

Next Half - Term's Bible Verse

His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6 b

Letter from the Head-Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

After so much disruption over the last 19 months, the start of this academic year is even more poignant, and more heartfelt than ever. There is so much that St.Thomas' offers to our pupils: faith, learning, love, laughter, friendships, companionship, fun, academia, sports, music, arts, pastoral care, wellbeing and so much more. There is much for our children to look forward to!

I would like to extend a very special welcome to the children, parents and carers of those who have joined us this term in our Nursery and Reception classes, and also in other year groups throughout school. I would also like to welcome our new members of staff; we are extremely fortunate to have a growing team of dedicated professionals.

The staff at St.Thomas' worked incredibly hard last year to ensure we were ready for the new academic year ahead. It was fabulous to see how well our children became familiar with the systems and processes in place. We are very conscious that children will have had different experiences over the past months and will have responded to those experiences in individual ways. Our dedicated staff were well prepared to help the children re-adjust to school life after months of uncertainty. Physical and emotional wellbeing is paramount and we will continue to practise an appropriate curriculum and our pastoral care.

I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support and kind words throughout the past months. They have made a big difference to morale and let staff know how much their work is appreciated. Your continued trust in the school and the decisions we make in the best interest of the children, contributes to the success at St. Thomas'.

It has been heart-warming to hear the sound of singing return this half term and to gather for collective worship. I would like to thank you for all your generous Harvest donations and to Year 2 and Year 5 for leading our Harvest Services. We look forward to being able to welcome you to our collective worship and services as soon as the guidance says we can!

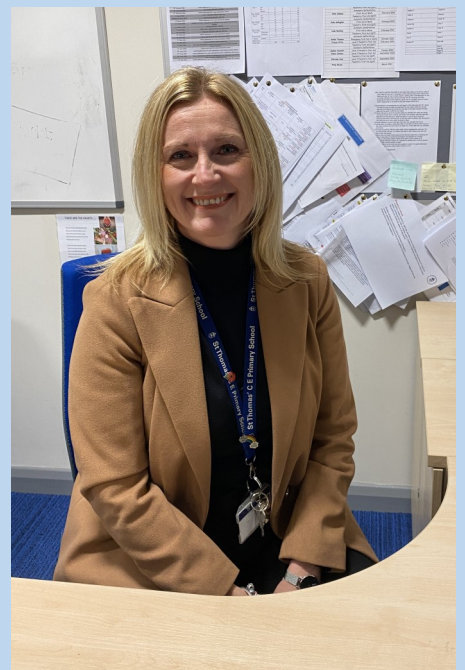
I was invited to a Welcome and Commissioning Evensong service at Manchester Cathedral last week, to welcome all new Head teachers to the Diocese of Manchester. Bishop Mark's inspirational words emphasised to me how privileged and proud I am, to be Head teacher at St. Thomas' after 26 years here, and how excited I am to be starting my first full academic year as Head. This year, Mr Campen celebrates his 25 years of service at our school and I am sure you will extend your best wishes and thanks to him.

It only remains for me to wish you all a safe and happy half term break and I look forward to welcoming you back on the 1st November.

Ms Loynes

Head teacher

B Mus., P.G.C.E.



If you are late arriving at the start or end of the school day, please report to the main office.

A Word from the Reverend Diane

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8: 10

It can be tempting to view charity donations as a one-way transaction from donor to recipient, but the reality is more complex. In one sense, the sequence of events linking foodbank donor to client is merely a reflection, in a more transparent form, of the reality of our utterly dependent status before God. At harvest, we remember that food itself, and the ability to grow, produce, manufacture, transport and purchase it, is ultimately a gift from Him. Consequently, there is much we can all learn about heartfelt gratitude and praise.

Harvest can be a powerful reminder of what, in an urban context, most of us have become disconnected from: our dependence on the natural world and cycles of planting, growth and gathering, with each stage involving its particular combinations of human endeavour, patience and dependence on conditions outside of our control. Theologically we're reminded that nothing grows without the seed that falls into the earth and dies so that it might yield a rich harvest.

