

St Thomas' CofE Academy



Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week it has been! The children have been full of energy and curiosity, embracing every learning opportunity with smiles and enthusiasm. Highlights of the week included a fantastic topic day in Year 4, lots of teamwork on the playground with our new playground games, and plenty of kindness being shown all around our school.

**Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Pierpoint**

Friday 10th October 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
Wed 22 nd Oct	PSA Glow disco 5:45-6:45 Rec, Y1 Y2 <u>7</u> -8pm Y3,4,5,6
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 - Year 3 and 4
Tues 11 th Nov	Year 6 outdoor learning day - WW2
Fri 14 th Nov	INSET DAY - School closed for children
Fri 21 st Nov	Year 2 visit to Ford Green Hall
Wed 10 th Dec	KS1 Nativity 1:30pm
Thurs 11 th Dec	KS1 Nativity 5:30pm
Mon 15 th Dec	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Wed 17 th Dec	EYFS Nativity 9:30am
Wed 17 th Dec	KS2 Carol service at St Thomas' Church 6pm

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

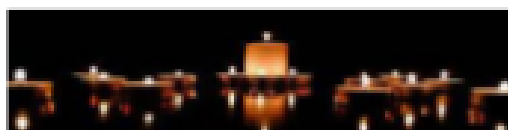


Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

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

Dates:

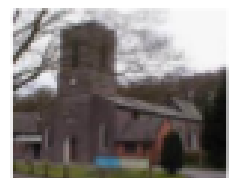
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 3
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 5
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 6
Tuesday 3 rd March	Year 4
Tuesday 28 th April	Year 2
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 1
Tuesday 7 th July	Nursery
& Reception together in school	



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



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

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)



Christmas at St Thomas'

