



St Thomas' Times

Summer 2 - 2021



Letter from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of another academic year and also my first term of Headship. I have had the pleasure of being part of the St. Thomas' school community for over 25 years and I am privileged and proud to now be Headteacher. I have enjoyed greeting many of you and your children, at the school gates on both sites this term— learning everyone's name is still work in progress!

This year has been another year where we have needed to play our part in moving through the pandemic. I am so proud of the way St. Thomas' has risen to this challenge. With flexibility, resilience, courage and a caring heart, we have upheld our Christian values of justice, compassion and perseverance to get through this time.

I hope that next academic year, we are able to reduce some of our control measures. We are keen to give the children greater flexibility in school and further opportunities to flourish. I also look forward to being back together, enjoying many community events at school.

The St Thomas' community is very special. We have shown a true partnership in supporting our children during this time. We could not have achieved what we have without our team spirit and support for each other. There are very many people to thank for enabling us to respond to the pandemic in the safest way possible.

I would like to thank the board of Governors for their support in ensuring St Thomas' remains the best it can be. I am grateful for their continued commitment and dedication. Thank you to Rev Diane for arranging her virtual collective worship.

I am so very proud of our children. They have continued to keep to our Covid guidelines and have demonstrated high levels of resilience and maturity throughout the pandemic. They have been sensible in their approach to distancing, handwashing and keeping in class bubbles. We are looking forward to the children having fewer restrictions in September and giving the children exciting opportunities.

I have said many times that we have a wonderful team at St Thomas'. During our lockdowns and the recovery of Covid, the staff have pulled together to work through the many challenges we have faced. The teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, office staff and site staff are fully committed to the school; this is what makes us such a special community. I would like to thank all staff for their unwavering dedication to the school.

Thank you to you, the parents, who have worked so hard with home schooling in the incredibly difficult and frustrating lockdowns and isolations. It has been so important to work in partnership with you to ensure your children received the best possible educational provision during this time. We could not have achieved what we have without your support. Thank you also to everyone who has helped arrange our PTA events. The PTA has worked incredibly hard to raise money to fund school projects and special treats for the children and we are also grateful for parent support in these events.

As we break for the summer holiday on Wednesday 28th July, we say farewell and good luck to all of our Year 6 Leavers. We are proud of you and of all your achievements at St. Thomas'. I think we can all agree, it was a fitting send off! I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you in September. The new school year will still present many challenges to schools, nevertheless, we remain optimistic there is much to look forward to in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,
Ms Loynes

Next Half - Term's Bible Verse

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Matthew 24 v 35

Start and End of the Day Arrangements for September 2021

Infants

The school day starts at **08:55**
You may arrive at school from:
08:30 IF you have siblings at the junior site.
08:45 everyone else
The end of the day:
15:05 - Reception
15:10 - Year 1
15:15 - Year 2

Juniors:

The school day starts at **08:55**
You may arrive at school from:
08:30 IF you have siblings at the infant site
08:45 all other Junior children
The school day will end at:
15:25 for LKS2
15:30 for UKS2

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

Diary Dates

• **Wednesday 1st September**

INSET Day

• **Thursday 2nd September**

Start of Term

• **Tuesday 7th September**

Y4LP start swimming

• **Thursday 7th September**

Y4VS and Y4MP start swimming

• **Monday 13th September**

Reception start full-time.

• **Wednesday 15th September Afternoon**

Nursery Ladybirds start properly

• **Monday 20th September Morning**

Nursery Caterpillars start properly

• **Friday 22nd October**

End of Term

Further dates for Nursery and Reception can be found at the bottom of the next page.

Year 6 Leavers' Service

Your time with us at St Thomas' School has been a bit like a journey and like a journey, the road stretches behind us and ahead of us, like time itself. For 7 years, we have belonged together; we have been a familiar place, your home. We have shared our lives together and there will be people we are grateful for, people who have helped us on this journey.

There will have been great times that you'll always remember, moments that will stay with you forever, captured as if on a postcard sent to a loved one.

