



**St Thomas  
CE(vc)  
Primary  
School  
Newsletter**



**Autumn 1  
Week 1  
8.9.23**

## Diary Dates

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September- Class photos
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Meet the Teacher open evening 4pm-6pm (more information next week)
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October- Training Day- school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October-Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October- Scholastic Book Fair in school.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October- Flu Vaccinations
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October- Individual and sibling photographs

## Deputy Head Message



It has been a wonderful week welcoming all our pupils back into class and welcoming our new starters to St Thomas.

All the pupils have shown their new staff the very best versions of themselves and have been a credit to you.

School, even though it has been very hot, has been productive, calm, and every class has been welcoming when I've popped in.

A very productive and fun week had by all....with lots of art, as you will see below!

Thank you to all our families for the support you give. Together we achieve more.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend,  
Mrs Goddard ☺

#teamthomas

## Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this week we have reminded ourselves of our 3 school rules of: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. We have thought about what this might look like in the hall and at lunch.

We also looked at our school vision- From Tiny Seeds, Grow Mighty Trees and discussed how this helps focus us on our journey through school.

We have celebrated our value of 'Belong' this week and thought about who we belong to and how we belong to our St Thomas family.

**'From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees'**

**Ready**

**Respectful**

**Safe**

## Reception



**We would like to welcome all of our children and their families to St Thomas CE VC Primary School. The children have enjoyed their first week at school and we have enjoyed getting to know them, and you, too!**

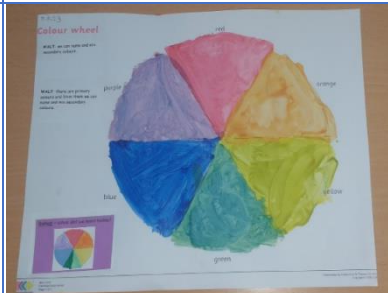


## Year 1






**This week Year 1 have been learning about the colour wheel and colour mixing. We have explored primary and secondary colours and talked about how artists use colour in their artwork.**



## Year 2



**Year 2 enjoyed mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. We made different hues.**

Year 3	<p>Year 3 have been mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and exploring colour in the work of different artists. These 2 colour wheels showed excellent technique.</p>	
Year 4		<p>We are learning about contrasting and complementing colours in Year 4. We have been mixing colours to match with paintings by famous artists such as Vincent Van Gogh. We will use these colour mixes to create our own paintings in the warm, cool, complementary and analogous colours we have been learning about.</p>
Year 5		<p>Alongside Zones of Regulation, the children have been practicing their Art skills, learning about tints, tones and shades, before painting landscapes inspired by Art Impressionists such as Monet. They've all settled in really well and have been fantastic role models for St Thomas, and their families!</p> 
Year 6		<p>Year 6 have been using watercolours and their knowledge of mixing colours to recreate the front cover of the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. Each child had squares of the cover to recreate. They did a great job.</p> <p>Our oldest children have been great role models this week. They have really impressed showing the younger children what our school expectations look like and helping our reception children know the lunchtime routines. Thank you Year 6. Mrs Goddard ☺</p>

## Attendance

We continue to monitor attendance and we are identifying persistent absentees. (less than 90%) We are keenly aware that there may be genuine and compelling reasons for pupil absence and the monitoring involves working with families to remove barriers and support pupils in their school attendance.

Attendance Matters







**ST THOMAS**  
CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Reading at home..

Can make a huge difference!



Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school assessments and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of.



You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading regularly will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident and fluent readers.

# St Thomas Primary School **calls out for** **votes to get a share of Tesco's Stronger Starts fund**

St Thomas Primary Food Bank are bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Stronger Starts initiative.

Tesco works with community charity Groundwork to run its community funding scheme, which sees grants of up to £1,500, £1,000 and £500 awarded to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

St Thomas Primary Food Bank is one of the groups on the shortlist.

We provide a community food bank for families within the school and local community who are struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Voting is open in all Tesco stores from early July until the end of September and customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out each time they shop.

To boost funds for extra food and activity equipment, Tesco is introducing a £5m grant programme, in partnership with Groundwork UK, to give children across the UK a stronger start in life. The grants will help schools and children's groups provide nutritious food and healthy activities that support young people's physical health and mental wellbeing, such as breakfast clubs or snacks, and equipment for healthy activities.

Tesco's Stronger Starts – previously Tesco Bags of Help and Tesco Community Grants - has already provided over £100 million to more than 50,000 projects across Britain.

**Jason Tarry, Tesco UK CEO, said:** *"Helping schools and children's groups access the food and resources they need is vitally important in getting children a stronger start in life. Children with enough food have more energy, better concentration, and ultimately achieve more too."*

**Graham Duxbury, Groundwork's UK Chief Executive, said:** "As a community charity, we have seen first-hand how schools and other groups supporting young people have been playing a much bigger role in ensuring children are getting a healthy start to the day and getting access to spaces and services to support physical activity and mental health. Family budgets are tight and school budgets are tight, but it's so important that children stay fed, fit and focused, so we're delighted to be able to prioritise these activities alongside Tesco with the Stronger Starts programme."

**Stronger Starts is being supported by Kiss FM presenter, Jordan Banjo, who said:** *"It's hard for kids to dream big when they're hungry but by nominating your local school or children's group, you can make a massive difference to the lives of thousands of youngsters."*

Funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities, particularly those helping to provide food and giving children the support,

they need for a good start in life. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit [tescoplc.com/strongerstarts](https://tescoplc.com/strongerstarts)