob who encouraged us to find hope in each day; we'll all be looking to focus on the many positive things for which we can be grateful in the coming weeks.

Our first week back coincided with British Science Week 2021 which has been focused around innovating for the future. We've been enjoying some exciting lessons with hands-on experiments and investigations that involve teamwork, from dunking biscuits to launching rocket mice; a wonderful way to fully immerse the children back into school life. Keep your eyes peeled in the next newsletter for photos and our lab coat design competition winners.

Our pupils will all be bringing home a palm cross, to remember Jesus's journey and ultimately his sacrifice on the cross. We're all having to make sacrifices at the moment but must remember that God is walking beside us throughout these difficult times; as we start to see the beginnings of spring there is a real sense that brighter times are on their way.



DIARY DATES

Friday 19th March

Red Nose Day

Monday 22nd March

Odd Socks for World
Down Syndrome Day

Week of 22nd March

Online Parents' Evenings

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20

FAREWELL MR HARDING

Our lovely caretaker Mr Harding is hanging up his toolkit after almost 20 years at St Thomas'. He has been working here long before any of our current pupils were even born! Mr Harding is on site by 6am every day preparing the grounds and making sure the school is ready for when everyone else arrives. He's always on hand to help with all the organisation at PTA events, giving up countless hours of his time to help tidy away at the end of an event and has also been a valued member of our governing body for many years. If anything needs fixing, he's always got a spare part or just the right tool for the job; he's made sure our supplies of soap and papertowels have never run out during the pandemic and always keeps the office staff supplied with fresh mugs of tea, which definitely isn't in his job description!

Mr Harding's last day with us will be on Friday 26th March; it's a real shame that we won't be able to join together as a school in a special assembly to wish him a happy retirement, but please do wish him all the best if you see him on the playground in the coming days.



Although it's fair to say that Mr Harding is irreplaceable, we are now beginning the recruitment process for a new maintenance officer and will share details soon—please pass on to anyone you know who might be interested and suitable.

MARCH FUNDRAISING

RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19th March and this year it's never felt more important to raise a smile and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. In return for a minimum donation of £1, we're asking pupils to dress down, dress as a superhero, or dress in red - the choice is yours!



ODD SOCK DAY

On Monday 22nd March we will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day to help raise awareness and support people with Down Syndrome in our community. Our school works closely with Cheshire Down Syndrome Support Group who deliver training for our staff to optimise pupils' learning. We're asking children to come to school in brightly coloured odd socks to remind everyone of that extra chromosome unique to those with Down Syndrome and to bring in a donation (recommended £1 minimum) to support the amazing work of CDSSG.



Parents' Evenings

We will be holding Parents' Evening via Microsoft Teams again this term. These will take place during the week of 22nd March. Parents will be able to book a slot using the Parents Evening app as previously, then the teacher will email your Teams invitation with a link to join the meeting. Full details will be sent out next week.

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20

PARENTPAY

Hopefully all those who use ParentPay to pay for school meals and snacks will have remembered to top up their accounts before pupils returned to school. Please be aware that any outstanding debts on ParentPay must be cleared by 31st March; otherwise the balance transfers to the school and you'll need to pay the school directly which is not nearly as straightforward as using ParentPay online. Thank you in advance for keeping your accounts in credit!

Our local park, Alexandra Park, was inspected before Christmas by a mystery shopper and was awarded The Green Flag for 2020/2021, which is an international award recognising well-managed parks and green spaces.

The Friends of Alexandra Park work with the council and its park keepers Paul and George in supporting the park and are delighted to be awarded it again. The report from the Green Flag even commented on the Christmas tree which had been decorated by pupils from our Link Club.

The Friends of Alexandra Park have asked us to remind parents to respect the green bushes and hedges in the park by not letting children play in them—especially the very old yew tree whose berries are poisonous.



As part of this week's return to school, Warrington Borough Council are encouraging all families to choose active travel for their journey to school, whether this be walking, cycling or scooting. Please can we also remind families that do drive to please park considerately on the roads around school, ensuring that residents' driveways are not blocked and that your car is not close to a junction.

If your child is struggling with the return to school, below is a link to the book 'Parents Play Kit', which has been recommended by our Play Therapist Mrs Day.

The aim of this book, created by the Clear Sky Children's charity, is to provide some playful tips and ideas to help parents support their child's wellbeing whilst facing uncertainty. Although the book was originally created in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the content is transferable. Therefore, the tools suggested could be used in relation to uncertainty of any situation, such as returning to school, moving to secondary school, moving house etc. We hope you find this useful.

[Parents Play Kit PDF](#)

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World Book Day

Although our Book Week had to be a little bit different this year, we were delighted with the way in which children learning from home and in school engaged with the activities and produced some really creative work.

If you haven't already done so, please check out all the #getcaughtreading posts on our school Twitter @stthomas_cofe. Next week Mrs Toft will be awarding prizes for the best posts — thank you to all who took part.

