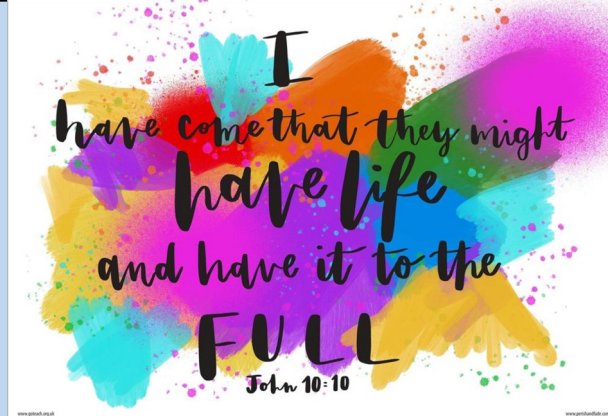


Next Half - Term's Bible Verse



Letter from the Head

At the end of another busy term, I would like to say a huge thank you and well done to our wonderful children for all they have achieved this term. The teachers and staff are so proud of every child and I am sure that Father Christmas will be delivering lots of presents to our school community on Christmas Eve! We are so grateful to all of our parents for working together with the school for the benefit of our children and we look forward to the year ahead where we can welcome parents back into school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated staff and governors of St Thomas' for all that they have done and continue to do for our children.

It has been wonderful to hear the children singing during their Christmas performances over the last few weeks and I know many of you are looking forward to watching a DVD or Vimeo of their performance over the Christmas holiday. It was a delight to see our children spread Christmas joy into our local community in recent weeks, as some of our children sang carols to our neighbours at the Heaton School, at the Heaton's Dementia Friendly Friday Drop in at Heaton Moor United Church and again on Saturday, at our Christmas Fair.

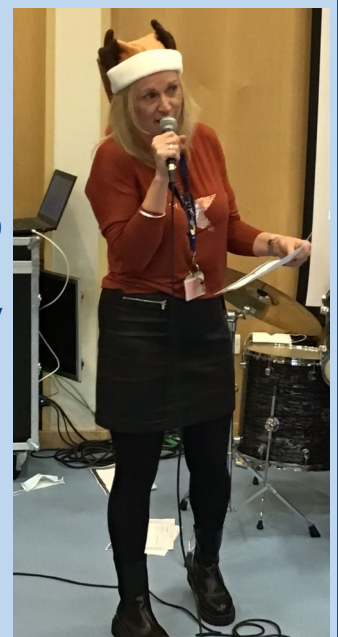
The funds raised through P.T.A. events this term are utterly incredible and it was a pleasure to see our community come together once again on Saturday at our outdoor Christmas Fair. We are so thankful to every parent who has attended, helped organise or taken part in any way. The money raised will help us to improve our school resources and facilities for the better and we are looking forward to informing you as to how these funds will be used. I would like to say a huge thank you to our determined, hardworking and adaptable P.T.A. members—they really do work tirelessly to ensure these events are a success.

Christmas Dinner was a huge success on the 3rd of December at KS1 and on Wednesday the 22nd of December at KS2, where many clear trays were seen. I would like to say thank you to our team of cooks on both sites for preparing, cooking and serving over 500 Christmas dinners to our school community.

We are planning to open as usual on Monday the 10th of January 2022, and we sincerely hope that nothing affects that over the next couple of weeks. However, as has been the case over the last two years, there are contingency plans in place as well. Thank you for your support, especially as we have worked hard to keep everyone COVID free for Christmas.

Wishing everyone in our St Thomas' family a peaceful, healthy and Happy Christmas.

Ms Loynes
Head teacher
B Mus., P.G.C.E.