We also know that there will have been times when things got in a mess and we've needed to clean up, to say sorry and to forgive each other or to leave behind regrets about things that didn't go as we'd hoped. Your new school is another kind of new beginning for you, a chance to reflect on who you are, and the gift that you'll be to your new school community.

We've talked a lot this year about the importance of hand hygiene – and so no journey would be complete without.... hand sanitiser!! There has been so much of this past year that has been out of our hands – things we have had to let go of; worries that we have carried.

We all know that moving on can be a time of worry too, as we leave behind all the familiar things, we can put these things into God's hands and can choose to let go of the things that we are concerned about.

Next steps are exciting, like buying a ticket, a promise that you are on your way to something new and exciting – a match, a show, an adventure.

Jesus told his friends that he was sending them on a new adventure too: to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth, but you're not going that anywhere near that far!

On your journey with us, we hope that you have learned many things and gained not just knowledge, but wisdom, and that these things will equip you for the world that lies ahead as you travel on in your school journey.

We hope that your time with us will help you to shine your light brightly. Developing your talents, gifts, abilities and working hard whilst you've been with us, have helped you to do just this. Jesus talked about shining your light for all to see – not hiding it under a bowl. So shine brightly, Year 6, as you start on your new adventure.

We also hope that your time with us has taught you to know where to find light when the road is dark, to help you to find your way when you are lost and help others to do the same but more than anything, we hope you leave us seeing yourself, and others, as God sees you... full of potential, precious, unique and loved.

And so, as you pack up ready to move on, I want to remind you of some words that Jesus spoke to his friends before he left earth and moved on himself,

'I will be with you always.'

And you know where we are too!

Nursery - Ladybirds

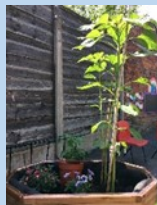


In Nursery, the Ladybird group have really enjoyed doing lots of gardening this half term. The children have planted sunflower seeds, broad beans and strawberry plants.

We have had lots of fun watching them grow and have used our maths skills to measure them each week.

Especially the sunflowers, the children are very excited now the sunflowers are taller than them!

We would like to say a big thank you to those parents who have donated vegetables to grow. We have really enjoyed learning about all the different types of vegetables, such as; potatoes, broccoli, peppers and tomatoes.



We have been monitoring the weather each morning and making sure the plants have had enough water to drink. The children have been really keen to take care of our garden area by digging out the weeds and picking up litter.

We have also had lots of fun, using our senses, looking at, touching and smelling different herbs in our herb garden such as; mint, thyme, rosemary and sage.

Well done Nursery, what a beautiful garden we have!



Reception

In Reception we have been exploring 'The Little Island' through our Magic Box. We have met a range of characters including a goose, builder and a fox!

We designed our own farms and wrote letters to persuade Ms Loynes to build a farm at the Junior site. Unfortunately, due to Reddish Vale farm being so close to school, we could not build our farm. However, the children enjoyed discussing which three animals they would choose and why. The children came up with lots of ideas of their favourite animals and how their produce could be used at school. For example, one children stated that we should get chickens so we can use the eggs at lunch time. Rudy's idea was to have sheep then we could use the wool to make jumpers. When the jumpers were created, his plan was to sell them to raise money for homeless people. What a kind thought!

Within the story we faced a problem when the geese destroyed the bridge to keep the other animals out of the little island. When the foxes came to get the geese, the children designed different ways to raise the alarm to the geese. These including creating a boat to sail across the water to reach the geese, sending messages in bottles and creating our own musical sounds to wake the geese up. The children also enjoyed designing and creating their own traps using a range of materials to catch the foxes.

Another problem that we faced was rebuilding the bridge once the geese had realised their mistakes. The children

Nursery and Reception Arrangements for September 2021

Reception

Meet the Teacher:

- Thursday 2nd September
- Friday 3rd September
- Monday 6th September

Transition Sessions:

- Tuesday 7th September
- Wednesday 8th September
- Thursday 9th September
- Friday 10th September

Reception start full time:

- Monday 13th September

Reception parents will know which of the sessions are applicable to them.