So let us offer grateful thanks to our God for the fruits of the earth, the down-coming of the rains, the ripening warmth of the sun and the seeds and fruits of every year.

Amen

Happy 25 Years at St Thomas' - Mr Campen

I write to inform you about a massively important date in the history of St Thomas' school - 1st September, 1996. This was the day on which I joined the staff as the Deputy Head Teacher, at the tender age of 31! If you have done the maths it means that I have completed 25 years at St Thomas'.

I cannot believe that the time has flown by so quickly. I have been Deputy for three Head Teachers, two spells as Acting Head Teacher, and I have had approximately 700 children in my classes (including Caroline Egan who started on the same day as me in my Y4 class and has now returned to work in the school office at the Infant site.)

I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and an honour to be at St Thomas during this time and to work with such wonderful children and adults. I really think that there is something special about our school and it is well and truly stamped in my DNA!

Here's to the next 25 years - when I will be 82!

Best wishes,
Mr C



Diary Dates - Autumn 1 2021

- **Monday 1st November**

Start of Term

- **Monday 8th November**

Author visit - Sean Perkins to visit the Infants

- **W/c: Monday 15th November**

Online Parent Evenings - further details to follow

- **Thursday 18th November**

Nasal Flu administration - Reception to Year 6

- **Friday 19th November**

Children in Need - activity to yet be decided

- **Wednesday 8th December**

Year 4 visit to MOSI

- **Monday 15th December**

Year 1 and 2 Pantomime visit to the Plaza

- **December 2021 (date to be confirmed)**

Junior visit to the cinema

- **December (date to be confirmed)**

Year 4 Christmas Concert - to be recorded and made available for parents

- **Wednesday 22nd December**

End of Term and Non-Uniform Day (fundraiser)

- **Thursday 23rd December**

INSET - Staff Training

A Word from our New Junior Deputy Head Teacher

For those who don't know me yet, my name is Mr Silk and I'm the Deputy Head Teacher at the juniors. I have had an amazing start to life at St Thomas' since I started in September. The warm welcome I have received from the children, parents and staff has been overwhelming. I feel very proud to have started at such a wonderful school. I have been trying my hardest to learn everyone's names and I'm definitely making progress.

Every day is different at St Thomas' but some of the exciting things you may have seen me doing around school are:

- visiting classrooms to look at learning
- leading collective worship and celebration assemblies
- teaching lessons
- meeting professionals who work with children
- helping with teacher training

As you can see, I have lots to do but I love my job and seeing the children every day is what makes it so special. If you see me, please do say hello and remind me of your name if you can see I'm struggling to remember it.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Mr Silk



Nursery



This half term, we have been so proud of our new nursery children. They have settled in so well and are enjoying all the exciting aspects of their new school life! We have been busy making new friends, playing games and learning lots of new things. We have had lots of fun learning about colours and have loved painting and drawing with a range of different media.

The children have enjoyed doing the date and weather each morning. We have been singing the days of the week and looking at the weather each morning so we can choose the right picture for our weather board.

The children have also been counting each other every morning to see how many children are in nursery that day.

We have been enjoying the lovely sunny autumn days and spending time outside. Observing all the changes we see in autumn. We especially enjoyed our autumn listening walk.



Reception

In Reception this half term, we have been settling in to our new home at St Thomas Primary School!

We have been very busy learning all about the school day routine, making new friends and even telling our class about our families and the things that we like. Our first topic in Reception is 'All About Me' and we have looked at what makes each of us special. Did you know everybody has completely unique fingerprints? We looked at ours through a magnifying glass and then printed them on to big piece of card to show that everybody in our class is special.

We have also been introduced to the Magic Box, which each class has in their classroom. When we arrive at school on a Monday, the magic box has magically moved forward to tell us that there will be magic that morning. Each week we jump in to storyland and meet a new character from the story. Last week we met 'Sports Tom' who told us all about the importance of healthy eating and looking after our bodies. It turns out we do need to eat our broccoli!

