

St Thomas' CofE

Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout what has been another busy and exciting term. It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us, and I'm sure you're all feeling the excitement as we look forward to the festive break.

I'd like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our staff for their dedication, passion, and commitment to providing the very best education and care for your children. Our PSA has also worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to organise various events that have brought our school community closer together, and we truly appreciate their efforts.

In this final newsletter of the term, you'll find highlights from our Christmas events, as well as a few reminders to help us wrap up the year smoothly. Please take a moment to read through the updates, and we look forward to continuing our shared journey in the New Year.

On behalf of all the staff here at St Thomas', I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful and joyful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, ready for another exciting term ahead.

Mrs Pierpoint

Friday 19th December 2025

‘Learning for life with Jesus’

Dates for your diary:

Mon 5 th Jan	School opens for Staff and Children - Spring term
Fri 9 th Jan	Sip and support drop in 9:30am
Fri 9 th Jan	Year 5 MHST workshop
Mon 12 th Jan	Year 6 Tween safety workshops begin
Wed 14 th Jan	My Bnk workshops - KS2
Wed 14 th Jan	Young voices - Choir
Wed 14 th Jan	STEM enrichment day at The Kings - Year 5
Thurs 15 th Jan	Year 1 topic launch day
Thurs 15 th Jan	Year 5 Author visit
Fri 16 th Jan	Year 2 topic launch day
Wed 21 st Jan	My Bnk workshops - KS2
Tues 27 th Jan	Year 5/6 Netball at Keele
Tues 27 th Jan	Year 4 Viking workshop
Wed 28 th Jan	My Bnk workshops - KS2
Wed 4 th Feb	Children's mental health workshops
Thurs 5 th Feb	Yr 5 Safe and sound workshop (Newcastle Fire Station)
Fri 6 th Feb	Eco Council outside project begins with Harper Adams
Mon 9 th Feb	Year 6 Bikeability all week
Fri 13 th Feb	School closes for half term
Half term 16th Feb - 20th Feb	
Mon 23 rd Feb	School closed for INSET day
Fri 26 th Feb	Careers Fair at the King's Y6 to attend
Tues 3 rd March	Netball at Keele Y5/6
Mon 16 th March - Tuesday 17 th March	Year 3 residential to Stanley Head
Wed 18 th March	Visit to Parliament
Fri 20 th March	School closed for INSET day
Tues 24 th March	Dance show at The Victoria Hall

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 Spring term SHINE workshops - all of our Spring terms events will have a Geography/Sustainability 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 work of our Eco Council.

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

Dates:

Monday 19 th January	Year 5
Monday 26 th January	Year 2
Monday 2 nd February	Year 1
Monday 9 th February	Year 4
Tuesday 24 th February	Nursery
Monday 2 nd March	Reception
Monday 9 th March	Year 3
Monday 16 th March	Year 6

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 27th January	Year 6
Tuesday 3rd 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: Spring 1

Friday 9 th Jan	Year 4
Friday 16 th Jan	Year 3
Friday 23 rd Jan	Nursery
Friday 30 th Jan	Reception
Friday 6 th Feb	Year 5
Friday 13 th Feb	SEND/MHST

Dates: Spring 2

Friday 27 th Feb	Year 6
Friday 6 th Mar	Year 2
Friday 13 th Mar	Year 1
<u>Friday 20th Mar</u>	<u>INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED</u>
Friday 27 th Mar	No coffee morning today

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 22 nd December 2025 – Friday 2 nd 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 30 th March 2026 – Friday 10 th 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)

Sip and Support drop ins

St Thomas' 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 9th Jan 09:30am

Fri 6th Feb 09:30am

Fri 6th March 09:30am

Fri 17th April 09:30am

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



CHRISTMAS AT ST THOMAS'

A huge well done to all of the children who took part in a Nativity or Carol service. Children from as young as 2 and as old as 11 put on fantastic shows, learnt their lines and taught us the true meaning of Christmas. We are incredibly proud of you all!



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St Thomas' Choir!

We are incredibly proud of our St Thomas Choir. This term they have represented the school at:

- The Victoria Hall Festival of Christmas event
- Kidsgrove does Christmas
- The Meadows Care Home
- Royal Stoke University Hospital
- The KS2 Christmas Carol service

We cannot wait to see you perform at Young Voices in January!





A huge well done to our
musicians for all of their
hardwork in music
lessons this term!

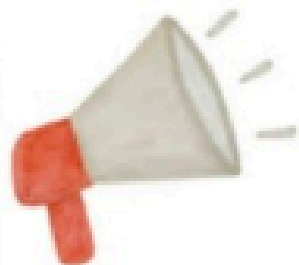
It was lovely to hear you
play in Worship this
week!

Eco News!

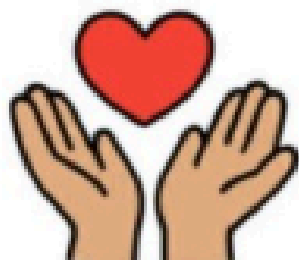
Meet the Eco team!