Nursery - Ladybirds Afternoons

Meet the Teacher:

- Thursday 2nd September
- Friday 3rd September

Transition Sessions:

- Wednesday 8th September
- Thursday 9th September
- Friday 10th September

Nursery - Ladybirds start afternoons properly:

- Wednesday 15th September

Nursery - Ladybird parents will know which of the sessions are applicable to them.

Nursery - Caterpillars Morning

Meet the Teacher:

- Monday 6th September
- Tuesday 7th September
- Wednesday 8th September

Transition Sessions:

- Monday 13th September
- Tuesday 14th September
- Wednesday 14th September

Nursery - Ladybirds start afternoons properly:

- Monday 20th September

Nursery - Caterpillar parents will know which of the sessions are applicable to them.

Year 1

Ahoy There, Landlubbers!

In Year 1, we have been learning all about pirates!

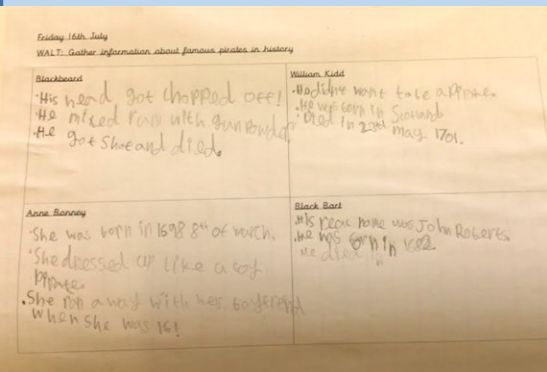
We used our English skills to write fantastic poems about what we could find in a pirate's pocket. Then, last weekend we had a mysterious visitor who left their belongings in the playground! We had to collect them all to solve the mystery, and we even found CCTV footage of a dancing parrot. Then, we recorded it all in a news report to make sure the whole school knew we were on the case! In History, we have carried out lots of research into:

- Historical pirates like Blackbeard and Anne Bonny
- Types of pirate ships
- Pirate jobs

We even designed our own flags and applied for a job on a pirate ship! All of this research has prepared us for our voyage to the junior field this Friday 23rd July for a swashbuckling adventure day.

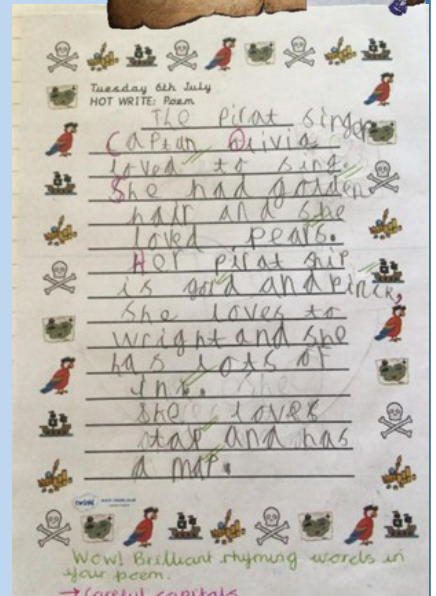
"I liked learning about famous pirates in a carousel where we went around the tables and wrote about them." Orla.

"I liked EVERYTHING. I'm so excited for Pirate Day and to wear my pirate hat that we made." Patrick.



"I liked learning about pirates because they're scary. I liked singing the pirate songs and doing all the actions, and I am excited to be a scary pirate on Pirate Day tomorrow!" Elliot.

Yo ho, me hearties!



