



St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter



Autumn
2025

Diary Dates

- Monday 3rd November – Start of Term- all pupils return.
- Monday 3rd- Friday 7th November- Poppy Appeal (details TBC)
- Wednesday 5th November- Flu Vaccinations
- Thursday 5th November – Individual and sibling photos.
- Friday 14th November- Children in Need
- Wednesday 19th November- Parents Evening/ Year 6 Parents Day.
- Friday 28th November- FOST Christmas Fair

Other Christmas dates TBC ASAP

Acting Head Message



Mrs.
Goddard

Dear Families,

As we draw this first half-term to a close, I would like to start by saying a big thank you. A big thank you to your amazing children, a big thank you to you as parents and families, and a big thank you to all of you who have attended events, supported a school initiative, or simply come and shared something with us.

The first half-term after the summer break is always one of two halves—a bit like the seasons. You start with the freshness of a new year, a new classroom, and in some cases, a new teacher. As the term goes on, there is a real settling period when routines and the day-to-day rhythm set in. The changes become a distant memory, and children begin to bloom in their new year group as lessons start to flow.

I've shared below some of the highlights each year group has shared with me—something they've really enjoyed doing or something that has begun to flourish within their class. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our Reception and newly-joining children through the doors and to meet their families. It has been just as much of a pleasure to see children who have been with us for a while continue to shine in their lessons and in their support and guidance for new pupils (and new staff).

Not every day has been perfect, but there has been perfection in every day.

Wishing you all a lovely half-term, and we look forward to seeing you after the break.

Mrs Goddard and the St Thomas Staff 🧑‍🏫 #teamthomas

Acting Deputy Head Message



Mr. Boosey

Dear families,

It has been a busy half term, with the Autumn term often the busiest and longest of the year. I'd like to share with you all a really important update for St Thomas moving forward.

OPAL – Outdoor play and learning.

Before the summer we asked for your views on play times. At the 'Meet the teachers' night, we shared information in person and by email on OPAL and what we have coming up.

On Thursday 16th October, we had our first visit from Julie, our OPAL mentor. She came to the school for the first time and observed the provision, grounds and children over playtime. We also had a tour of the school and shared our values and vision. She left thoroughly impressed with grounds, the children's play and the opportunities that lay before us.

On Wednesday 22nd October, our whole staff team met for an OPAL introduction meeting. We spent 2 hours after school looking at the importance of play and seeing some of the ideas that we

will be implementing over the next few months and longer term in the next few years. The staff are excited with what OPAL will mean for our children and the improvements it can make to our school.

Over the next half term, we will continue the planning process and begin gathering resources, holding assemblies and welcoming our families into school to see the work we are doing. You can expect updates on our website, in the poster displays at the drop-off doors and on Class Dojo. We'll need support from our families at home to make some of the changes possible and will be giving you all the chance to feedback on how we are doing.

Please look out for our next communications around OPAL, so you stay up to date with what is coming up and to let us know if you can offer any support.

It's the start of a very exciting journey for the whole school.

Mr Boosey



Welcomes

We would like to extend a welcome to Miss Hunter who joins us on Maternity. Cover for Mrs Dalby after half-term in Reception class. I am sure she will get to know the children and the families quickly and will be a great addition to the Reception Team and the school.



'From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees'

Year Group Highlights

Reception- *Our highlight is starting big school, all happy, settled and thriving. They have all made new friends and loving life at St Thomas.*



Year 1- *Our highlight was our super trip to Ilkley Toy Museum. We*

loved looking at all the old toys, particularly the fairground and the clockwork train. We learnt that old toys were different from those that we play with those that we play with today.

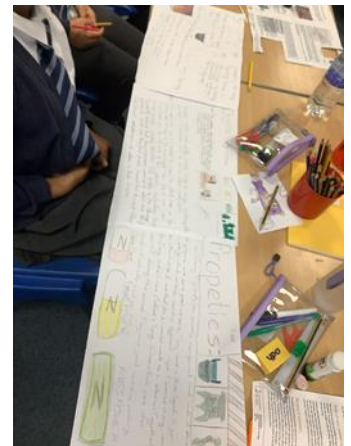


Year 2- *Our Highlight was going on an Autumn walk around school. We used our experience to write some amazing Autumn poems.*

Year 3- Our highlight was our 'Through the Ages' Hook Day - creating cave paintings under their desks



Year 4- Our highlight was singing our hearts out to 'Mamma Mia, we learned the whole song and then learned how to play part of the chorus on the recorder.



Year 5- Our highlights were- swimming (Mr Syke's class), 30 children getting out and getting their Bikeability and all the children discovering about the Shang Dynasty and how people lived.



Year 6- Ghyll Head was our big highlight. The children were just fantastic. In school we have loved our Maafa topic and learning all Africa and the transatlantic slave trade.

Uniform Plea!

Please label every item of your child's uniform—named items are much easier to return if lost! All non-named items end up in our lost property outside the main entrance.

Spares and Help

As we move into the colder weather, please ensure children have coat and shoes that are able to be worn outside in dry or rain- no crocs or slip-ons please.

Food bank.

We also have a lot of uniform re-donated which has been washed and mended- if you need anything please come and ask.

Also, we have kindly be donated some coats, shoes and some quilts and bedding from ASDA. Again, if you are in need-just ask.

Same with the school food back which has been kindly restocked due to your generosity.

Here is also the link for uniform exchange should you need it-<https://www.uniform-exchange.org/>



**Key
messages**

Class Dojo winner- 1P are this half-terms Dojo winning class with an impressive 270 dojos all together- Excellent work 1P and Miss Pickard!



Attendance- 1M and 6J are this terms highest attending class with an average of 97%!
Well done 1M and Miss Martin and well done 6J and Mrs Jones.

Parking – Do not park or stop on zigzag lines outside school (8:00am–4:00pm). Avoid corners, pavements, and grass verges for pupil safety. Please be respectful of our neighbours and do not park across drives.

Before, After School and now Holiday Club – Run by Mrs Fiona Crosland (Crosland Childcare), open 7:00am–school start and 3:10–6:00pm. Plus all school holidays.
Contact: 07759 406545 or stthomasoutofschoolclub@outlook.com