

# **St Thomas' CofE Academy**



**Dear Parents,**

**As we come to the end of a busy and productive half term, I want to thank you all for your continued support. The children have worked incredibly hard and shown great enthusiasm in their learning – we are very proud of their achievements.**

**I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest over the break. Please take the opportunity to spend time together, relax, and recharge ready for the exciting term ahead.**

**We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November,**

**Mrs Pierpoint**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

# ‘Learning for life with Jesus’

## Dates for your diary:

Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School closes for half term
Half term Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	School reopens for staff and children
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Reception and Y6 height and weight checks
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Visit from Author Alan Blank
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	PSA Non uniform day in exchange for a bottle
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Barclays roadshow - Year 3 and 4
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Anti-bullying week begins
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 6 outdoor learning day - WW2
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Non uniform day in exchange for chocolate
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	INSET DAY - School closed for children
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Flu immunisations Rec -Y6
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Year 2 visit to Ford Green Hall
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Christmas Fayre 5:30-7:30pm
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Nativity 1:30pm
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Nativity 5:30pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS Nativity 09:30am
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Carol service at St Thomas' Church 6pm
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas dinner day

# 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 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 6
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5
TUESDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery

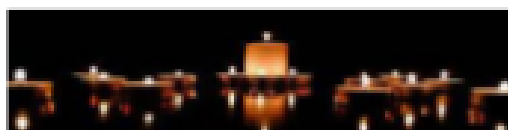


# Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

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

## Dates:

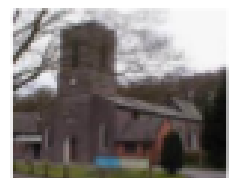
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 4
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 2
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 1
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery
& Reception together in school	



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

### Dates: Autumn 2

Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 1
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<u>INSET DAY</u>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Nursery
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 2
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 4
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Eco and School Council
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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

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

## Spring Term 2026

Spring Term One	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>INSET</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>
Spring Term Two	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>INSET</b>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>

# Term dates 2025/2026

## Summer Term 2026

Summer term one      Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

May Day                Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Half Term              Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Summer term two      Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

*INSET DAY*            *Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (Twilights)*

Summer Holiday      Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026

*(2026/2027 academic year commences on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026)*



# **Christmas at St Thomas'**

**You are warmly invited to celebrate with us**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**KS1 Nativity 13:30**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**KS1 Nativity 17:30**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec**

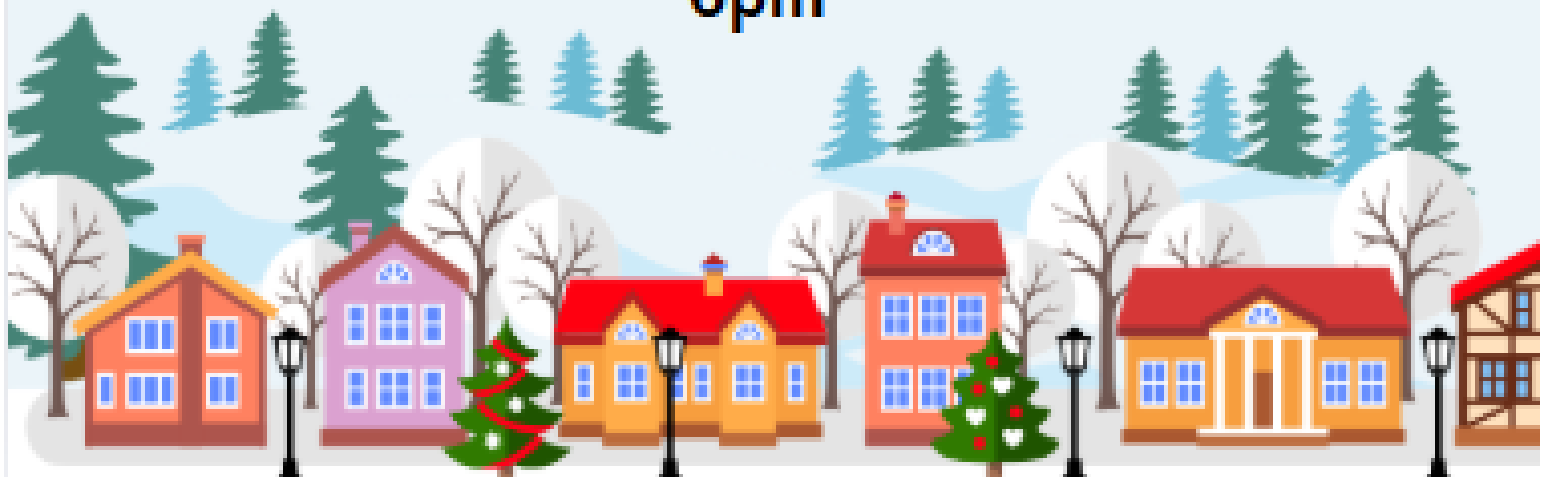
**EYFS Nativity 2pm**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**EYFS Nativity 9:30am**

