



## Diary Dates

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Coffee morning - all invited
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	National story telling week. All classrooms open from 8:40 - 9:00am. Please come and share a story with your child(ren).
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 trip - Science and Industry Museum
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 6 SATS information evening - 6pm.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Reception coffee morning 9am
WC 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	National safer internet day.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 trip - Catalyst science and discovery centre
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	PSA school disco Reception/ Years 1/2/3 are 6-7pm Years 4/5/6 are 7:15pm - 8:15pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1/2 coffee morning 9am
WC 12 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Fire station workshop (in school) Y1/2/3
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening 3:40 - 7:30pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 2/3 coffee morning 9am
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 4 coffee morning 9am
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 coffee morning 9am
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 coffee morning 9am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Nursery coffee morning 9am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	School finishes for Easter.
WC 25 <sup>th</sup> March & 1 <sup>st</sup> April	EASTER HOLIDAYS

## Welcome

Welcome everyone to our Spring term. Two weeks in and Mr Lewis and I are delighted by all of the children's hard work and enthusiasm for their learning. Every time we visit classes, we are really impressed by the children's attitude to learning and their enthusiasm for all subjects. There is a 'buzz' as you enter each classroom and this can be felt throughout school.

We would both like to thank all children, staff, families and the wider community for our very warm welcome. Please say hello to us on the playground. Please do come and talk to us and let us know if there is anything we can do to further support.

## Educational trips and visits.

Taking the children out of the classroom to further develop and consolidate their learning is really important. With this in mind, we are currently planning external trips and visits for all classes to take place this term. Y4 and Y6 are already booked. For all other year groups please look out for your letters coming soon. All trips are payable via Parent Pay.

## National Storytelling Week - WC 29<sup>th</sup> January

Reading is important to every child, whether we are 'learning to read' or 'reading to learn.' We want every child to develop a pure love of reading and celebrate this at every opportunity. We would like to invite parents/ carers/ grandparents into school between 8:40 and 9.00am every morning (within this week) to share a story with their child(ren). During this week teachers will be visiting a mystery class to share a story and I will be sharing some of my favourite stories with the different classes throughout the week.

**Parking** Please can everyone be mindful when parking their cars before and after school. Cars need to avoid parking on the yellow zig zag lines, this is to ensure everyone's safety. We know parking can be difficult, that is why we have a 10-minute window at the start and end of the day for you to bring and collect your children from school. Morning drop off between 8:40am and 8:50am, end of day collection between 3:15pm and 3:25pm. Please can people be very mindful not to block driveways to residents houses as they need to be able to freely get in and out of their homes.

### Friday worship and coffee mornings

We would like to warmly invite everyone to attend our Friday worship which is lead by St Thomas' church. Please come and join the children in worship and then stay for a tea/coffee. Each week different classes will be joining the coffee morning to share their work with you and achievements they are proud of. Please see dairy dates for when each year group will be joining you.



### PSA Disco



Our wonderful PSA have organised a school disco for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Reception/ Y1/2/3 is 6-7pm Y4/5/6 is 7:15pm - 8:15pm

Cost is £1.50 per child, payable on the door. There will be a tuck shop with snacks and drinks available on the night.

### Attendance Award

At St Thomas' we know that every moment matters and we want to support our children to be the very best they can be. We want to help celebrate their attendance in school and with this in mind we have introduced our weekly attendance award. This will be awarded in celebration every Thursday to the class with the highest weekly attendance. The winning class will host 'Thomas the bear'. Thomas will spend a week with the winning class and participate in their learning. Our winners so far with a very impressive 99.5% (for two consecutive weeks) are year 2/3.

Can Y2/3 be beaten?



### After school clubs,

Staff ran afterschool clubs will recommence from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. We have some new and exciting clubs coming your way over the remainder of this year including: illustrator club, Blue Peter reading club, choir, eco fashion club and many more. Letters with next half terms clubs will be out soon. ASM are running paid afterschool clubs on a Tuesday and a Friday between now and Easter. Please sign up using the following link: [www.asmsports.co.uk](http://www.asmsports.co.uk) Mr Case is continuing his dance club, this is for current participants only as they are mid-way through a routine for a dance show in March. Please pay via Parent Pay.

### Young Voices



A huge well done to every member of our Young Voices choir; they were excellent ambassadors for St Thomas'. Please see our school dojo for pictures and videos. A huge thank you to Mrs Swift and all the staff that helped organise the event, support and prepare the children.

Worship Focus At St Thomas we are very proud of our values and mission, we want to ensure that all our families are embracing our mission and 'learning for life with Jesus.' We have 5 key values that we promote as a school: Trust, Celebration, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Fairness. Throughout the school year we spend time as a school focusing on each value in turn, this term we are focusing on forgiveness. Throughout our different worship assemblies we are looking at how important it is to forgive and be forgiven. We have looked at Bible stories and how these teach us the different ways Jesus wants us to live. So far we have looked in details about how the message of forgiveness is shared through Jonah and the Whale and the Parable of the two sons.



Mrs McNicholas has painted us a wonderful mural in our KS2 corridor to help us to remember this important value.



### OFSTED

Our OFSTED report has now been published. Please click on this link to read <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50237747>

*"St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy continues to be a good school."*

*"St Thomas'... is a warm and welcoming school where all staff promote the school's inclusive and Christian values". And that "Pupils say that they are happy and that they feel safe."*

*"Pupils are keen to find out about new things and contribute well during their lessons. They have positive attitudes to learning."*