

St Thomas' CofE Academy



Dear Parents,

It has been fantastic to welcome you all back to school for the new academic year. Whilst visiting classrooms over the past couple of weeks I have noticed a real buzz of excitement as children settle into their new classrooms with their new teachers. . Everyone has returned enthusiastic and eager to learn and wearing their uniform with pride.

We have lots of wonderful things planned for this term and key dates can be found in this newsletter.

I look forward to a positive Autumn term ahead.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Pierpoint

Friday 12th September 2025



‘Learning for life with Jesus’

Dates for your diary:

| | |
|--|---|
| Mon 15 th Sept | Year 6 visiting The Kings to watch Shakespeare Rocks! |
| Tues 23 rd Sept | KS2 Road safety day |
| Tues 23 rd Sept | Year 6 visiting The Kings - National coding week |
| Fri 26 th Sept | Macmillan coffee morning 9am |
| Tues 30 th Sept | Year 6 visiting The Kings - Science show |
| Tues 30 th Sept | School streets event |
| Fri 3 rd Oct | National Poetry Day workshops |
| Tues 7 th Oct | Tempest Photography - Individual and group photos |
| Tues 7 th Oct | Reception phonics information evening 6pm |
| Mon 13 th Oct | Time4sport swimming pool arrives (Info to follow) |
| Mon 13 th Oct - Wed 15 th Oct | Year 6 Standon Bowers residential |
| Mon 20 th Oct | Parents evening 15:30 - 18:30 Appointment only |
| Tues 21 st Oct | Parents evening 15:30 - 18:30 Appointment only |
| Fri 24 th Oct | School closes for half term |
| Half term Mon 27th Oct - Fri 31st Oct | |
| Mon 3 rd Nov | School reopens for staff and children |
| Mon 3 rd Nov | Reception and Y6 height and weight checks |
| Tues 4 th Nov | Visit from Author Alan Blank |
| Mon 10 th Nov | Barclays roadshow - KS2 |
| Tues 11 th Nov | Year 6 outdoor learning day - WW2 |
| Fri 14 th Nov | INSET DAY - School closed for children |

SHINE workshops

We would warmly like to invite parents and carers into school to learn alongside your child. Following the success of our SHINES we would like to launch our Autumn term SHINE workshops - all of our autumn terms events will have a UNICEF - Rights Respecting Schools Focus

Please come into school for a fun filled and creative afternoon, where you can work alongside your child and learn new skills. This is also an opportunity to look at the different areas of our Rights Respecting Schools and how we teach and use this in school.

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

Dates:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Monday 22 nd September | Year 6 |
| Monday 6 th October | Year 2 |
| Monday 13 th October | Year 4 |
| Monday 20 th October | Year 5 |
| TUESDAY 11 th November | Year 3 |
| Monday 17 th November | Year 1 |
| Monday 24 th November | Reception |
| Monday 1 st December | Nursery |

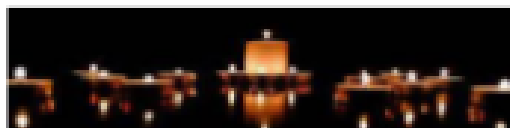


Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

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

Dates:

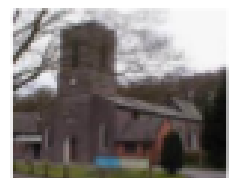
| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Tuesday 4 th November | Year 3 |
| Tuesday 25 th November | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 27 th January | Year 6 |
| Tuesday 3 rd March | Year 4 |
| Tuesday 28 th April | Year 2 |
| Tuesday 23 rd June | Year 1 |
| Tuesday 7 th July | Nursery |
| & Reception together in school | |



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

Following the great success of our Inspire workshops last year, each class will be spending an afternoon at St Thomas' to deepen their spiritual understanding and engage in fun craft-based activities around scripture lead 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: Autumn 1

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Friday 12 th Sept | Everyone welcome - start of new term |
| Friday 19 th Sept | Year 3 |
| Friday 26 th Sept | Pupil leaders leading <i>MacMillian Coffee Morning</i> |
| Friday 3 rd Oct | Year 5 |
| Friday 10 th Oct | <u>No Worship and Coffee morning today.</u> |
| Friday 17 th Oct | Reception |
| Friday 24 th Oct | Year 6 |

Dates: Autumn 2

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Friday 7 th Nov | Year 1 |
| Friday 14 th Nov | <u>INSET DAY</u> |
| Friday 21 st Nov | Nursery |
| Friday 28 th Nov | Year 2 |
| Friday 5 th Dec | Year 4 |
| Friday 12 th Dec | Eco and School Council |
| Friday 19 th Dec | Everyone welcome - end of term, coffee and mince pies |

