

St Thomas' CofE Academy



Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a restful half-term break and enjoyed some quality time together. It has been a wonderful start to the second half of our autumn term, and it's been lovely to see the children return to school full of enthusiasm, curiosity, and energy for learning.

Over the past two weeks, classrooms have been buzzing with activity as pupils have settled quickly back into routines and embraced new topics across the curriculum. From creative writing and problem-solving in maths, to exciting experiments and art projects, there has been a real sense of purpose and joy in learning.

As a reminder, school is closed to children tomorrow for our INSET day. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 17th November.

Mrs Pierpoint

Thursday 13th November 2025

‘Learning for life with Jesus’

Dates for your diary:

Fri 24 th Oct	School closes for half term
Half term Mon 27 th Oct – Fri 31 st 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
Fri 7 th Nov	PSA Non uniform day in exchange for a bottle
Mon 10 th Nov	Barclays roadshow - Year 3 and 4
Mon 10 th Nov	Anti-bullying week begins
Tues 11 th Nov	Year 6 outdoor learning day - WW2
Tues 11 th Nov	Non uniform day in exchange for chocolate
Fri 14 th Nov	INSET DAY - School closed for children
Wed 19 th Nov	Flu immunisations Rec -Y6
Fri 21 st Nov	Year 2 visit to Ford Green Hall
Fri 21 st Nov	Christmas Fayre 5:30-7:30pm
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 09:30am
Wed 17 th Dec	KS2 Carol service at St Thomas' Church 6pm
Thurs 18 th 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 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

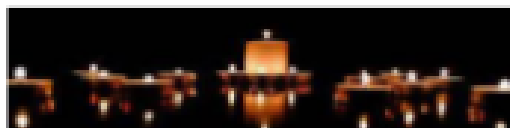


Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

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

Dates:

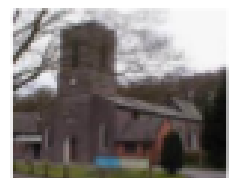
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 3
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 5
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 6
Tuesday 3 rd March	Year 4
Tuesday 28 th April	Year 2
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 1
Tuesday 7 th July	Nursery & Reception together in school



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	<i>Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025</i>
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	<i>Friday 14th November 2025</i>
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	<i>Friday 20th March 2026</i>
Holiday	Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

Term dates 2025/2026

Summer Term 2026

Summer term one Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 22nd May 2026

May Day Monday 4th May 2026

Half Term Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026

Summer term two Monday 1st June 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAY *Monday 20th July 2026 (Twilights)*

Summer Holiday Tuesday 21st July 2026 – Monday 31st 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

