



Diary Dates ****New additions in red****

WC 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 th February	National Safer Internet Day.
Wednesday 7 th February	Y6 trip - Catalyst Science and Discovery Centre
Thursday 8 th February	PSA school disco Reception/ Years 1/2/3 are 6-7pm Years 4/5/6 are 7:15pm - 8:15pm
Friday 9 th February	Year 1/2 coffee morning 9am
WC 12 th February	HALF TERM
Monday 19 th February	School reopens
Tuesday 20 th February	Fire station workshop (in school) Y1/2/3
Tuesday 20 th February	Parents Evening 3:40 - 7:30pm
Wednesday 21 st February	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 3
Friday 23 rd February	Year 2/3 coffee morning 9am
Wednesday 28 th February	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 2
Friday 1 st March	Year 4 coffee morning 9am
Monday 4 th March	Year 5 trip Blue Planet Aquarium
Monday 4 th March	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 6
Wednesday 6 th March	6pm - Reception/ Year 1/2/3 Phonics and reading information evening.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day - Dress up/ Pyjama day
Friday 8 th March	Year 5 coffee morning 9am
Friday 8 th March	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 1
Monday 11 th March	Year 1/2/3 trip - Legoland Manchester
Tuesday 12 th March	Inspire session at St Thomas' Church - Year 6 1:30pm
Wednesday 13 th March	SHINE PSHE workshop - Reception
Friday 15 th March	Year 6 coffee morning 9am
Monday 18 th March	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 5
Tuesday 19 th March	SHINE PSHE workshop - Year 4
Friday 22 nd March	Nursery coffee morning 9am
Friday 22 nd March	School finishes for Easter.
WC 25 th March & 1 st April	EASTER HOLIDAYS

Children's Mental Health Week - My Voice

Matters. This week marks national Children's Mental Health week. The theme for this year is 'My Voice Matters.' We feel that it is really important for children have a voice and feel confident in using it to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions. All children should feel their voice is important and that it will be listened too. To help support this we have installed a children's 'suggestion box' near the hall. Children are able to post their thoughts and ideas on how we can make St Thomas' even better for them. We want our children's voices to be the driving force behind decisions and for them to feel safe, secure, valued and listened too.

After school clubs

All afterschool clubs ran by school staff will start again from Monday 19th February. Please return all slips by **Wednesday 7th February**. Mrs Taylor will then return the slips by the end of the week letting you know which clubs you have been allocated for after half term.

National Storytelling Week -

We had a wonderful time celebrating National Storytelling Week. We had a very special visitor in school who enthralled us all in the joy of stories and taught us how to create a story from just 5 words! Mr Barrett had us all hooked with his exciting stories and magical way, captivating our imaginations. In addition to this we had a 'teacher swap' and a 'buddy read', even Mrs Williamson came back to say hello and share a story. However, the best part of the week had to be the parent/ carer story time at the beginning of the day. Thank you to everyone who was able to come and share a story with your child/ children. We hope to do something similar later in the year.

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 resident's houses as they need to be able to freely get in and out of their homes.

Year 4 trip - Manchester Museum

On Tuesday 30th January, Year 4 were the first class to go on their exciting school trip. Miss Haycock took them to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. All of Year 4 had a wonderful time and were able to expand their learning from inside the classroom. A very big well done to all members of year 4 for their outstanding behaviour whilst out. They represented St Thomas' beautifully.



Parent Pay

Please ensure you clear any outstanding payment items via ParentPay by Friday 9th February. If you require support in making payments, please contact Mr Timmis to arrange a discussion - office@stthomascofeacademy.org.



World Book Day - 7th March 2024

We would like to give advanced notice that World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March 2024. We will be celebrating this at St Thomas' throughout the week. On Thursday 7th March we invite children to come into school either: Dressed up as their favourite character from a book. (No football strips please.) If they can bring the books with them that the character comes from that would be excellent. (but not a necessity) **OR** Come in Pyjamas and bring their favourite bedtime story to share with their peers.

We are really looking forward to lots of exciting learning opportunities throughout this week to continue to enhance the love of reading.

PSA Disco *REMINDER*



Our wonderful PSA have organised a school disco for Thursday 8th 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.

Free School Meals

If you meet certain low income criteria then your child may be entitled to free school meals and other support. For more information and to apply online visit: [Apply online - Free School Meals - Staffordshire County Council](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

If you would like support with your application, please contact Mr Timmis - office@stthomascofeacademy.org



Safer Internet Day - 6th February

Tuesday 6th February marks National Online Safety Day. Online Safety is embedded in our curriculum and we have a consistent focus on helping children to be cyber aware. Please take the time to talk to your child about staying safe online. There are some very helpful parents resources on the following NSPCC link.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Extreme Reading - half term challenge

We would like to set all of our children a fun half term challenge! Following on from National Storytelling week we would like to see your love of reading, but with a twist. We would like you to read your book in unusual and creative places, take a photograph and send it to the following office@stthomascofeacademy.org or bring a photograph in with you when we come back to school. We are going to make a display of the most 'extreme' places St Thomas' pupils have been found reading. This could be in a den in your living room, in a tree house, on a mode of transport, in the middle of a football game...the possibilities are endless. We are looking forward to seeing all of your photographs. There will be a prize available for the most 'extreme and creative read'.

Worship Focus

On the first day of the new term, Mrs Pierpoint set the children a challenge of learning our new school prayer. This is a very special prayer that is just for St Thomas' and we say it the beginning of worship. Please see our new school prayer, please take the time to help your child/children learn this prayer.



Dear Lord,
Help me to be thankful
for all the blessing you have given me.
Help me to show forgiveness and fairness
to all those I meet.
In trust Lord,
I offer you my day today,
to let you show me the way.
Amen