

**St Thomas CE (VC)
Primary School
Newsletter
8th March 2024**

Diary Dates

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



**Headteacher's
Message**



Lots of sunshine has meant lots of outside time (even if coats are still needed!). Most of Year 6 are on their residential trip making the most of the better weather and enjoying the outdoors; those who stayed behind have been immersed in sports, art and creative activities

We had a blast celebrating World Book Day, with students diving into their favourite sporty stories and sharing the bookworm vibes. In addition, the whole school got moving for a cross-country run. It was great to see everyone giving it their all and supporting each other.

These special days and events are often the ones pupils remember and it is a privilege to be part of them.

Mr Bradley has asked me to share that, following on from the success of the St Thomas girls football team in the National Cup competition a couple of weeks ago, the girls did themselves proud again on Tuesday evening. They qualified for the Kirklees finals after finishing as the top team for the schools within our pyramid, winning two out of three games. The finals will be held on March 19th. We wish them well.

**Collective
Worship**

Our collective worship this week has been based around the theme of 'Aspire' and we have focused again on 'Happy Mind'. This week we learned about happy breathing as a way to help our minds if we become anxious. Ask your child to demonstrate! Maybe they can talk about three aspects of the brain? (Hippocampus, Amygdala and Prefrontal Cortex)



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 flushed face or a rash please seek medical advice. Both of these illnesses are highly contagious and can be high risk for vulnerable children/adults.

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

PARKING



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 Owlars 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 and be considerate of local residents

Reception



This week in Reception we have participated in lots of fun sports themed activities for World Book Day. The children particularly enjoyed designing their own sports kits using various materials, reading lots of exciting stories about playing different sports and discussing what it's like to win and lose.



Year 1



Future Wimbledon stars? You never know, but they certainly are enjoying learning new skills with Andy.

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed World Book Day. They did lots of activities based on the book 'Ready, Steady, Mo' by Mo Farah. This included a run in the morning, a fact file about Mo Farah's achievements, a medal and more sporting activities in the afternoon.



Year 3



Year 3 were visited this week by members of Huddersfield Geology Society. Children were able to see and touch real fossils, look at different types of rock and analyse types of soil.

Year 4



In Year 4, we took part in a gruelling cross country run during World Book Day. A massive congratulations to all that completed it. It was great to see such grit and determination from the children to complete the course in their best time.



Year 5

The Year 5s had a FUNtastic day on Thursday (World Book Day). Here they are lining up for their Cross-Country fun run as a break from the classroom activities based around Michael Jordan, the world-famous basketball player. They also got to have a basketball lesson in the afternoon. What a fabulous day surrounded by a brilliant week all round.



Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have been exploring Inuit art as part of our Frozen Kingdom topic. We have looked at printing and carving designs and created our own designs in a similar style. We even used soap to carve our own animal sculptures.



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





Dear Parents,

We have introduced a program to all year groups at school called myHappyMind. myHappyMind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

myHappyMind is delivered in schools by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappyMind has developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as Happy Breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is **136109**

Or scan this QR code to sign up



We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myhappymind.org

Want to learn more? Check out myHappyMind founder Laura Earnshaw's best selling book on [Amazon](#).



Many thanks,