

# St Thomas' CofE Academy



**‘Learning for life with Jesus’**

**Dear Parents,**

**I hope you have had a lovely, restful Easter. It was great to welcome the children back on Monday and see them working hard this week in their lessons.**

**This term is set to be action-packed so please read the newsletter carefully as it includes some key dates.**

**I hope you all enjoy your 3 day weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Mrs Pierpoint**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**



# ‘Learning for life with Jesus’

## Dates for your diary:

Easter Holidays 14 <sup>th</sup> April – 27 <sup>th</sup> April	
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-open to children
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 Multiplication check parent information evening 6pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day - Wear red, white or blue
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 visit to Chester Zoo
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATS take place this week
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 Topic launch day
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	End of SATs coffee morning celebration with Y6 parents
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Topic launch day
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	PSA discos
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Celebrating Stoke 100 event
Half term Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May – 30 <sup>th</sup> May	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 Phonics Screening check takes place this week
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers photographs
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Alton Towers Trip
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day breakfast after morning Worship
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 visit to Symphony Hall in Birmingham
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> June - Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 transition days at The Kings
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole class photographs (Not inc Y6)
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Back up Sports day
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> June	PSA Summer Fayre
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 performance 1:45pm
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 performance 6:30pm
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 performance 6:30pm
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school end of year celebration worship
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers prom 7pm
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers worship and breakfast
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for summer 3:15

# SHINE workshops

We would warmly like to invite parents and carers into school to learn alongside your child. Following the success of our Reading SHINE in the Spring term we would like to launch our summer term SHINE workshops - all of our summer terms events will have a physical and mental health focus.

Please come into school for a fun filled and creative afternoon, where you can work alongside your child and learn new skills

All of these sessions will start at 2:00pm and finish at 3:15pm. All sessions will be held in school.

### Dates:

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 5
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 2
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6
WEDNESDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1

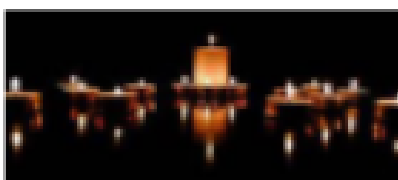
## Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

2:00pm - 3:00pm at St Thomas' Church

Dates:

Tuesday 20th May	Year 2
Tuesday 24th June	Year 1
Tuesday 1st July	Nursery
& Reception together in school	

Please note: Time change to a 2pm start.



We are really excited to be working alongside Reverend Baker from St Thomas' church. We want to support children in their spiritual development and continue 'Learning for Life with Jesus.'

Each class will be spending an afternoon at St Thomas' to deepen their spiritual understanding and engage in fun craft-based activities around scripture led by Reverend Baker and their class teacher.

We would love parents/ carers/ grandparents to join us for our Inspire workshop. Please come and work alongside us as we follow Jesus' path.



# ‘Learning for life with Jesus’

## Friday worship & coffee morning



Every Friday morning at 9am we have a worship in school led by Reverend Iain or Tom from St Thomas' Church. We warmly invite all parents/grandparents/ carers/ parish members to join us every week.

Each week a different class or school group will also be joining the coffee morning to show you some of their learning and share things they are proud of.

Everyone is welcome to every worship and coffee morning - we hope to see everyone soon.

### Dates: Summer 1

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	School Council & RRSA members
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 (End of SATS celebration)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Eco Council

### Dates: Summer 2

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 and Year 2
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Father's Day Breakfast
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	SPORTS DAY
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception & Nursery
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 - Leaver's event



St. Thomas'  
CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY  
Learning for life with Jesus



**A huge thank you to our wonderful PSA who organised this year's Easter Hunt! It was lovely to see the children so excited to find the clues after school.**



# Year 5 put their debating skills to the test!

Our Year 5 debate team recently competed in the debate competition at the King's Academy against 4 other schools! Well done everyone, you were brilliant!





