



Diary Dates:

- Wednesday 15th 2025 January Parents Evening
- Year 6 SATS Monday 12th -Thursday 15th May

SEE SEPARATE EMAIL FOR CHRITMAS EVENTS

Head
Teacher's
Message



I hope this newsletter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and praise for the support and understanding shown by our school community during the challenging weather conditions we experienced this week. I appreciate the flexibility and adaptability demonstrated by our students, staff, and families. Despite the disruptions, our school community came together to ensure a smooth return to learning, and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of our staff in preparing for the new term. Three quarters of pupils made it into school with many of those at home accessing and completing all their online learning. Hopefully we will return to some much-needed normality next week.

Collective
Worship

Due to our late starts we have not had formal assemblies this week but in classrooms student have revisited school rules, behaviour and expectations.



READING AT
HOME



Reading at Home

Here at St Thomas, we are deeply aware of the importance of children reading with their parent or guardian at home. Reading at home is invaluable to a child's academic development.

Research has shown that one-on-one reading time and access to books are important predictors of future literacy skills and, inevitably, future educational outcomes.

Be a great reading partner!

It's no fun to read when you're forced to or feel embarrassed to read. Building trust and supporting a child reader is crucial as a reading partner. Here are some tips for becoming a great reading partner:

- Be patient and encouraging.
- Read aloud and track the words with your finger as you are reading.
- Read the same stories over and over. Try reading the same stories in different ways, with different voices to make it fun and interesting.
- Ask questions about the story while you're reading.
- Discuss what you see in the pictures.
- Pick books that are at the right level for your young reader—5+ mistakes on one page is too hard.
- Gently correct mistakes and re-read the entire sentence.
- Give positive feedback and tell the reader he or she is doing a great job.
- Build reading into your child's daily routine – read at least 5 x per week.

Reception



Reception's topic is Winter Wonderland. As it is far too slippery in our outdoor space to explore safely we brought the outdoors in. We have enjoyed exploring the ice. We had lots of discussion about what it felt like, why it was melting and how to stop it from melting. We were also using magnifying glasses to see what we could see close up.

Year 1

This week in English, we have read a new book called "Topsy and Tim visit London". We learned that London has many famous landmarks. In geography we had a go at making a map of London. We loved talking about the different places and used positional language to locate important landmarks on our map.



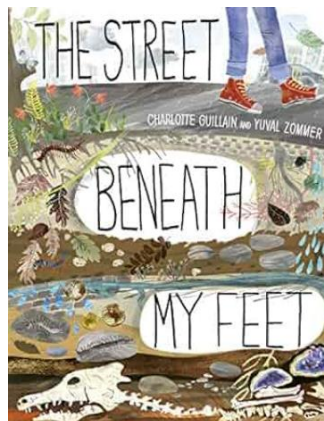
Year 2



In Year 2 this week we have been learning that jobs help people earn money to pay for things they need and want. We have also looked at the difference between a need and a want.

Year 3

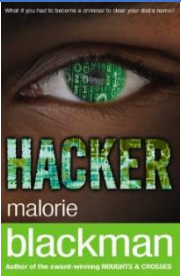



In Year 3 this week we have been returning to normal, despite the snow. This included our initial hook lesson for the topic, Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. We looked at the book 'The Street Beneath my Feet' to discover what's hidden underground. We then drew a picture to show what we thought would be underneath St Thomas School. We also looked into a mystery box to give us clues about what we would be doing over the term.



Year 4

The children had a wonderful time using junk modelling to create their own landscapes to launch their new spring term project 'Misty Mountain Winding River'



<p>Year 5</p>	<p>This week we have started our new class reader 'Hacker' by Malorie Blackman. We have discussed the term 'Hacker' and used the front cover and picture clues to create predictions as to what we think the book might be about.</p>	
<p>Year 6</p>		<p>Year 6 have done their introduction lessons to our new topic focus, Frozen Kingdom. We have worked on the new vocabulary and learnt about a modern day explorer called Ben Saunders.</p>
<p>Home Visits</p> 	<p>To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, home visits are a key part of our attendance procedures.</p> <p>Here's how it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day 1 Home Visit: If a child is absent from school and we do not receive any communication from the family explaining the reason for the absence, a member of our staff will conduct a home visit on the first day of the unexplained absence. This is to confirm the child's safety and to offer any necessary support to the family. • Day 3 Home Visit: For all absences, even those with an initial reason provided, we will conduct a home visit on the third consecutive day of absence. This is to ensure continued support and to check on the child's well-being. <p>These home visits are in line with recommended good safeguarding practices and are consistent with policies followed by other local schools. Our goal is to ensure every child's safety and to maintain clear communication with families. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.</p>	
<p>Attendance</p> <p>Each day in school builds valuable skills, knowledge, and connections that help students thrive academically and socially. Consistent attendance strengthens routines, boosts learning, and supports a positive school experience. Let's work together to make every school day count!</p>		<p>Attendance Matters</p>  <p>Every Day Counts....</p>