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

A thought for the Christmas Period

Christmas is about – Christ

***'They saw the young child...and fell down, and worshipped him.'* Matthew 2:11**

He was born in the humblest of settings, yet heaven above was filled with the songs of angels. His birthplace was a cattle shed, yet a star brought the rich and noble from thousands of miles away to worship Him. His birth was contrary to the laws of life and His death was contrary to the laws of death, yet no miracle is greater than His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection and His teachings. He had no cornfields or fisheries, yet He spread a table for 5,000 and had bread and fish to spare. He never stood on expensive carpeting, yet He walked on the waters and they supported Him. His crucifixion was the crime of crimes, yet from God's perspective no less a price could have made possible our redemption. When He died, few mourned His passing, yet God hung a black cape over the sun. Those who crucified Him did not tremble at what they'd done, yet the earth shook under them. Sin never touched Him. Corruption could not get hold of His body. The soil that was reddened with His blood could not claim His dust. For over three years He preached the gospel. He wrote no book, He had no headquarters and He built no organisation. Yet two thousand years later He's the central figure of human history, the perpetual theme of all preaching, the pivot around which the ages revolve, and the only redeemer of the human race. At this season of celebration and gift-giving, let's join the wise men who 'fell down and worshipped him'. Let's remember, Christmas is about – Christ!

Goodbye to our cook Claire

On Friday December 3rd, the Infant children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner!

This was prepared by our cook, Claire Statham. Claire wanted to cook us a lovely Christmas dinner for the last time because sadly, she was leaving our school on Monday 6th December.

Claire has got a new job, and she will become a person who trains other cooks in Stockport, working with twenty-one different schools!

Claire has really enjoyed working at St Thomas' for the last seven years and enjoys the different challenges every day. Claire particularly enjoys cooking for a theme day such as the Harvest dinner in October. Claire was dreading having to leave us but is also excited about her new job. Jude, in Year 6, is Claire's son, and he will leave our school too at the end of Year 6.

We will all really miss Claire's wonderful dinners but wish her every success in her new job!



The Lovely Mrs Thomas

Whilst Mrs Lea has been off, Mrs Thomas has been a superstar keeping the office running and doing the jobs of two people.

Mrs Thomas has been with us since 2009, fulfilling the roles of: Mid-day, Midday Supervisor, LSA, TA, Wrap Around Care Manager (and in her own words a general all rounder - even cleaning toilets!) Mrs Thomas' children have also attended St Thomas between 2006 and 2013.

A very big thank you to Mrs Thomas from all of us at St Thomas.

Diary Dates - Autumn 1 2021

- **Monday 10th January**

Start of Term

- **Wednesday 5th January**

RSPB Big School's Birdwatch

- **W/B 10th January**

Reception children will be carrying out Birdwatch activities

- **Monday 17th January**

Year 4 Roman Day

- **W/b 30th January**

National Story Telling Week

- **Tuesday 1st February**

Chinese New Year

- **Tuesday 8th February**

Safer Internet Day

- **Monday 14th December**

Valentine Day - Reception children will be learning all about it.

- **Friday 11th February**

End of Term

Thank You Heaton Moor United Church

A huge thank you to Heaton Moor United Church for their donations of food parcels. They very kindly donated packs of 'Curry at Christmas'. This meant we were able to offer our families a selection of culturally diverse food.

We are so grateful for their continued support. @heatonmooruc



Nursery

This half term Nursery have been very busy exploring different celebrations. They created firework pictures for Bonfire night and acted out the story of Rama and Sita for Diwali.



Over the past few weeks they have been jumping into the Storybox to help Father Christmas in the story, 'Emily Brown and Father Christmas'. They were even visited by the big man himself when he got stuck on the school's roof! The children helped explain to Santa about the importance of his reindeers and they designed him a new sleigh to use too.