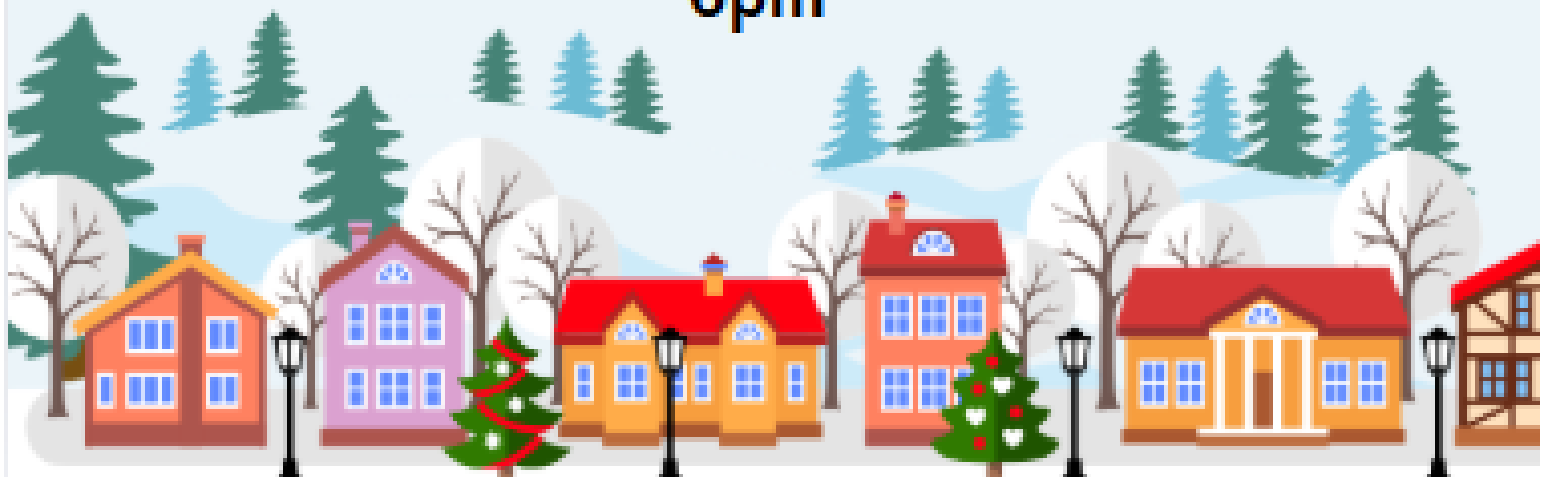
EYFS Nativity 2pm

Wednesday 17th Dec

EYFS Nativity 9:30am

KS2 Carol Service at St Thomas' Church

6pm



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 28th Nov 09:30am

Fri 5th Dec - Early help team

drop in

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!



On Sunday we remembered all of the soldiers who fought for our freedom.

Lest We Forget.

Thank you to our wonderful children and staff who represented St Thomas' so beautifully on this very important day.

* Can you be an early bird?



What a fantastic start to our 'Early Bird' initiative this week! Children are wearing their special stickers with pride and running through the doors at 8:40, eager to announce that they are EARLY BIRDS!

Thank you to parents and carers for your support in getting children to school on time each day.



To kick start Anti bullying week in style and to celebrate everyone's individuality, we invited all pupils to come to school wearing odd socks on Monday.



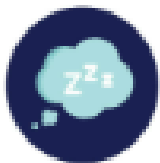


TYPE 1 DIABETES IS DANGEROUS IF NOT DIAGNOSED IN TIME

KNOW THE 4T EARLY WARNING SIGNS



TOILET



TIRED



THINNER



THIRSTY

If you notice these
signs, see your doctor
immediately

Friday 14th
November is
National Diabetes
awareness day.
This is close to our
hearts as a school
community and we
will be raising
awareness of this
condition
throughout school
to learn how to
support each
other.

diabetes
now & next



1300 342 238
diabetesnow.com.au





Children in Need

At BBC Children in Need, we fund vital support for children and young people struggling with challenges caused by mental health, poverty, social inequality and family-related issues.

If you would like to donate, please click the link below. Thank you!

<https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk>

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

PSA

Newsletter



- **Non uniform day:** 07/11/2025
 - Bottle Donation for Fayre
- **Non Uniform Day:** 11/11/2025
 - Chocolate Donation for Fayre

collected by entrance on the morning of.

- **Bric-a-Brac:** please kindly donate any unwanted toys, teddies, items and bring this into the office between 3-19th November
- **Bag Competition:** to be decorated with a Christmas theme or hobby. Filled with contents to the value of £1. Please return by 20/11/2025
- **Christmas Fayre:** 21/11/2025 5:30pm
- **Christmas Panto:** 19/12/2025 2pm



Join our Facebook Page * PSA - St Thomas' C of E* for all the latest news on all the fundraising we do to help our school and enhance our children's school experience. New PSA members always welcome.

Christmas Fayre

As always our staff and parents host an evening full of festive fun with lots of games, tombolas, raffles, stalls and of course a visit to Santa in his grotto.

Grab a hot dog or just snacks at the refreshment stall in the community room before making your way around the activities spread out through the hall, library and classrooms.

If you would like to donate any raffle prizes, bake some treats, or would like to kindly help out on the night please speak to ladies in the office, or get in touch with us via our Facebook page PSA - St Thomas' C of E Academy.

2026 Events

Feb: Glow disco 04/02/26

March: Mother's day gift stall 11/03/2026
1-4p. Easter treasure hunt 25/03/2026
3-4pm

April: Break the rule day 14/04/2026

May: Disco 20/05/2026

June: Father's day gift stall 17/06/2026.
Summer fayre 05/06/2026 3:30-5:30pm

Non uniform days for summer fayre TBC.



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



**Remembrance unites people of all faiths,
cultures and backgrounds in honouring
those who defend our democratic freedom
and way of life.**



Article 38

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.





O Lord our God,
as we remember those who
have died in conflict
teach us the ways of peace.



As we learn from past mistakes,
teach us to hope.



As we give thanks for the
sacrifices of the past,
help us to make your future in
this world.
Amen.