Year 2

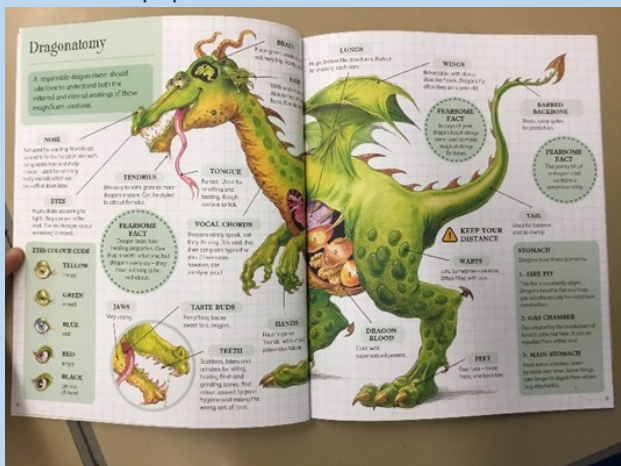
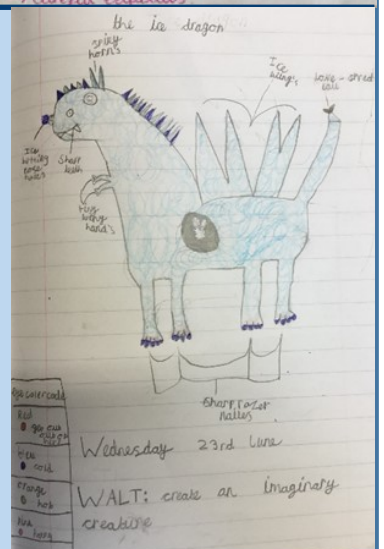
Mysterious Egg Appears at Key Stage One!

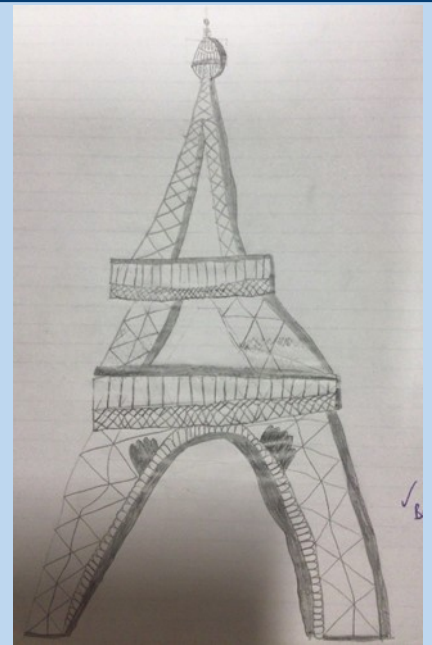
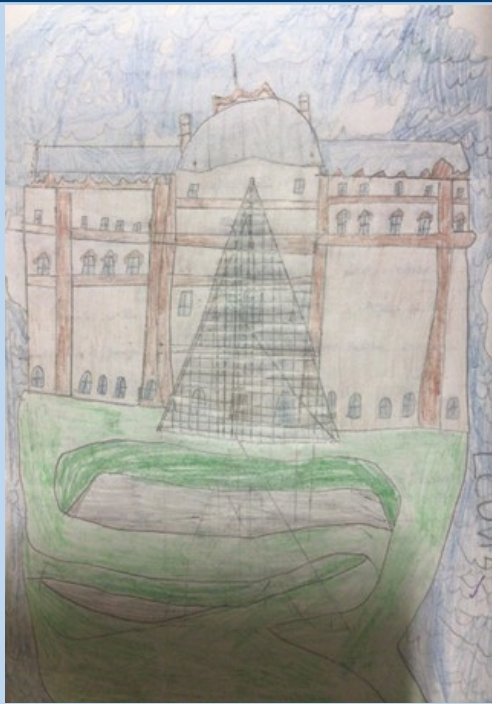
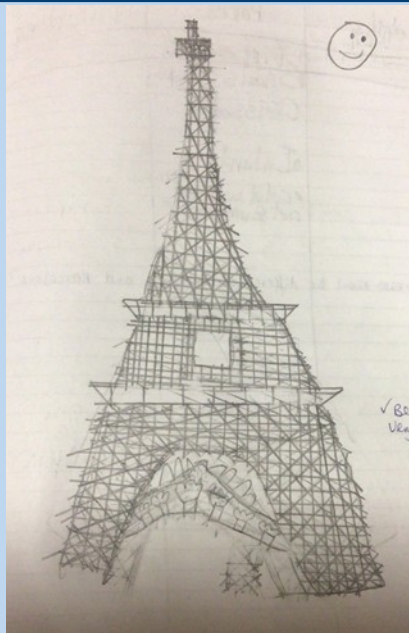
The children and adults of Year Two were shocked to find a massive, multi coloured egg in the bushes at the infant site on a sunny Monday morning in July. In an instant, everyone became a detective and scoured the playground for clues. They found blood marks, broken equipment, scales and a large footprint. More clues appeared in the form of a real life sighting and a recent newspaper article which led the children to believe it was a dragon's egg!