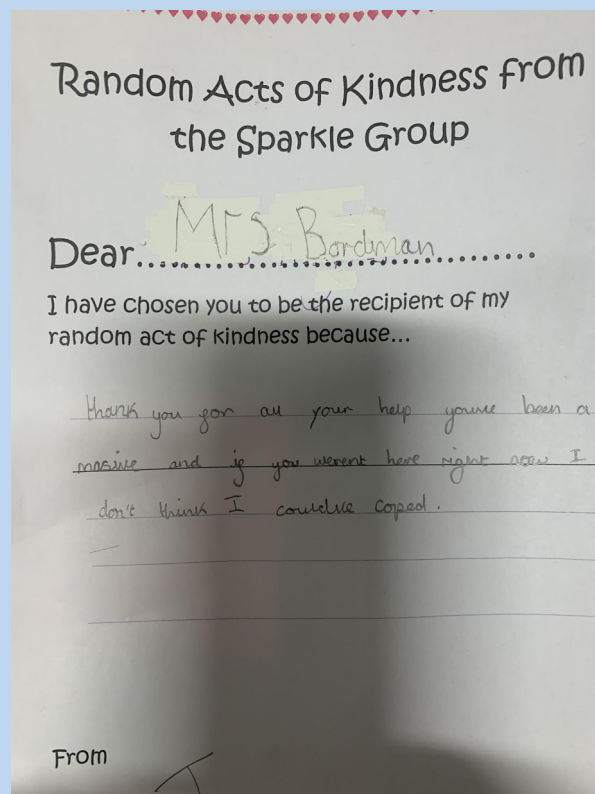
Nursery have been practising their Christmas songs and their Nativity 'We're Going on a Baby Hunt', which they performed beautifully in the church. Well done Nursery you have all been busy bees!

Sparkle Group

The Sparkle Group have also been generous little elves and have spread love and thought in school by sharing our Random Acts of Kindness.

In this lesson, the children thought about who they would like to receive their kind words and wrote beautiful letters to all staff in school.

The children experienced the giving of a gift that did not cost any money, but the satisfaction of seeing the faces of their recipient.



Reception

In Reception we have been learning all about 'People Who Help Us'. We have been lucky enough to have visitors from our school community to come in and talk to us all about their jobs and how they help people. So far we have been visited by:

A Soldier

We had a parent in our community come and tell us all about his role in the army. We learnt that being in the army is all about helping people and keeping peace. We learnt about the different roles in the army, such as chefs, helicopter pilots, doctors & nurses and soldiers. We even got to act out some of the roles!



A Nurse

We also had another parent come in and tell us all about her job as an A&E nurse. Her roles was all about helping people when they are hurt. She showed us all of the fantastic equipment that nurses and doctors use to help people to feel better. We loved using some of the bandages within our continuous provision.



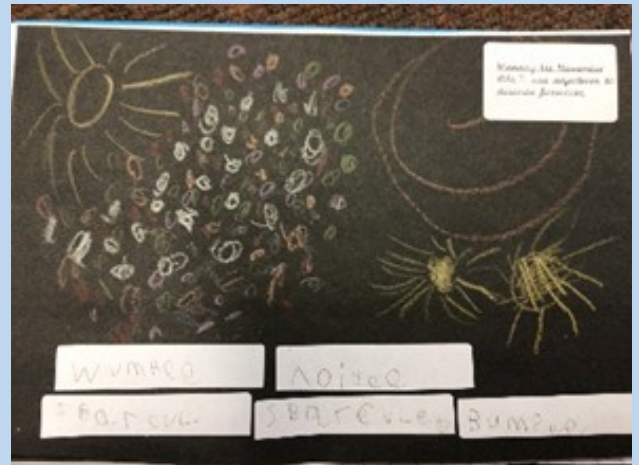
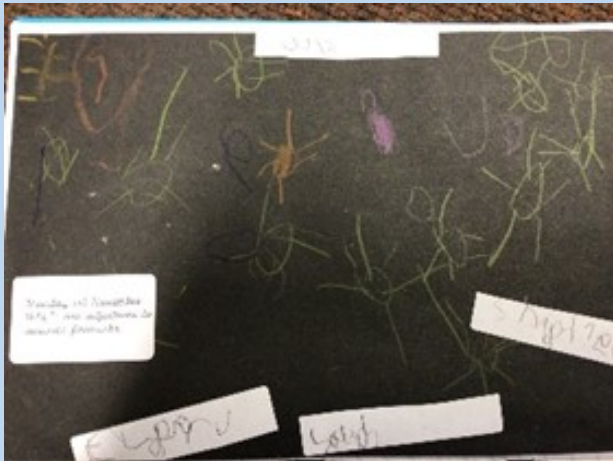
A GP