COVID Reminder

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or;
- high temperature and/or;
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

However, people frequently present with a wider range of symptoms. If you or your child feel newly unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, then please access a PCR test. For many people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling 119.

If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.

If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so. Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Year 1

We have had a wonderful start to Year One, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed our topics we have covered. Within English, the children loved hearing the story of Supertato and all of his adventures. We enjoyed making our own Superato comics and illustrating them with pictures of Supertato, using onomatopoeia to add emphasis. The children also dressed up in their superhero outfits, and we brought vegetables in to turn into 'Superveggies' as part of Art, Design and Technology. We had some super broccoli superheroes.

In maths, we have been practising our number formation and counting forwards and backwards all the way up to 100. We have sung songs to help us learn how to count in 2's, 5's and 10's and also carried out some of our maths learning outside on the playground.

We have also enjoyed listening to our new story 'Handa's surprise' and have practised using adjectives to describe lots of different fruits and the animals in the story. The story has helped us with our learning within Art, as today we made fruit faces!

We have had so much fun in Year One this half term and we've also been learning lots of Science and completing investigations. We have also enjoyed our topic work which has been all about Our Local Area, and we have looked at photos and recognised lots of different places.

Although the children are very tired, we have had a super start to Year One and look forward to the rest of the year.



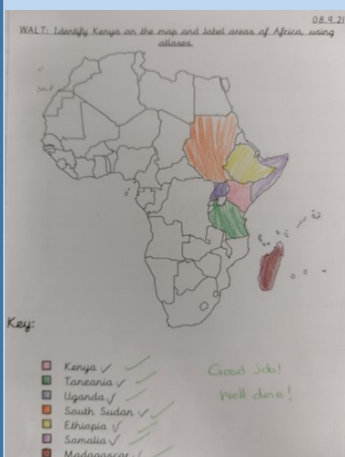
Year 2

In Year 2, we have been learning all about Kenya.

In English we have been reading "Lila and the Secret of Rain" by David Conway and illustrated by Jude Daly.

We have been learning lots of writing tricks to write a re-tell of Lila's story. We have sequenced the story and had lots of discussion, text mapping and oral story telling.

We also used speech bubbles and thought bubbles to empathise with the characters. We combined these with our artistic skills with oil pastels to make a great display!



In geography, we have been using Atlases to build on our map skills. We looked at the African countries near Kenya and used an atlas to label our own maps, using a key.

We have compared the landscapes in Kenya and the UK, even using our senses to explore the differences.

We have also looked at Kenyan food, which we (mostly) agreed looked pretty yummy!

But it doesn't stop there!

We will be continuing our topic after half term too, and we are really looking forward to lots of art focussed on Kenya!

We will be creating sunset silhouette paintings with African animals and creating shields (inspired by the Kenyan flag) using African patterns.



Year 3



Year three have been learning more in depth about 'Harvest' this half term. As a Christian school, we celebrate Harvest every year but wanted to understand more about the origins of why we celebrate this key event in the Christian calendar. Our key questioning included: who, what, where, when and why we celebrate Harvest. We looked through the class Bibles to find specific verses to help us understand more, we made prayers to say thank you to God for the food we eat, we also looked at Harvest around the World. Towards the end of our Harvest topic, we looked at how the Jewish religion celebrates their Harvest. The Jewish festival of Sukkot is a time when Jewish people remember Moses leading them out of slavery in Egypt. They give thanks to God for His provision to them in the desert by making a shelter called a Sukkah. In hot countries, Jewish people live in these shelters for 7 days, having celebration meals and offering prayers of thanks with family and friends. The roof must be made of natural resources with gaps in the roof to see at least three stars in heaven. In cold countries, they make model Sukkot so we tried to make our own too!



Dear God,
 Thank you for our lives and family because my family are for me also but I wouldn't be here if we had the life I have now for some things and that some things is you for that is why we thank you for this project and you created this world for us and are health because you love us. You believe in us because it's why I give you my prayer. Thank you for every thing that do. Thank you for parents and more nature because they keep us alive. The experience that it's healthy for us which is why we pray to you. You always by my side even when I'm sad so thank you for never leaving by my side. We'll love you forever because you love for us. Thank you for people because we wouldn't have anyone to play with or talk to. Thank you for people because we wouldn't be able to make new friends. Thank you for school because boys would be happy. God you're really, real and loving. Amen.