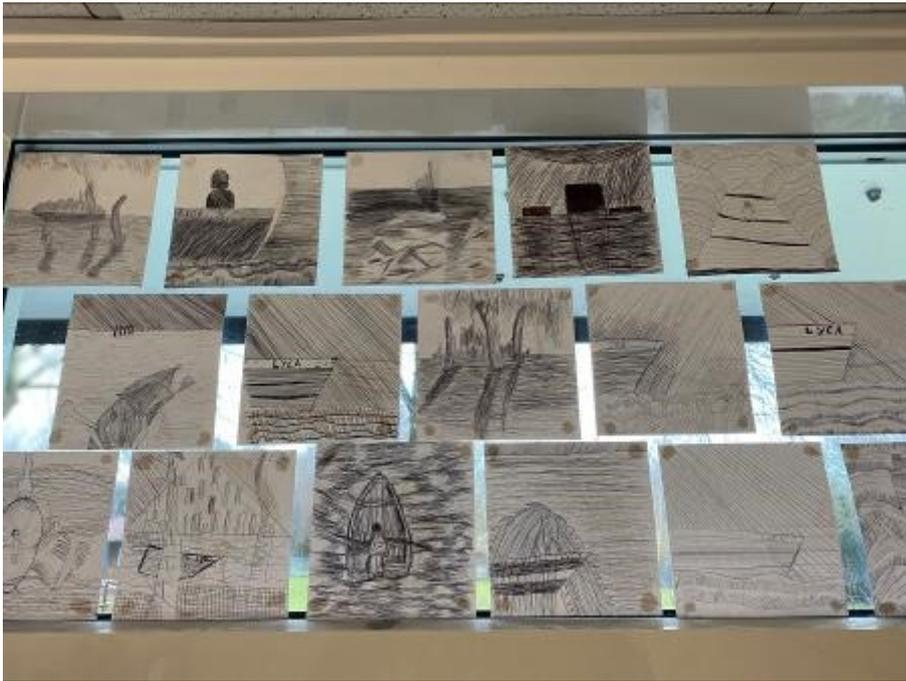


Year 4 enjoyed completing different 'Book Week' focused tasks; writing their own Book Day song, researching different authors, baking linked to their favourite book, a scavenger hunt...to name but a few!

Reception have really enjoyed their book focus for World Book Day - "Tidy" by Emily Gravett. Rory made a poster to show how we can keep our classroom tidy and Charlie was inspired to make a badger home.



"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20



Year 6 completed some fantastic work inspired by the text "Floodland" by Marcus Sedgwick. They used a range of pencil skills to sketch Ely Cathedral, produced lots of fantastic written work, plotted maps of the main character's journey in the story and even applied their Design Technology skills when creating flood-proof homes .

What is your favourite sea creature?



I have 2 favourite sea animals. One of them is a dolphin, i like them because they dont eat people like sharks and they keep their babies safe.

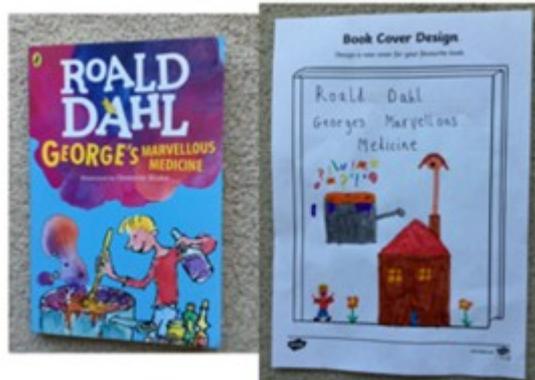
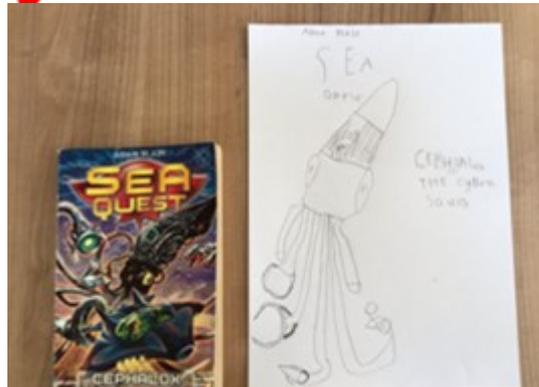


After reading our focus book "Someone Swallowed Stanley" by Sarah Roberts, Year 1 thought about our favourite sea creatures. Esme J did some amazing writing and fantastic drawings of her favourite sea creatures, thoughtfully reflecting upon why she liked them.

I like seahorses because they look like a horse with no legs. They are very cute.



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As part of Book Week, Year 2 recreated the front cover of our favourite books. These look fabulous Year 2, well done!



My favourite book

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

My favourite book is called The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse. It's my favourite, because they all become friends and they help each other when one of them fall in the river. It reminds me of me and my friend Cooper going canoeing in the canal and when me and my family went to Ingleton waterfalls trail.



Year 5 responded to Book Week creatively with baking, cooking, artwork, film trailers and reviews. We also really loved sharing our favourite stories with the rest of the class and creating a buzz around their favourite authors!

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