

St Thomas' CofE Academy



Dear Parents,

It has been another busy and rewarding couple of weeks here at school, and I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and kindness our children continue to show each day.

One of the highlights of the fortnight was our wonderful celebration of World Book Day. The excitement across the school was fantastic to see, with children and staff embracing the joy of reading through creative costumes, shared stories and engaging book-themed activities.

Events like this remind us of the power of reading to spark imagination, build empathy and open doors to new worlds. Thank you for your support in helping the children prepare – the effort that went into costumes and character discussions truly enriched the day.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Pierpoint

Friday 6th March 2026

‘Learning for life with Jesus’

Dates for your diary:

Thurs 5 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 th March	Y5 and Y6 visit to The Open Centre, Derby
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 1 phonics information meeting for parents 9am
Thurs 12 th March	Mother's Day cream tea event 13:15-2 or 2:15-3
Fri 13 th March	Year 4 Bikeability
Mon 16 th March - Tuesday 17 th March	Year 3 residential to Stanley Head
Wed 18 th March	School council visit to Parliament
Wed 18 th March	British Science Week activities
Fri 20 th March	School closed for INSET day
Tues 24 th March	Dance show at The Victoria Hall
Fri 27 th March	Year 1 trip to Trentham Gardens
Easter Holidays 30th March - 10th April	
Mon 13 th April	School opens for staff and children - Summer term
Mon 13 th April	Year 6 MHST workshops begin
Mon 11 th May	Year 6 SATs begin today
Thurs 14 th May	Last day of Year 6 SATs
Fri 15 th May	Year 6 coffee morning & SATs celebration

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:

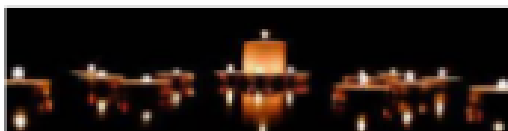
Monday 19 th January	Year 5
Monday 26 th January	Year 2
Monday 2 nd February	Year 1
Monday 9 th February	Year 4
Tuesday 24 th February	Nursery
Monday 2 nd March	Reception
Monday 9 th March	Year 3
Monday 16 th March	Year 6

Inspire sessions at St Thomas' Church.

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

Dates:

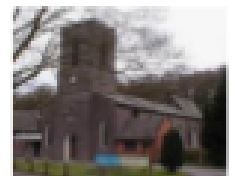
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 3
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 5
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 6
Tuesday 3 rd March	Year 4
Tuesday 28 th April	Year 2
Tuesday 23 rd June	Year 1
Tuesday 7 th July	Nursery & Reception together in school



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: 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	Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025
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	Friday 14th November 2025
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	Friday 20th March 2026
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)

Term dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET DAYS	<i>Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2026</i>
Autumn Term One	Thursday 3 rd September 2026 – Friday 23 rd October 2026
INSET DAY	<i>Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October 2026</i>
Half Term	Monday 26th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026
Autumn Term Two	Monday 2 nd November 2026 – Friday 18 th December 2026
Holiday	Monday 21st December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027

Spring Term 2027

Spring Term One	Monday 4 th January 2027 – Friday 12 th February 2027
Half Term	Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027
INSET	Monday 22nd February 2027
Spring Term Two	Monday 22 nd February 2027 – Thursday 25 th March 2027
Holiday	Friday 26th March 2027 – Friday 9th April 2027

Summer Term 2027

Summer term one	Monday 12 th April 2027 – Friday 28 th May 2026
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31st May 2027 – Friday 4th June 2027
Summer term two	Monday 7 th June 2027 – Wednesday 21 st July 2027
INSET DAY	<i>Wednesday 21st July 2027</i>
Summer Holiday	Commences Thursday 22nd July 2027

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 behaviour, diet, sleep, routines, mental health and support services available.

When:

Fri 17th April 9:30am

Fri 15th May 9:30am

Fri 12th June 9:30am

Fri 10th July 9:30am

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





PLEASE JOIN US FOR

MOTHERS DAY CREAM TEA

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ONE
SPECIAL LADY PER FAMILY TO JOIN
US FOR TEA/COFFEE A SCONE AND
BISCUITS FOR THE CHILDREN.

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH
EITHER 1:15PM-2:00PM OR
2:15-3:00PM

THE COST IS £3.50
PAYABLE VIA PARENTPAY
PLEASE BOOK ON ARBOR BY
THE 6TH MARCH



SPORTS DAY

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE 2026

Event Details:

EYFS:

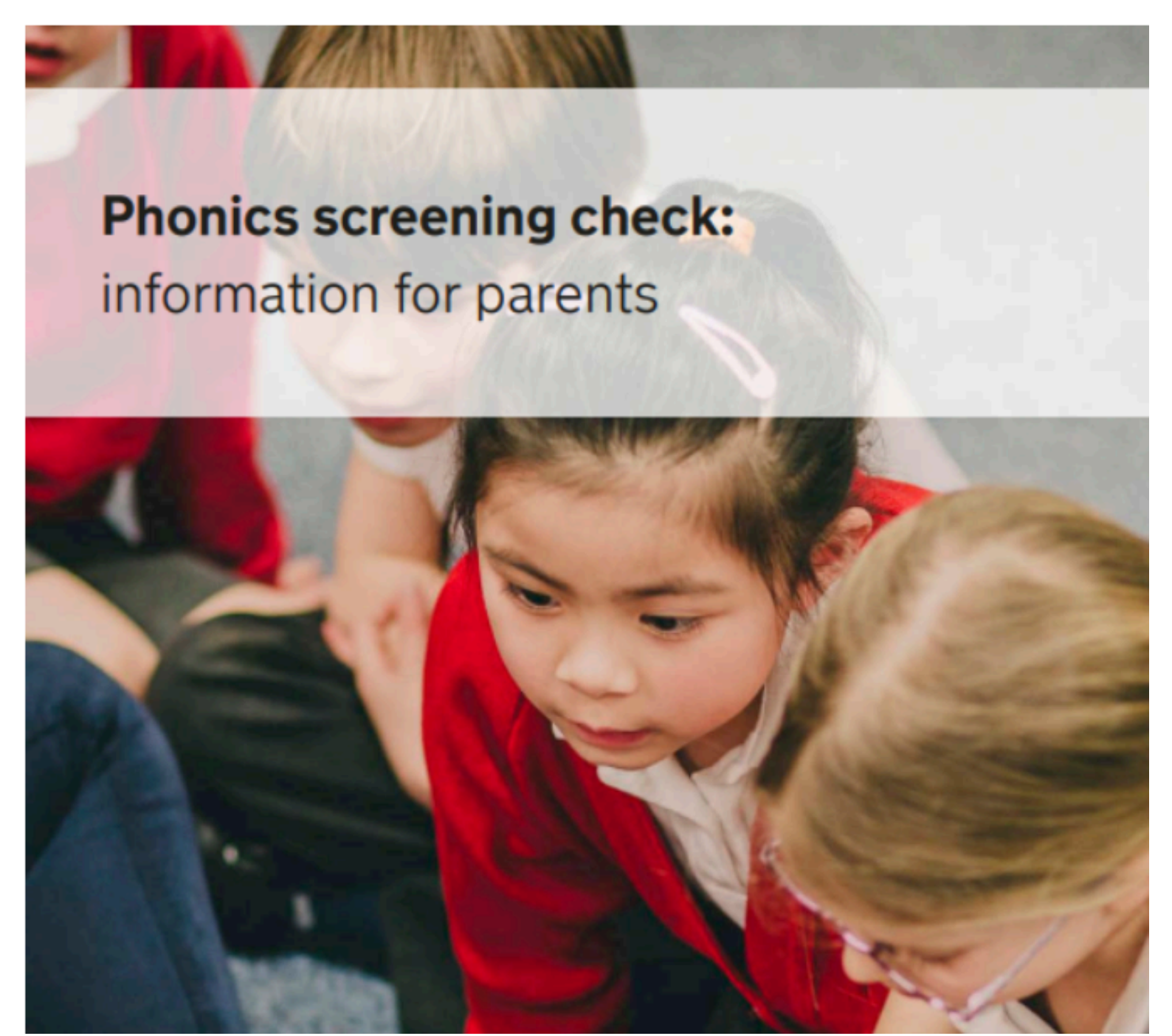
9:15am - 10:15am

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2):

10:30-11:30

Key Stage 2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6):

13:30-15:00



Phonics screening check:
information for parents

Year 1 Parents - Diary Date: Tuesday 10th March
9.00am

Information Meeting - Phonics Screening Check

Please join us for an informal information meeting about the Phonics Screening Check, which takes place in June, on Tuesday 10th March at 9.00am. Please don't worry if you are unable to make this day and time. There will be an alternative day and time (TBC) for those unable to join us on the 10th.



World Book Day





World Book Day



Stronger Starts

Amazing news everyone! 🎉

We're delighted to share that our Tesco Stronger Starts grant has been successful and we've been awarded £1,000! 🙌

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and helped make this happen. Your support means so much to our school and to all of our students and families.

This funding will allow us to begin improving our outdoor area and creating an even better space for our school community.

We're so excited to get started and can't wait to share the progress with you all! ❤️



A huge thank you to Angie Lester, our fantastic School Travel Advisor, who joined us at Tuesday's parents evening to talk all things Active Travel and our exciting Walking Bus initiative

We are so grateful for her continued support, guidance and enthusiasm in helping our school community make healthier, safer and more sustainable travel choices.

If you would like any more information about the Walking Bus or anything related to Active Travel, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the school office we'd be happy to help!





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.



Three
Spires
TRUST

"Life in all its fullness"

If you think you might be eligible, please apply via the link below or speak to the office and we can happily help.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/financial-support-school/free-school-meals/applying-free-school-meals>



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on 8 March. It is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.





Dear God,

We thank you for the power of a good book to transport us to new places and to give us new experiences.

We thank you for the creativity of authors and illustrators in creating books for us to enjoy.

We are thankful for our own ability to read and to imagine.

We thank you for the people who have helped us to enjoy reading and for our education.

Amen