You are warmly invited to celebrate with us

Wednesday 10th December

KS1 Nativity 13:30

Thursday 11th Dec

KS1 Nativity 17:30

Monday 15th Dec

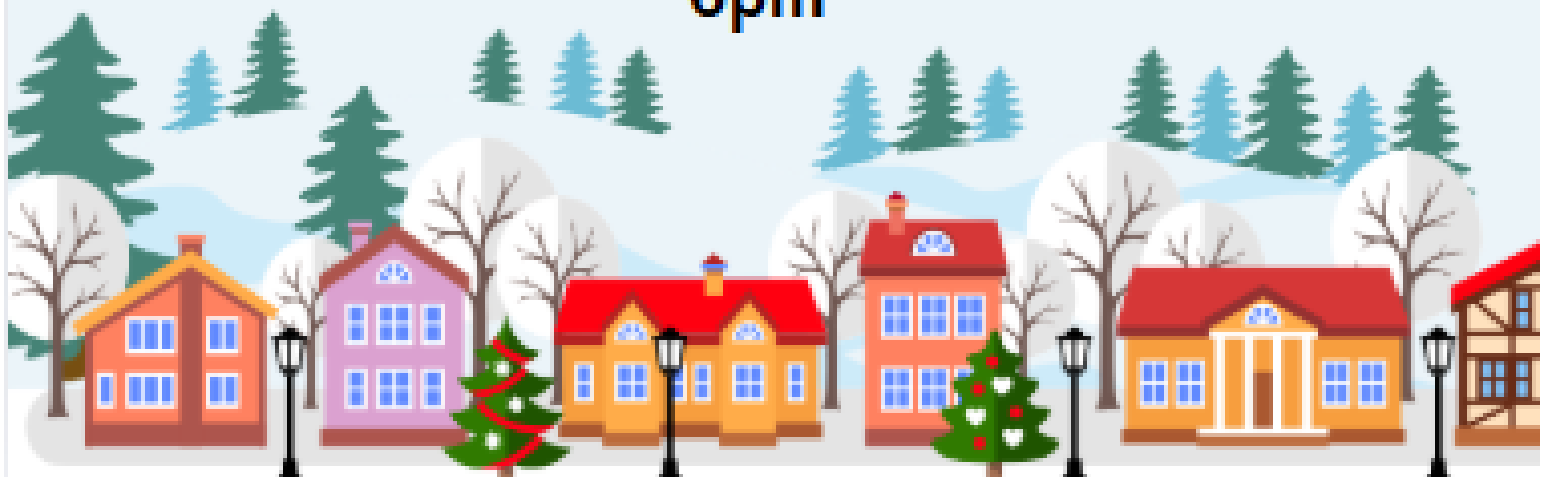
EYFS Nativity 2pm

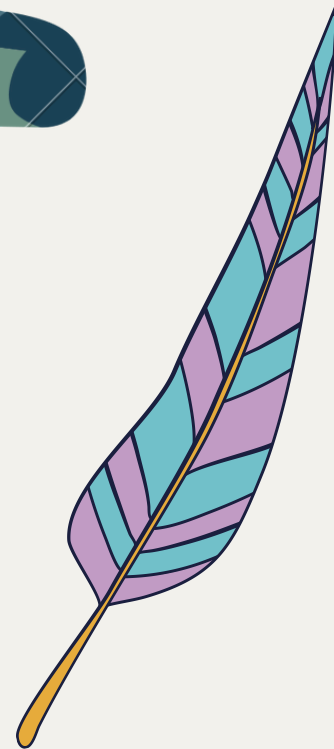
Wednesday 17th Dec

EYFS Nativity 9:30am

KS2 Carol Service at St Thomas' Church

6pm





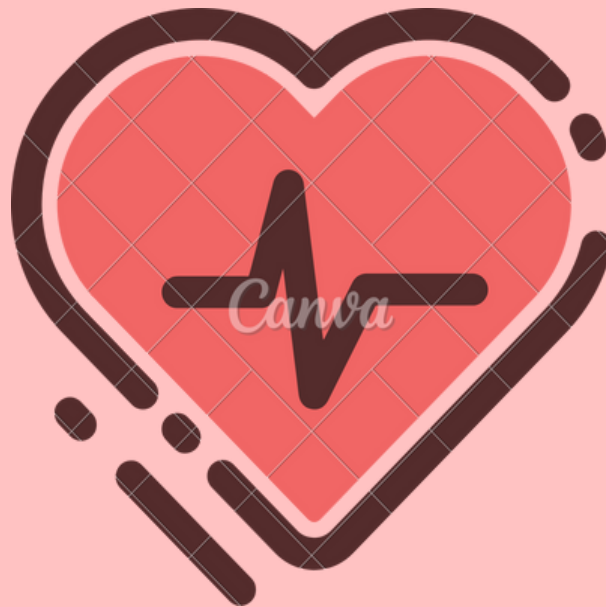
Last Friday we all took part in special workshops led by Jake from AS Creatives! The children got stuck in and showed off their brilliant creativity. They absolutely loved exploring the world of poetry

SPORTS STARS!

Our amazing Year 5/6 cross country team have once again shown just how brilliant they are – not just in their running, but in their outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship.



RESTART A HEART LIVE 2025



Last Wednesday KS2 children took part in the RESTART A HEART LIVE event. The aim of this nation wide project is to get 1 million people trained by 2027, where anyone, anywhere, can feel ready to save a life. We are so proud of our children for taking part in this cause!



Sip and support drop ins

St Thomas' now offer drop in sessions in school where parents and carers can speak to our Education Mental Health Practitioner about any concerns or questions they have. This may include questions around diet, sleep, routines, mental health and support services available.

When:

Fri 17th Oct 09:30am

Fri 28th Nov 09:30am

Fri 9th Jan 09:30am

Hannah will be available in the Haven for a chat during the coffee morning on the above dates. Everyone welcome!



SWIMMING

A background image of blue water with a diamond-patterned tile grid. In the top right corner, there are several yellow rubber ducks. One duck has the word 'Canva' written on its side.

LESSONS

We're excited to announce the return of our on-site swimming pool from 13th–24th October! All children in Years 2–6 will have the chance to swim during this time. Swimming is a key part of the PE curriculum, and we're thrilled to offer this opportunity once again!

Please see letters and individual class dojo pages for swimming timetable reminders.

Stronger Starts

Our recent application to the Tesco Stronger Starts programme has been successful and our project has been selected to go forward for the customer vote in local Tesco stores.

Voting will take place in store from the first week of October 2025 until mid-January 2026. If our project receives the most votes in the region, we could be awarded up to £1,500 in funding! Second place could receive up to £1,000 and third place £500 – all of which would make a huge difference to our school and pupils.

How you can help:

We would love your support in spreading the word and encouraging friends and family to vote for our project when shopping at any of the following Tesco stores:

- Sandyford Express – ST6 5EL
- Kidsgrove Superstore – ST7 1DX
- Audley Express – ST7 8EE
- Fegg Hayes Express – ST6 6SH