Term dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| INSET DAYS | Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025 |
| Autumn Term One | Wednesday 3 rd September – Friday 24 th October 2025 |
| Half Term | Monday 27th October 2025– Friday 31st October 2025 |
| Autumn Term Two | Monday 4 th November 2025 – Friday 19 th December 2025 |
| INSET DAY | Friday 14th November 2025 |
| Holiday | Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026 |

Spring Term 2026

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Spring Term One | Monday 5 th January 2026 – Friday 13 th February 2026 |
| Half Term | Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 |
| INSET | Monday 23rd February 2026 |
| Spring Term Two | Monday 23 rd February 2026 – Friday 27 th March 2026 |
| INSET | Friday 20th March 2026 |
| Holiday | Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026 |

Term dates 2025/2026

Summer Term 2026

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Summer term one | Monday 13 th April 2026 – Friday 22 nd May 2026 |
| May Day | Monday 4 th May 2026 |
| Half Term | Monday 25 th May 2026 – Friday 29 th May 2026 |
| Summer term two | Monday 1 st June 2026 – Friday 17 th July 2026 |
| <i>INSET DAY</i> | <i>Monday 20th July 2026 (Twilights)</i> |
| Summer Holiday | Tuesday 21 st July 2026 – Monday 31 st August 2026 |

(2026/2027 academic year commences on Tuesday 1st September 2026)



WELCOME



BACK



TO SCHOOL

A huge welcome to:

Miss Horwell, our new Year 5
teacher,

Miss Leigh, our trainee teacher
working in Y6, Miss McKee our new
office administrator and Mrs
Henshall, our EYFS teaching
assistant.

We are thrilled to welcome them to
the St Thomas' family!

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Miss Dale who got married over the summer holidays.

Welcome back to the new Mrs Salt.



Three cheers for Luke!!

In the summer break Luke had a sponsored haircut for the Little Princess Trust. He donated an amazing 14.6 inches of hair and has raised over £300. Luke you are amazing!!



20 is plenty - the importance of reading everyday!

Love of Reading
Children who read for 20 minutes a day...

- will be exposed to 1.8 million words a year
- will have reduced stress levels
- will have better general knowledge
- will improve their test results
- will improve their communication skills
- will learn how to develop empathy
- will have a broad vocabulary
- will have a world of imagination & creativity open to them
- will improve critical thinking skills

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

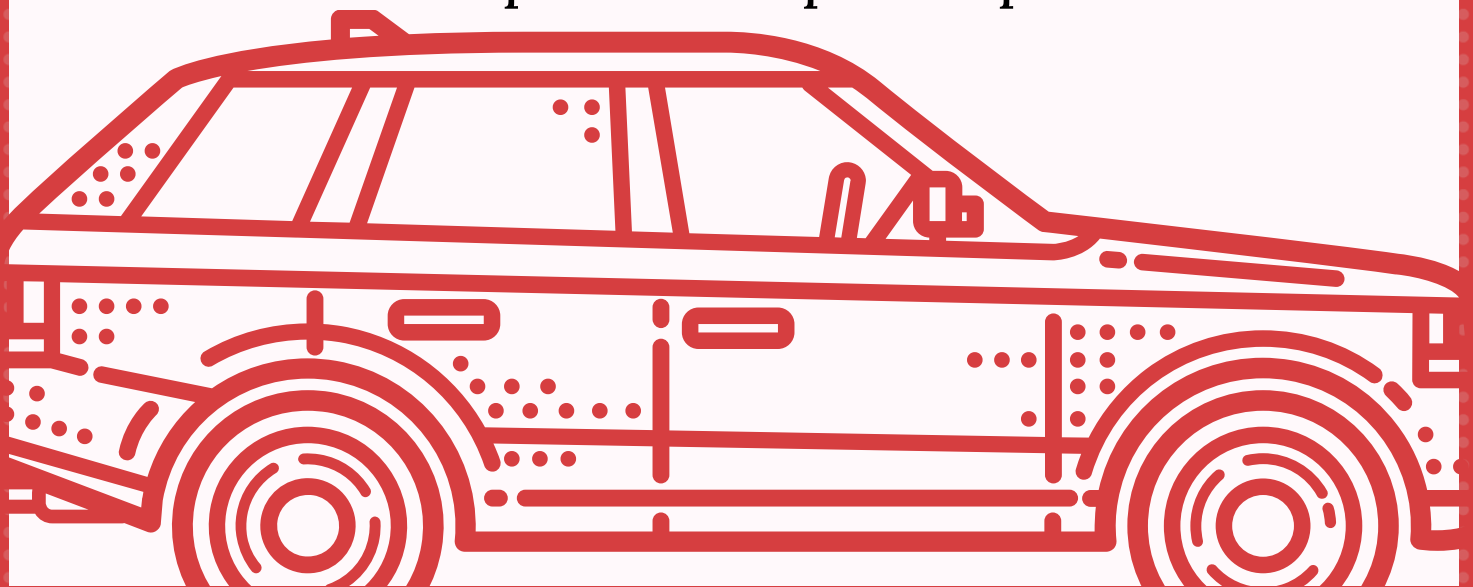
A huge well done to Kydan for completing the summer reading challenge at the Library!