Dear God, you give us food because they would not be able to laugh and they are very clean when we make something that I will be very happy because you make animals and humans you are with me and your always with me. And I, my family and people are with you. You help me happy and calm because your hands are always. Thank you for nature, the sun and clouds and rainbows. Thank you for the things we eat and good clean water. Then I can get fat and healthy and quick. We use when I'm scared at night on my own you help me get better. I also pray for my birthday day and my this get out, happy and safe. Your kind your always you, really because you make the world and you're born and I've grow up and it's all because of you. That's you, God, Amen.

Year 4

In Year 4, we have been studying the Ancient Greeks. We have thoroughly enjoyed listening to, reading and writing myths and legends as well as learning about Ancient Greek life and creating some beautiful art work to display around school.

English

In English, to kick-start our myths and legends writing, we were fortunate enough to experience a performance by Mrs Oldfield who retold the famous story of Medusa. We had a marvellous morning and some of us even got involved in some of the acting ourselves! We then designed our own Ancient Greek hero and mythical creature before planning and writing our own Ancient Greek myth.



History

In History, we have been looking at how the Ancient Greeks lived and how they have influenced our lives today. We became historians and looked at a range of Ancient Greek artefacts and decided on what we thought the purpose of them were. Did you know babies in the Ancient Greek times had rattles? A little bit different from our rattles today though. In Ancient Greece they used clay animals filled with dried beans. Check out the photograph of a 3000 year old rattle shaped like a pig.

Art

In Art, we looked at Ancient Greek Amphorae and the purpose of them. Amphorae were a two-handled storage jar that held oil, wine, milk, or grain. Amphorae were even sometimes used for ritual purposes at weddings or funerals. Occasionally, Amphorae were painted with decorative pictures that would tell a story; these amphorae were used for decorative purposes only. After researching Amphorae, we looked at the various shapes and patterns usually painted on the clay pots. We designed our own Amphorae and created beautiful scratch art for our year group display board.



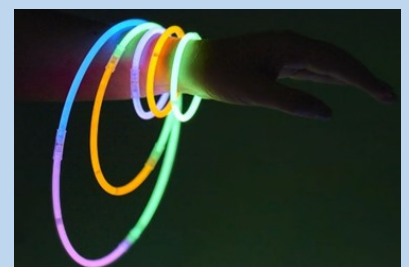
Year 5 Harvest

On Thursday 14th October, nearly ninety Year Five children led the Key Stage 2 Harvest Service. They worked incredibly hard to sing songs of praise and appreciation for the gifts of harvest time, to perform a play which taught us about the benefits of sowing 'seeds of kindness' and to impart knowledge on how we can all lead a greener life!



Science

We have enjoyed many practical Science lessons this half term as we have investigated properties of materials. This has included separating mixtures, investigating thermal conductors and insulators, dissolving and irreversible changes.



Art & Design Technology



In Art, the children have produced some beautiful work based on cityscapes as they've studied Pop Art and have worked with different media to create different effects. Look at this range of different catapults the children carefully designed and made for our D.T topic on mechanisms.