Within class, children used the book 'Dare to Care: Pet Dragon' by Mark Robinson to research dragons and look at the features of information texts.

We also looked at 'Tell me a Dragon' by Jackie Morris, which helped to inspire our own dragon creations. We applied a range of writing skills, including noun phrases to describe our dragons, when creating our own double page information fact sheet.

We became news reporters, gathered eye-witness reports, found out the facts and wrote our own newspaper articles.

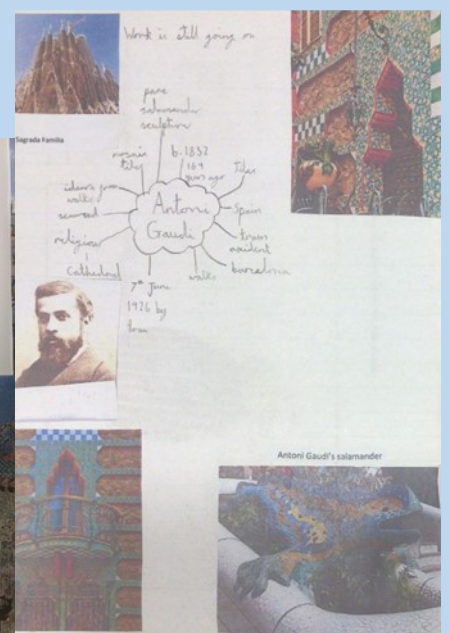
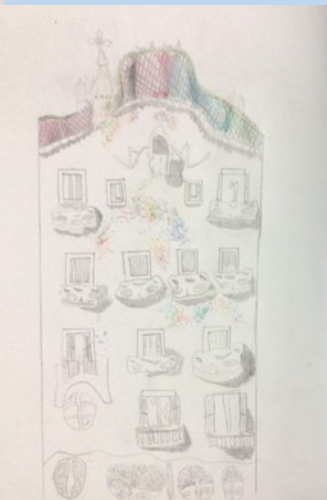
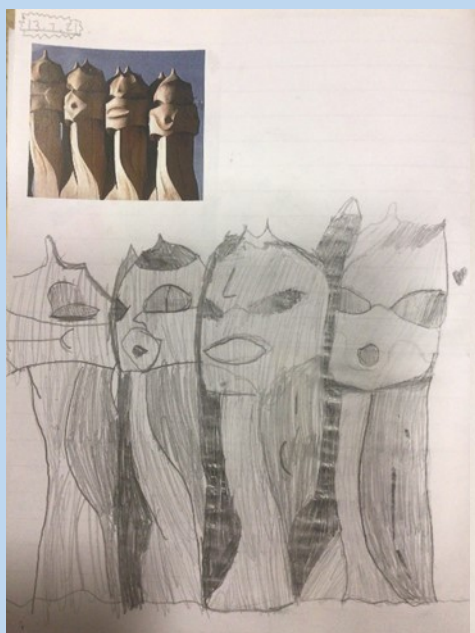




Year 3

In Year 3, we have been studying three European cities: Barcelona, London and Paris. As part of our topic, we researched the famous landmarks that are found in each city and then tried our hand at sketching them.

In Art, we looked at the work and creations of the famous Barcelona architect, Antoni Gaudi. We created mood boards, showing the different features and characteristics of Gaudi buildings and sculptures. We also sketched sections from his famous buildings such as the Casa Batlló, focusing on shading light and dark and the range of colours used.



Year 4

In Year 4, we have been reading the book 'Brightstorm' by Vashti Hardy; we have thoroughly enjoyed going on an Air Ship adventure with the characters Arty, Maudie, Harriet and Felicity.

In English, we started with an Explorer Day where we had to complete a range of activities to excite us about the book:

- using map skills to investigate the land that we would be exploring
- researching explorers; where they went and what they found?
- designing our own airship
- making an origami sky ship from house paper and wondering why...