Your **POP-UP**  
**SCHOOL**  
**BOOK SHOP!**

**The Scholastic book fair is back from  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> May from 3:15-4:15**

**Last year's book fair was a HUGE success thanks to  
you all and we hope that with your continued  
support this year, we will be able to purchase more  
books and resources for our school.**



**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Fairs**





**To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May, children are invited to come dressed in red, white and/or blue clothing. We will be taking part in many exciting VE Day inspired activities during the day!**

# Road safety



**We have received concerning reports from local residents about children being unsafe during their walk home from school. Reports include children running out in front of cars, crossing the road without checking for traffic and pushing each other off the footpaths. If your children walk home from school, please talk to them about being safe on the roads and footpaths.**

**Thank you for your support with this very important matter.**



# School Ready

**Please remember:**

- Children are **not** permitted to wear any make up to school.  
Wipes will be provided to remove it.
- Earrings must not be worn
- Hair must be tied back.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**



**St. Thomas'**  
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# Attendance matters!

## Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



### Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, if Your Child is Late Every Day By...

Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

5 Minutes	2.5 Days from School	28 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	47 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
25 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# OMETV

Ometv is another app which encourages users to 'make friends from all around the world'. People can search profiles by age and gender and send direct messages or photos. However, the app is primarily used for video calls. When using this feature, users are connected at random, although only their country of origin is shared. People can then either choose to move on to the next chat or can stay in that call for as long as they wish.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STRANGER DANGER

While young people generally know not to share personal information with strangers, the safety of their home and the distance offered by technology can make them feel more relaxed and uninhibited. Combined with the fact that Ometv provides a webcam function – and anonymity – it can be an easy way for groomers to gather information, ask to connect on other social media platforms, or potentially request intimate images.

### EXPLICIT CONTENT

Unfortunately, there are a lot of users who use Ometv's webcam feature to expose themselves. While users can swipe to the next call quickly, it's not something that can be filtered out completely – so young people could easily be exposed to highly inappropriate images.

### REPORTING DIFFICULTIES

When video calling, the other person's username is often hidden and therefore they can't be blocked or reported. There is a 'Report Abuse' tab at the bottom of the video, but the speed with which calls can swipe past can make it difficult to use this system. There's also little evidence to suggest that offenders are dealt with appropriately (through warnings or account termination, for example).

### AGE VERIFICATION

17+

Although the site states that users must be 18 or over, there's no way to verify this, and the easy to use an existing Facebook account to log in, or for users to set up a fake account. To access Ometv, users simply need to press a button confirming they're an adult, which means it's likely many users will claim to be much older than they are.

### VIDEO RECORDING

REC

When young people are chatting live on a webcam, they could be accessed by others into doing things they don't feel comfortable doing, or persuaded that no harm can come from it. What they don't know is whether the other user is recording them. These videos could then be used to embarrass or blackmail them, or they could be kept by a potential online predator.

### LIMITED PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ometv has very limited parental controls. There is a 'safe mode', but this is of little practical use given that explicit content isn't filtered out. While the site lists several rules and regulations, there are few apparent ways to enforce them or restrict what users can see or do.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### FOLLOW AGE GUIDELINES

Ometv has an age recommendation of 18 and over, which suggests the developers are aware that it may facilitate adult content. It's important to adhere to the age guidelines and try to restrict access to the app for younger users. If you find it on an under-18's device, talk to them about the potential risks and explain why they probably shouldn't be using it.



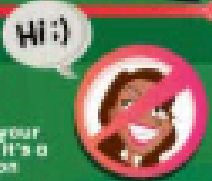
### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Maintain communication with your child about online safety and empower them to protect themselves. Simply deleting an app from their device impacts their independence and can cause resentment. Instead, highlight news reports of predators exposing themselves to children on the internet, and discuss what they should do if asked for explicit images.



### DISCOURAGE CHATS WITH STRANGERS

Remind your child of the dangers of talking to strangers online. The anonymity Ometv offers, plus its webcam function, makes it an attractive place for groomers to network and create inappropriate content. Explain that your child may see something which upsets them – and that it's a crime for anyone to expose themselves to a young person online.



### ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Regardless of how responsible your child may be, it's essential to use parental controls on their device. It's easy for young people to get lured in by others, feeling they've built up a trusting friendship and being deceived into doing things they wouldn't normally do. Ensure in-app purchased aren't enabled on their device, and emphasize that they can always talk to you about anything online that worries them.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sulmasy is an online safety, cyberbullying, education and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the US, UK and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



# Article of the fortnight

On 22nd April, World Earth Day was celebrated so our Article of the Fortnight is #6. Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.





**As we recently celebrated World Earth day, let us pray for our wonderful world.**

**God of life,  
we praise you for the beauty of creation,  
its richness and variety.  
Make us more like Jesus,  
treading gently on our common home,  
and breathe your Spirit on us,  
that we may care more deeply for your Earth.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