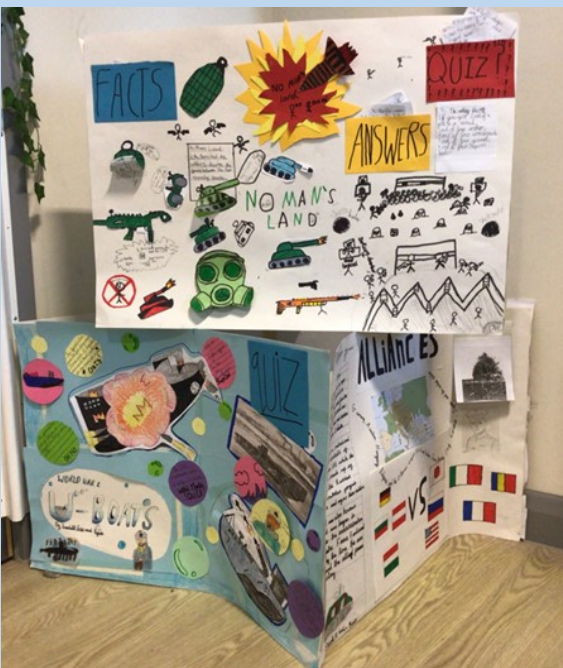




Year 6



In Year 6, we have been exploring, researching and analysing the key events of World War One and its impact on British society and history. We have delved into the life of a World War One soldier and life in the trenches, and tried our hand at sketching. We have also used a range of mediums to produce silhouettes of soldiers on the battlefield. The children also worked together in groups to research and present their findings both spoken and written, of different elements of World War One: Propaganda, Trench foot, World War One at sea/U-Boats, Trench Warfare and Alliances.



Sports success!

This half term, 8 of our year 6 children (4 boys and 4 girls) represented St. Thomas' C of E Primary School in an Indoor Athletics Transition Match held at Sports City, Manchester.

Our children, supported by Miss Hughes and Mrs Gallagher, teamed up with other Year 6 children from Broadstone Hall Primary School and Year 7 from Priestnall High School, working as a team to compete against other cluster schools from around Stockport in various track and field events.

The children did amazingly well; showing true courage, determination and sportsmanship throughout the entire event. Not only that, they came home with the WINNING title with gold medals in hand!



Notices

Change of Pick-Up Arrangements

If you need to change who is collecting your child at the end of the day, it is imperative that you notify school (not the class teacher), so that we can ensure that your child goes to the right adult at home time.

Please can you notify the school office by **14:45 at the latest** on: 0161 432 6809

Uniform

Details of our uniform policy are on the Website.

<http://www.st-thomasheaton.stockport.sch.uk/school-uniform/>

Correct uniform **must be worn at all times** - no trainers or brightly coloured socks/tights.

Hoodies are not acceptable.

Naming of Property and Personal Items

Please **name all clothing and personal items** brought into school.

Encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings.

School Newsletter

St Thomas' will be producing a newsletter every half term.

If you have any suggestions or information that you would like to see then please email:

victoria.shaw@st-thomasheaton.stockport.sch.uk

School Meals

The cost for school meals for is £2.20 per day (£11 per week).

Meals SHOULD be paid for in advance preferably using The Gateway. Alternatively, send cash or cheque to the office.

Parking and Safety of Children

Everyone, please remember to be considerate to our local residents and other parents/carers/children when parking at the start and end of the school day.

Do not block the driveways of our local residents or footpaths which is very dangerous for parents with young children and pushchairs. The police may issue on the spot fines to any vehicles parked illegally. Please always be safe and considerate when leaving your vehicle - the safety of all the children is at risk from inappropriate behaviour.

Please also ensure that you supervise children appropriately at the start and end of the school day.

Always use the footpaths when entering or leaving school.

Absences from School

If your child is not in school, please phone us on the first day of absence to explain the reason. on: 0161 432 6809 or email us on:

admin@st-thomasheaton.stockport.sch.uk

Please try to avoid appointments during the school day.

Pupil Premium Funding

If you are in receipt of benefits, please apply on-line via SMBC's website for Free School Meals. School will then receive additional funding to help your child/children.

Please ask at the school office for help and advice in this process.

Replying to SchoolComms

As previously requested, please do not reply to SchoolComms directly, regarding any communications that are sent out. Please refer to my previous email and direct your query to the relevant team and email address.

The SchoolComms system is not checked regularly for email replies and we will no doubt miss information or queries sent that you send to us this way.

Asthma Inhalers and Prescription Medicines

At the start of this half term, we updated our list of children who require asthma inhalers. Please let us know immediately if your child is prescribed an inhaler.

Please remember that school can only administer prescription medicines. These must be handed directly to the school office with a completed medical form.