As we have read this marvellous adventure, we have used all of the writing skills that we have learnt this year, to produce a range of writing.

We started with a persuasive letter to apply to become a member of the airship crew. We received letters back, to tell us if we had been successful, or not.

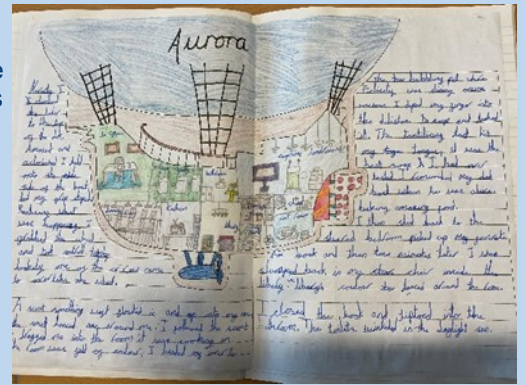


We designed our own villain, as we had read of a mysterious character, lurking in the shadows. We described the villain using a range of vocabulary and sentences, and then we drew what our character looked like.

"I enjoyed writing a non-chronological booklet about the Thought Wolves because I liked these characters, and I enjoyed writing about them like they were actually real!" Sophie.

"I really liked writing my Sentence Pyramids and illustrating it with a map of The Wide." Rayaan.

"I enjoyed writing a persuasive letter, as I had to persuade Harriet to let me become a member of our crew. I even addressed an envelope to make sure that she received my application." Lenni



Year 5

Young Leaders Award

Over the course of Year 5, we have been working hard on our Young Leaders Award. This award is partnered with the Archbishop of York. Part of the Young Leaders Award was to complete a fundraising event and select a charity that would really benefit from any funds raised. To complete the task, Year 5 had to coin the Young Leaders phrase, 'Be the Change you want to see' using coins that were kindly donated by the children. In total, Year 5 raised £238.11- what an amazing total and achievement!

English

This term In English, we have been writing and learning about biographies. We decided to focus on Sir David Attenborough, an inspiring British broadcaster who has changed the world. We thought about key features and wrote outstanding biographies that we are really proud of.



"We absolutely loved learning about Sir David Attenborough. We think our work was definitely worthy of being our last writing piece in Year 5!"
(Maisie, Frankie, Abigail and Frankie)

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology we created 3D fish sculptures linked to our class novel, Flotsam- an illustrated story that is set by the seaside. Over the week, everybody brought in plastic bottles to decorate and turn into 3D fish. We used techniques, such as: modelling, printing and papier mache to make out fish. The fish looked amazing and everybody was thrilled with what they had made. We took photos to stick in our books too.





Year 6

It's been a tumultuous year for all of St Thomas' children. For year 6, the final year of their primary education has not been a standard par for the course - to say the least. End of year celebrations were uncertain but the school were determined to give the children a send-off, a celebration that they were truly deserving of, something memorable to celebrate their grit, tenacity, determination and hard work this academic year.

After a flurry of organisation and logistical planning, a programme of events was devised, rehearsed for and delivered – and to top it off the children prepared for their first ever 'Year 6 Festival', set to be quite the event.

Imagine then, the utter delight upon securing a chart topping band to top the festival bill – confirmation arrived that THE BLOSSOMS would love to headline the main stage! THE BLOSSOMS!

Anticipation was high and no one was disappointed. The children were wild with excitement and disbelief, they donned their finest festival get ups - straw hats were thrown with wild abandon as they watched in awe as a live set of 5 songs was performed by the local band. The atmosphere was incredible. Mrs Thomas nearly fainted!

As well as the treat of live, chart topping music, the children also enjoyed freshly delivered pizza, inflatable games, a stand-up comedy show delivered by the always professional local comedian Alex Boardman and a whole host of other festivities. What a perfect way to end a not so perfect year.



Farewell to our Year 6 Leavers.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



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

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.

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.

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. When we return in September.

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

Summer Reading Challenge

Starts 10th July until 11th September.

To complete the challenge, we ask children to read 6 books over the summer holidays.