One of the parents in our community is a GP. He came in to tell us all about the many people that he helps to feel better every day. He showed us some of the equipment that he uses to check over his patients. He even let us have a go at using them!

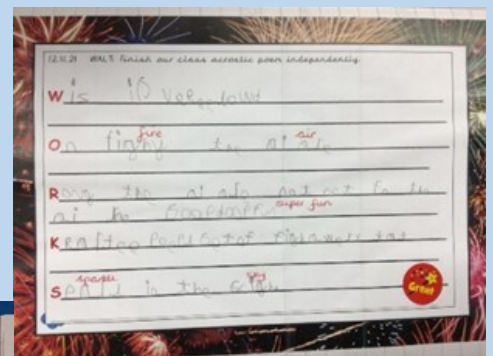
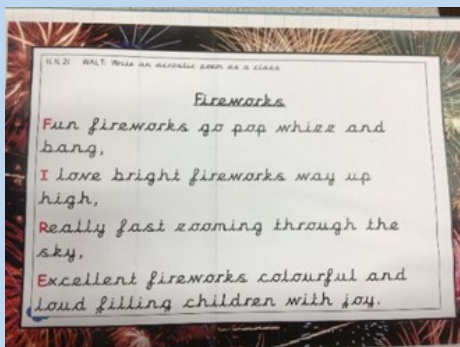


Year 1

In Year 1, we have been exploring fireworks and the Gunpowder Plot. We talked about our experiences of fire work displays and created art work showing fireworks.

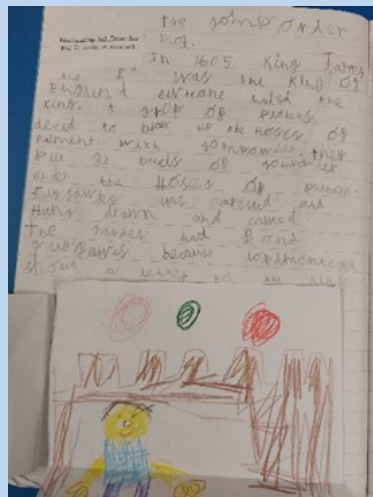


We then wrote an acrostic poem using lots of adjectives. We wrote the first part together and then we each wrote our own part.



In history we learnt all about the Gunpowder plot.

We became experts and wrote a recount of the events.



Year 2

In English we've been writing instructions for lots of different things. We wanted to decorate our classrooms and so we thought about how we could link the two together. We decided to write instructions for paper snowflakes and angels. We then created them. These snowflakes have decorated our classrooms so beautifully!

We also added a little glitter to give our classrooms a bit of Christmas sparkle.



In RE we have been learning about the nativity story. We've been trying to think about how the characters in the story would be feeling at that magical time. We formed the choir in the nativity and had a fabulous time celebrating the Christmas Story.