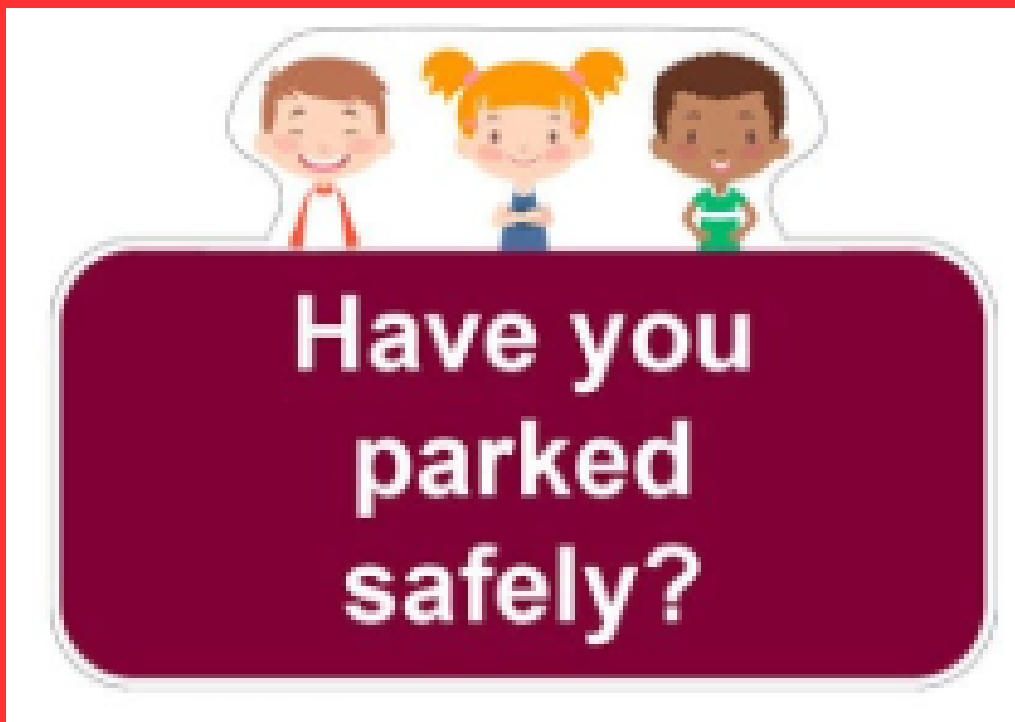
School streets -
Your voice
matters!



Please scan the QR code and give your positive or constructive feedback on the school streets project that took place on Tuesday 30th September.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support on the day. So many of you agreed and felt it was a great initiative to keep our children safe!

<https://letstalk.staffordshire.gov.uk/st-thomas-cofe-primary-academy-school/surveys/school-streets1121>



Recently, we have noticed an increase in cars being parked on yellow lines and on the school drive. These practices not only create congestion but also pose a significant safety risk to our pupils, families, and staff. Parking is not allowed on the school car park unless you have a blue badge or school parking permit in order to keep the children safe.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to:

Avoid parking on or near corners, crossings, and double yellow lines.

Refrain from stopping in the middle of the road, even briefly, to drop off children.

Drive slowly and remain alert for pedestrians, especially during busy times.

Show courtesy to residents and other drivers by avoiding blocked driveways and ensuring access for emergency vehicles.

Autumn term parents evenings will be Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October. Appointments will be available between 3:30 and 6:45pm.

We will be following the same format as last year with longer appointments over 2 evenings. School will again be open for you to walk around and books available in the classrooms.

Appointments will be bookable via Arbor and these will go live at 8pm on Thursday 2nd October.



GLOW

PARTY

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT FANTASTIC
PSA EVENT!

Wednesday 22nd October

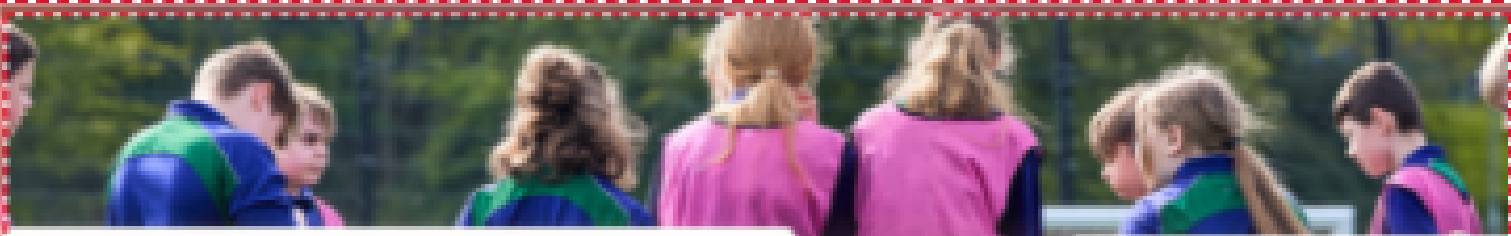
Reception, Year 1 & 2

5:45-6:45

Year 3,4,5,6

7-8pm

More details to follow!



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.



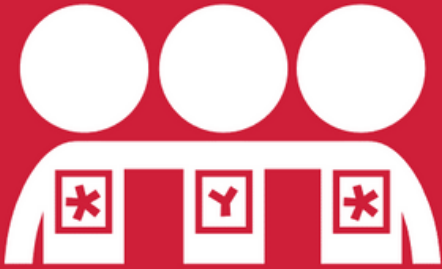
Could you be for eligible for free school meals? We would encourage all eligible parents to apply, even if your child is in reception/ year 1/ year 2 or prefers to bring a packed lunch. By applying, not only could your child receive a free meal every day, but the school also receives additional funding.

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>



30



MINORITY CULTURE,
LANGUAGE AND
RELIGION

Black History Month takes place in October every year and is a celebration of key figures and events in Black history.

2



NO DISCRIMINATION

Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM



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



**Gracious Lord, as we join all over the world to celebrate this year's black history month, help us to cultivate a deep love, forgiveness and compassion for one another, cherishing the unique qualities we are made of and seeking to understand one another through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

