

**St Thomas CE (VC)
Primary School
Newsletter
15th March 2024**

Diary Dates

- **Thursday 21st March - Year 2 Whitby trip**
- **Friday 22nd March - End of Term**
- **Monday 8th April - School re-opens**



**Headteacher's
Message**

The best thing about our school is **YOUR** children!

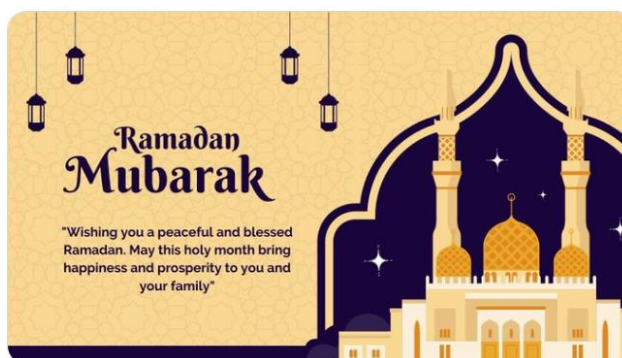
I've had so many lovely conversations this week about learning and life in general. Two of our Year 5 pupils (Maisie and Karis) were telling me how much they like art and that they would like more opportunities for fun projects, so between us we have decided to end the term with some creative fun: The St Thomas Egg Decorating Challenge.

Let those creative juices flow and bring your carefully labelled (name and class) eggs in next Friday (22nd March) parents/staff can have a go too!

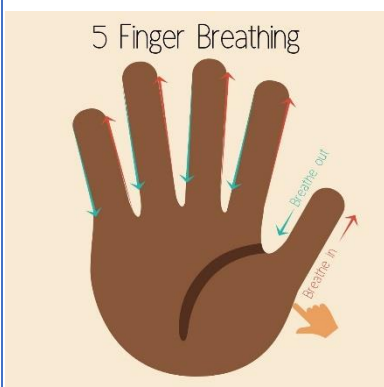
Here are a few ideas: you can use real hardboiled or 'blown' eggs or the polystyrene ones!



This week has seen the start of Ramadan, to support any pupils who are fasting and all children who enjoy some quiet reflection at lunch we have doubled the capacity for our indoor colouring club.



**Collective
Worship**



Our collective worship this week has continued around the theme of 'Aspire' and we have focused again on 'My Happy Mind'. This week children shared examples of using happy breathing to help them. I was very impressed with their understanding.

For more information, please see the section at the end of the newsletter or there is a video you can watch via the following link:

<https://myhappymind.lpages.co/myhappymind-parent-app-introduction/>

'From Tiny Seeds Grow Mighty Trees'

We have potential cases of Measles and Slapped Cheek Virus in school. If your child is unwell with a flushed face or a rash, please seek medical advice. Both of these illnesses are highly contagious and can be a high risk for vulnerable children/adults.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

PARKING



I'm including this again this week just to keep the message out there!

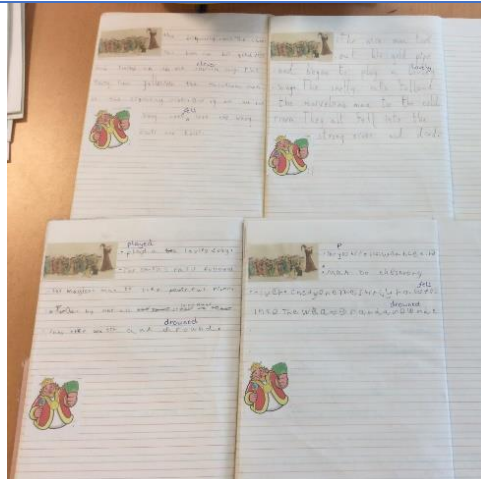
Sadly, we have had more concerns raised about dangerous driving and near misses around school. It is **YOUR** children we are trying to protect. Please **STOP** driving up Owlers Close/Stayton Crescent and reversing down. Someone is going to be hurt. I am horrified that we need to keep repeating this. Please can we all help take care of our pupils be considerate of local residents

Reception

This week in Reception for maths, we have been learning all about time. The children experienced making their own jam sandwiches then had to sequence the stages of the activity in time order. We have also enjoyed reading the story Cave Baby by Julia Donaldson and looking at prehistoric mammals. We then drew pictures of the prehistoric animals and discussed the mammals' features.



Year 1



Year 1 have been very busy this week writing their story about the Pied Piper.

Luckily the rats have now gone from our classrooms!

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about the Easter story as part of our faith week. We read the story and talked about new life and why we receive Easter eggs. The children created a scene from the story which we have put on display in our classrooms.



Year 3



This week, Year 3 have been looking at figure drawing. We explored the unique style of L.S. Lowry and focused on figures from his paintings to reproduce in our sketch books.

Year 4

This week has been our faith week and Year 4 have been busy creating a collage to show where Jesus died upon the cross. This has also linked to our RE for this half term, Easter and Holy week. We have been learning about the Eucharist, the importance of the chalice and paten and of the cross. We also considered how different people may have felt at the time about Jesus' resurrection.



Year 5



Year 5 have continued their learning around "Land Art" which involved them exploring the school grounds to photograph nature around our school.

This is just a sample of the excellent photography produced.

Year 6

Year 6 have had some more lessons using My Happy Mind. Some of them used the techniques and help in the first lessons to overcome fears and adversity on our residential. They seem to be working!



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