**KS2 Carol Service at St Thomas' Church**

**6pm**



# 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 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 09:30am**

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Early help team**

**drop in**

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 09:30am**

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





JOIN US FOR OUR

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
NOVEMBER

5:30PM - 7:30PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



**What a fantastic finish to the cross country season! Our Year 5/6 team took part in their final race at Dove Bank and we couldn't be prouder of them.**

**They've been absolutely brilliant throughout the whole season. They have had a fantastic attitude every step of the way. They've represented our school with pride, resilience and true sportsmanship.**





**T** Teach | Training  
First | Partner

# TEACH WITH PURPOSE, INSPIRE FOR LIFE!

*Apply now to train to teach in your local area with Three Spires Trust.*

To learn more visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

# Stronger Starts

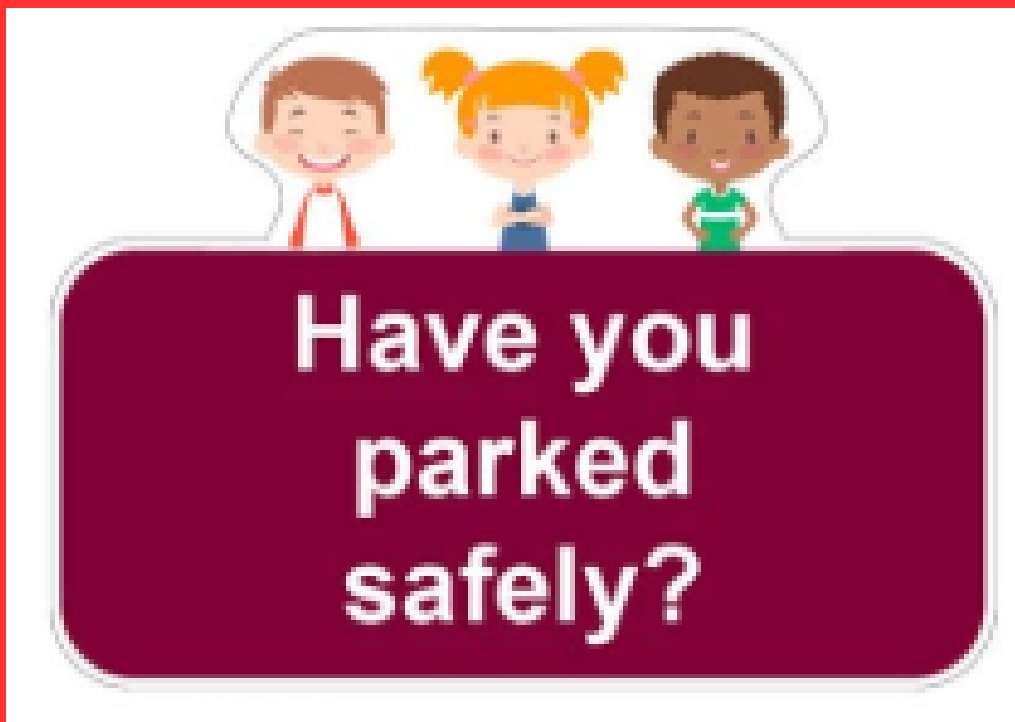
Our recent application to the Tesco Stronger Starts programme has been successful and our project has been selected to go forward for the customer vote in local Tesco stores.