Safer streets for our children!

We're excited to be taking part in a School Streets trial on Tuesday 30th September, supported by Staffordshire County Council.

This initiative aims to make the roads around school safer and less congested by temporarily restricting vehicle access to Poplar Drive and Tilstone Close during key times: 8:15–10:00am and 2:00–3:45pm. A letter with full details has been sent out. Please contact the school office if you'd like more information. Let's work together to create a calmer, healthier environment at drop-off and pick-up!



GOLD STATUS FOR ST THOMAS'



We are thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark in recognition of our ongoing commitment to keeping children active, engaged and thriving through sport and physical activity. This fantastic achievement reflects the incredible effort, enthusiasm and teamwork shown by our pupils across a wide range of sporting events, clubs and daily activities.

A special thanks goes to Miss Haycock who has worked tirelessly to ensure St Thomas' were awarded GOLD!!

National poetry week!

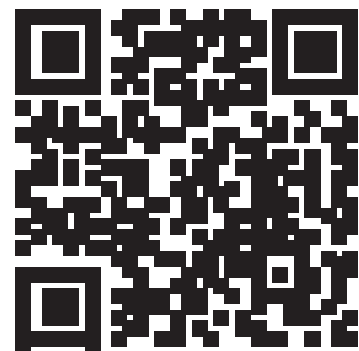
Children from both KS1 and KS2 will be coming home next week with information regarding a poetry competition that the whole school can take part in!

Deadline for entries is Monday 6th October



KS1

KS2



Scan me to watch
the video!

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



You are warmly invited to our
Macmillan coffee morning.

When: Friday 26th September
Time: 09:00 after worship

Who: Everyone is invited!
We look forward to seeing you
there!



FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

Your child may be eligible for FREE SCHOOL MEALS if you receive any of the following:

- Income support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child tax credit
- Working tax credit run-on
- ESA
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

If you believe that you are eligible, please tell the school!

DID YOU KNOW? The school receives additional funding for children who are in receipt of free school meals.



Could you be for eligible for free school meals? We would encourage all eligible parents to apply, even if your child is in reception/ year 1/ year 2 or prefers to bring a packed lunch. By applying, not only could your child receive a free meal every day, but the school also receives additional funding.

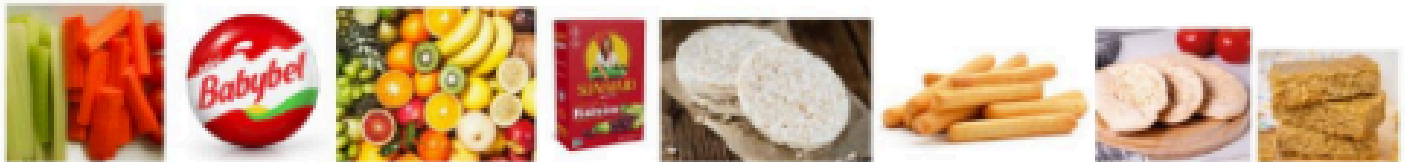
To check if you are eligible or to apply please follow this link

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx>



Snacks

Please encourage children to bring in healthy snacks full of vitamins and minerals containing no added salt, fat or sugar. Many of these will help contribute to their 5 daily portions of fruit and vegetables, keep them alert and help them concentrate. Children in EYFS and KS1 have a daily snack of fruit or veg provided for free by the government, so additional snacks for these ages may not be required. We are aiming for a common-sense style approach, with the key being to keep it healthy and no chocolate, sweets or crisps. Some ideas for snacks could include:



Packed Lunches

Although the Governors encourage parents to choose a school meal for their child, children are permitted to bring a packed lunch from home. However, sweets, chocolate, chewing gum and fizzy drinks are **not permitted** in school. We ask for your support in providing a balanced and nutritious lunch to support your child's learning and overall well-being.