During this super busy half term we have been taking part in lots of extra activities;

- An author visit from Sean Perkins
- The pantomime trip to the Plaza
- Secret readers started this half term
- Our Year 2 Christmas party
- We planted some bulbs and have been eagerly watching for them to sprout
- Non uniform day for Children in Need
- Road safety sessions
- KS1 Nativity Performance

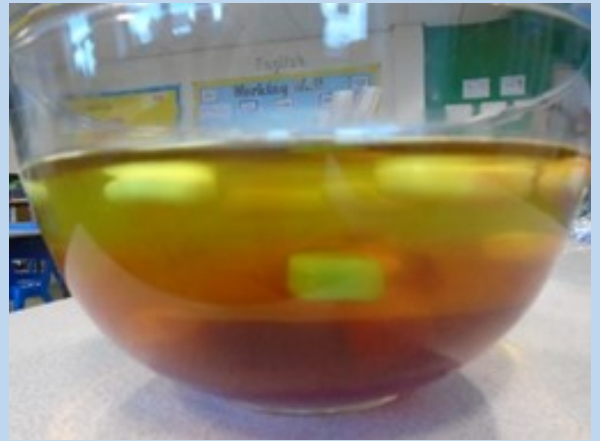


Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at 'Rocks and Soils' this half term.

We used a bowl of jelly to imagine what the layers of rock look like beneath our feet. The layers of jelly represent the different layers of rock. The sweets show how fossils get trapped in the rock and are pushed down by the weight of the layers above over time.

We also created fossils using plasticine to represent the land and water and we had great fun learning about the fossilisation process.



We planned an experiment to find out which rocks are impermeable, durable and if any float in water. We also went on to discover how soil comes from broken-down rocks and spent time observing and sieving different types of soils.



Year 4

A big thank you to all of our Year 4 children for conducting the Christmas Service - entitled 'One Bright Star'. Despite being saddened that our parent community could not join us, we still celebrated Jesus' birth altogether.

With super solo singers, amazing actors, marvellous narrators and a rousing choir, we raised the roof with our celebrations.

Year 4 parents will thoroughly enjoy watching this service that you will be sent a link for.

Well done Year 4.



Secret Santa Hamper

Every Christmas <https://secretsantahamper.co.uk> deliver us lots of food for our families. These packs have been designed with so much thought and contain food that can be easily made by older children, and food that has a long shelf life.

They kindly donated 25 boxes this year, so this enables us to keep a stock of food in school for our families to access at any point in the year.



Year 5

Dementia Friendly Carol Concert

On Friday 10th December, a group of children from Year 5 walked over to Heaton Moor's Dementia Friendly group Christmas party to sing Christmas songs and carols to them. It was a poignant moment to see the folk there so full of joy and excitement as they joined in with us – the '12 Days of Christmas' was a particular hit and became quite rowdy at one point! We are completing the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award this year, and as part of this the children are completing acts of service within our local community. Our choir also visited The Heatons School to share our wonderful singing



Geography / Design Technology

We have enjoyed learning about South America in Geography this term, and as part of this we made comparisons between life in the favelas of Brazil to life in Stockport. We linked this to Design Technology by designing, making and evaluating our own 3D favelas in the style of Haus and Hahn. We are very pleased with how they turned out!



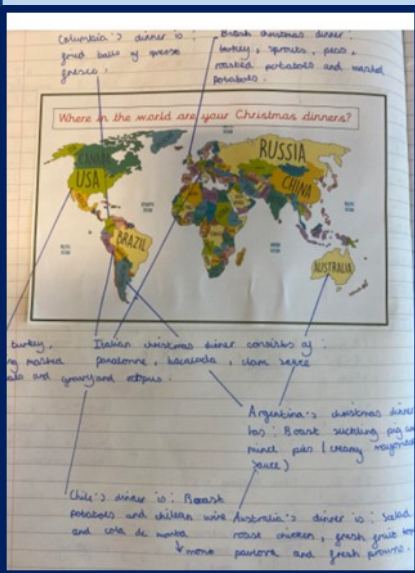
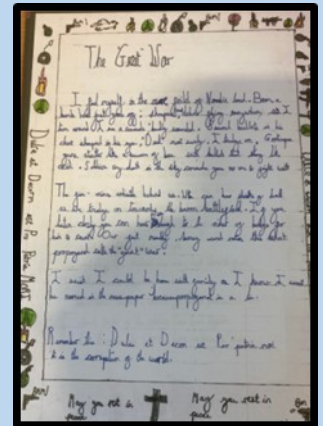
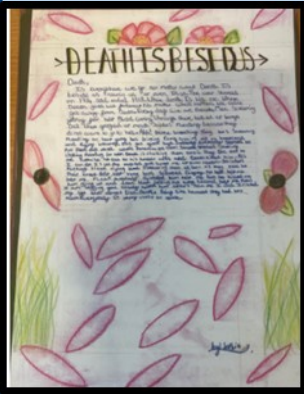
Music