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



**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.**

## ROBLOX Child Safety Settings

To set up parental controls on Roblox and ensure your child has a safe and age-appropriate experience, follow these steps:

### Step 1: Link Your Parent Account

1. Log into your child's Roblox account (Has to be a child's D.O.B).
2. Navigate to **Settings** (gear icon).
3. Select **Parental Controls**.
4. Click **Add Parent Account**.
5. Follow the prompts to create or link your parent account.

### Step 2: Set Up Parental Controls

Once your parent account is linked, you can manage various settings:

#### 1. Communication Settings

- Go to **Parental Controls > Communication**.
- Adjust who can chat with your child in experiences and via direct messages. Options include:
  - **Everyone**
  - **Friends**
  - **No one**
- For users under 13, default settings are more restrictive.

#### 2. Content Restrictions

- Navigate to **Parental Controls > Content Restrictions**.
- Set the **Content Maturity** level appropriate for your child:
  - **Minimal**
  - **Mild**
  - **Moderate**
  - **Restricted**
- You can also block specific experiences by adding them to the **Blocked Experiences** list.

## Minecraft Child Safety Settings

Minecraft itself doesn't have a big built-in "parental control" menu but depending on how your child plays (Java Edition, Bedrock/Windows, or console), you can manage what they can do through a mix of Microsoft account family settings, platform parental controls, and server/world settings.

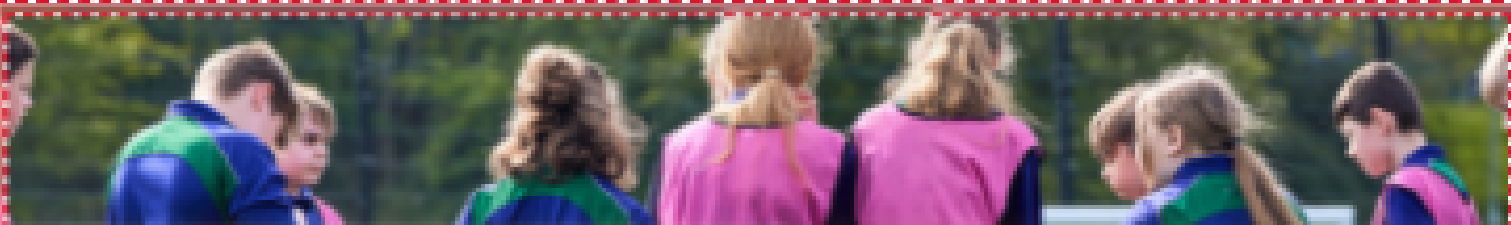
### Bedrock Edition (Windows, iOS, Android, Xbox, PlayStation, Switch)

- **Microsoft Family Safety**
  - Log into your child's Microsoft account via [family.microsoft.com](https://family.microsoft.com).
  - You can set:
    - Screen time limits.
    - Spending limits (requires adult approval for purchases).
    - Restrictions on joining multiplayer/Realms.
    - Restrictions on adding friends.
- **Xbox/Console Parental Controls**
  - Each console (Xbox, PlayStation, Switch) has its own parental settings that allow you to:
    - Restrict online play.
    - Control voice/text chat.
    - Block joining servers or Realms.
    - Limit age-rated content.

### Java Edition (PC/Mac)

Java doesn't have built-in parental settings, so you'll need to manage through:

- **Server settings:** If your child plays on your own hosted server, you can whitelist who's allowed to join, disable chat, or use plugins/mods to filter messages.
- **Launcher account:** Java Edition is tied to a Microsoft account now, so you can still apply Microsoft Family Safety rules (e.g. screen time, purchase approval).
- **Chat reporting:** Mojang added reporting and chat filters—strong language and personal info can be filtered automatically if enabled in account settings.



# 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.**





**Loving God, thank you for this term.**

**Thank you for our learning, our friendships, and all the fun we have had.**

**We ask you to bless our families as we spend time together over the half term break. Please keep us all safe and give us time to rest and play, so that we can return to school refreshed and ready for more learning.**

**Amen**