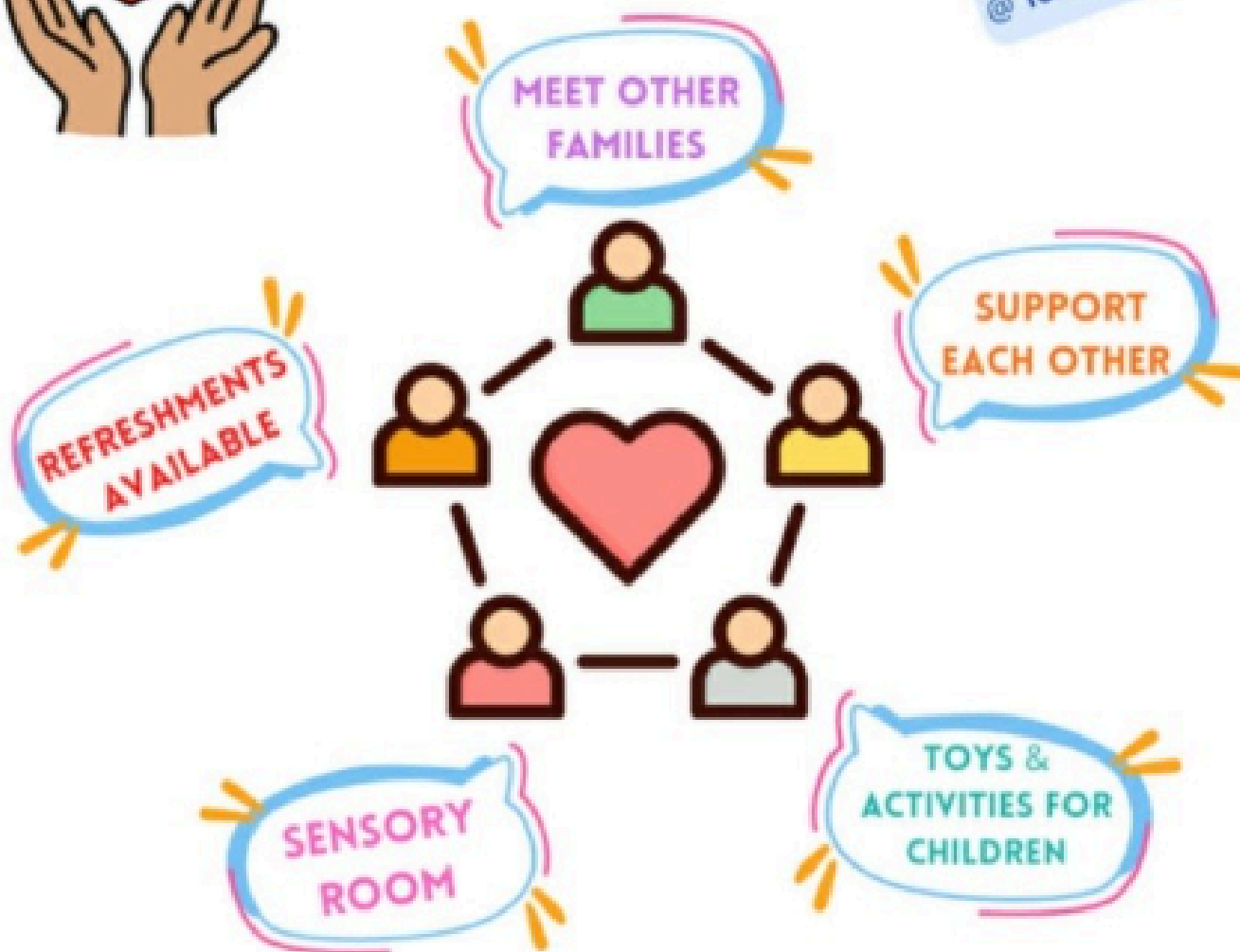
WE WORKED WITH HARPER ADAMS TO CREATE A NEW ECO MISSION STATEMENT!



JOIN US FOR OUR SUPPORT GROUP FOR SEND CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS & FAMILIES



EVERY OTHER
SATURDAY
@ 10AM - 12PM



NEWCASTLE FAMILY HUB
CEMETERY ROAD
NEWCASTLE UNDER-LYME
ST5 6DH



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK
GROUP HERE!





If your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027, it's time to apply for their school place for next September!

We are excited to welcome our new Reception starters and would love you to consider joining our school community. To find out more about what makes our school amazing, visit our website:
<https://www.stthomascofeacademy.org/>

Applications must be made via your local authority:
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/.../Apply/Overview.aspx...>

If you need any help with your application, please contact Mrs Taylor in our school office on 01782 787099 or
office@stthomascofeprimaryacademy.org

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.



On 10th December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

This important moment in human history is now remembered on that date every year and is known as **Human Rights Day**.

All children have the same human rights as adults. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the additional rights that all children have until the age of 18.





Dear God,

As we transition from school to the Christmas holidays, we thank you for this time of rest and fun, but also for the opportunity to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth.

Help us to remember that Advent is a time of waiting and welcoming. May we find quiet moments to hear your voice amidst the excitement.

Bless our families and friends as we celebrate. May the hope, peace, and joy of Christ fill our holidays, so that when we return to school, we are renewed in your love.

Amen