For guidance and inspiration, the NHS offers a helpful resource on healthy lunchboxes, which you can access at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

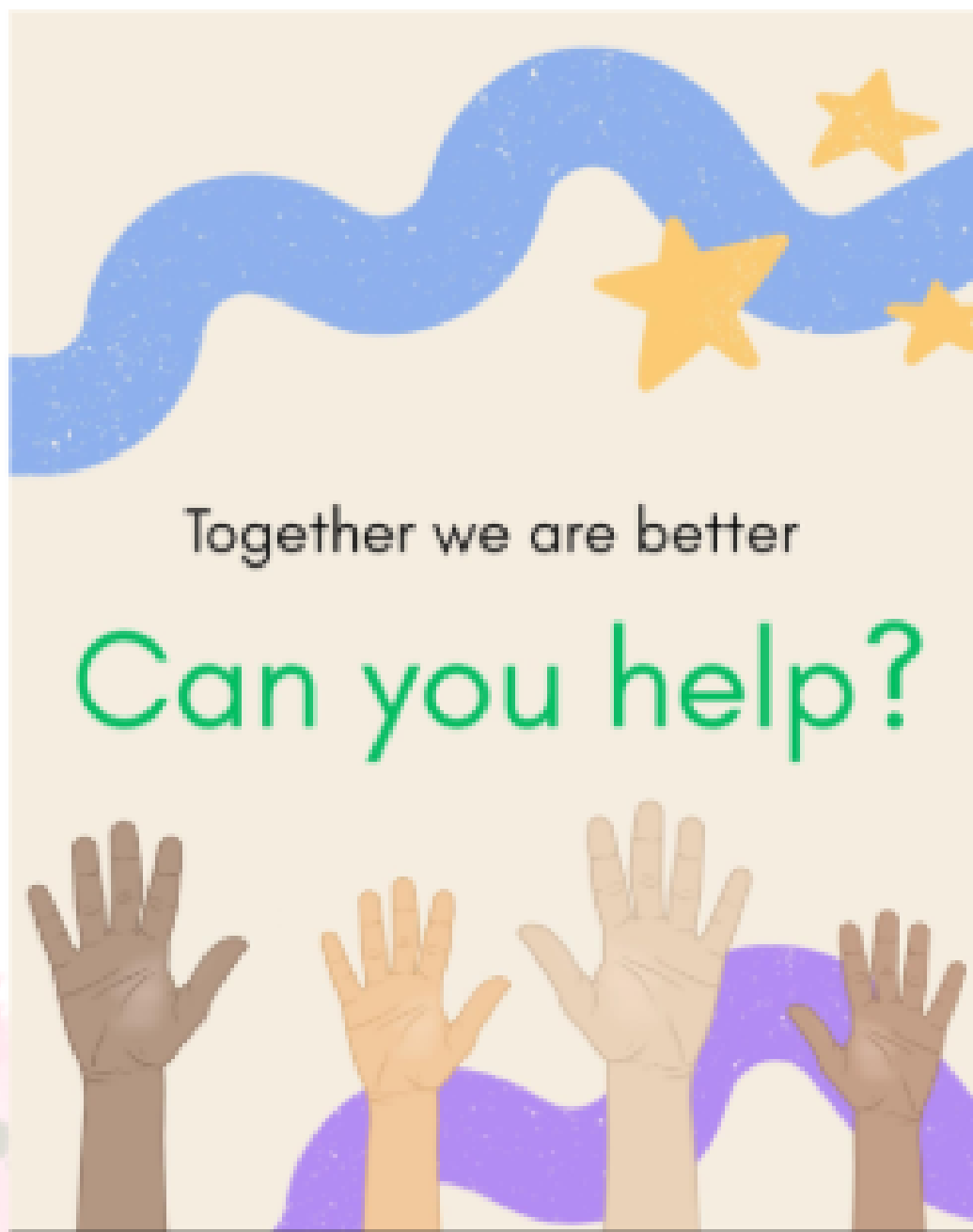
**Our PSA needs new members to be the best it can be
for the children at our school...**

Can you spare some time to see what it's all about?

**You don't need to be a part of every event, volunteer
as much or as little as works for you & your family.**

Join our facebook page for more info

**[https://www.facebook.com/share/197nL3fwmW/?
mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/share/197nL3fwmW/?mibextid=wwXlfr)**



CAMHS Open Day

Saturday 13th September 2025

9:30am - 12:30pm

Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre

Core
CAMHS

Mental
Health
Support
Teams

Partner
Agencies

CAMHS
Looked
After
Children



Come along to our open
day to find out more
about the services we
offer!

OPEN DAY

Free Entry

Saturday 13th September 2025
Sandyford Community Fire Station
10am-4pm

Demonstrations

Activities

Food

Fairground Rides



10-11am
Sensory friendly hour
There will be no flashing lights or sirens to accommodate neurodivergent members of the community.



www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
preventing • protecting • responding



**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'
C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY
Learning for life with Jesus



Article of the fortnight

Article 29 stresses that education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment. This is something we pride ourselves in at St. Thomas!





**Dear Lord,
Bless our children with eager minds
to learn and grow. Grant them the
courage to ask questions, confidence
to take on new challenges, and the
discipline to focus on their studies.**

Amen