In Music, we composed and performed an Amazon-themed collaborative class piece of music. We built up a soundscape of the rainforest, selecting certain instruments to represent different sounds e.g. rain, animal sounds etc... We then pieced together a story of a jaguar attacking a caiman, using volume, tempo, texture and dynamics to tell the story through the music. We were able to perform these to our buddy classes in Year 3. (As part of Friendship Week in November, we buddied together with another class to help develop friendships and to build in mentoring opportunities across year groups.)

Year 6

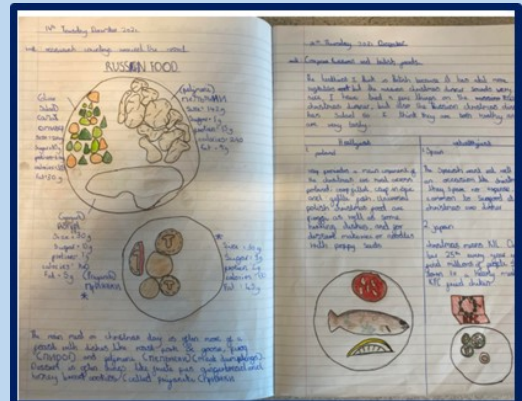
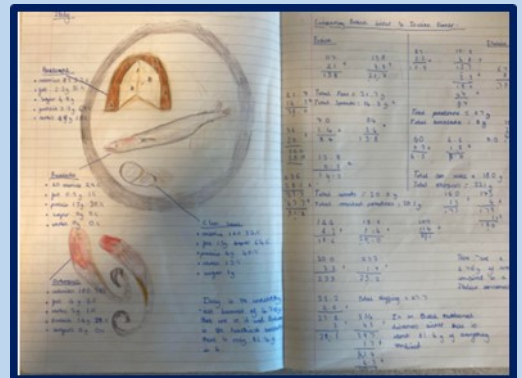
History/ English- World War One

This half term, year six have continued to learn about WW1. We have completed our class text 'Private Peaceful' as well as exploring WW1 poetry. The children created their own anthology of poetry. Remembrance Day was all the more poignant this year, as the children now have a more in-depth understanding of the horrors faced by soldiers. They created poppy plaques in honour of the fallen.



Science/ Geography

Christmas dinners around the world offer quite the variety! Did you know, for example, that the traditional dish of choice in Japan is fried chicken (provided by a rather famous Colonel!) Children have been researching Christmas food traditions across the globe, calculating the nutritional value and making decisions as to who makes the healthiest choices. Following this, children located each country on a map of the world and looked for trends or similarities within regions and continents.



Merry Christmas from the year 6 team, we wish you a relaxing break and look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.

Christmas Music

At St Thomas' we love music! So the adults decided to surprise the children with some live Christmas music. We got together as many of our adult musicians as we would to perform a range of songs, as a treat, for the children. Needless to say, the adults enjoyed it as much (if not more) than the children.



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 at:

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.

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.

Naming of Property and Personal Items

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

Encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings.

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.

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

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.

Online Applications for School and Nursery

A reminder to parents that all applications for Nursery, and Reception must be completed online using the Stockport Council Admissions Website. There are no paper applications available.

Please note the essential deadlines:

Reception - Saturday 15th January

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.