

St Thomas' CE Primary School

“Let all that you do be done in love”



Newsletter 28th January 2021

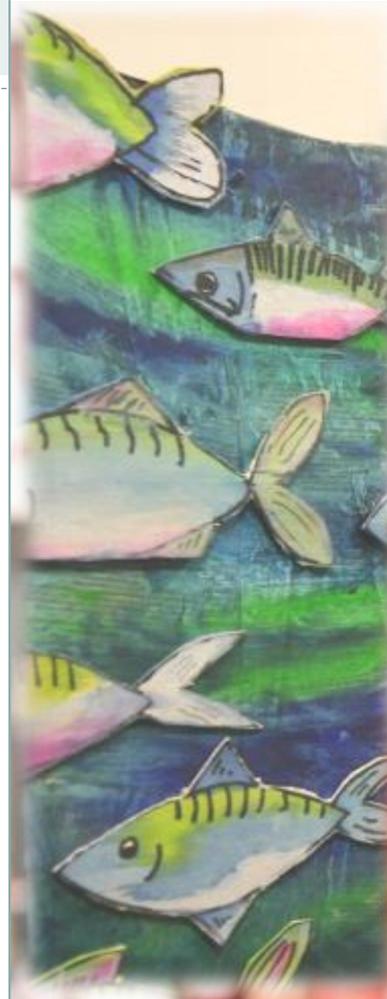
We hope you and your loved ones are well, taking care and staying safe at this time. We are really missing the children who are not in school at the moment and the day to day contact with families around the school in the mornings and after school. Thank you so much for your positive comments via Seesaw and also sent to the school office – we really do appreciate the time and effort taken to let us know. All messages are shared with individuals or the staff team and it makes a big difference.

We also recognise the massive amount of hard work that parents and families are undertaking to support their children and their education at this time. Thank you for the support, commitment and determination that you are showing. We have shared some examples in this newsletter of work and tasks that children have undertaken as part of their home learning. They are amazing! Well done boys and girls.

If you are having any difficulty and would like advice or support for learning, please contact the class teacher in the first instance. Their contact details are included in this communication and they will try their very best to help and clarify. Likewise, if the office or leadership team can assist with any matters please do get in touch at school. We are supporting a number of children and families and will do our very best to assist or signpost to support.

We recognise that none of this is easy and hope that schools will re-open as soon as soon as possible. The government is now indicating that this will not happen until the 8th March at the earliest. There will likely be a phased return of children in different areas from this date, depending on the associated risk in the locality. We really look forward to that happening but will be doing our very best in the meantime to support children and families.

Take care, stay safe, God bless!



CONTACT US:

Tel: 01925 268722

Email: stthomas_primary@warrington.gov.uk

EYFS: via SeeSaw

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Miss Guihan:
y2pe@st-thomas.co.uk

Miss Butler:
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Miss Jones:
y1pe@st-thomas.co.uk

Mrs Toft:
y1pe@st-thomas.co.uk

Mrs Lister :
y6pe@st-thomas.co.uk

“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to those who have already responded to our parent survey, we're really grateful to all those who took the time to share their views of our current remote learning offer. We're also going to be surveying pupils and staff on their experiences to date. So that we have as full a picture as possible. Results will be analysed by senior leaders & governors and we will share the outcomes with you all in our next newsletter.

SUPPORTING OUR PUPILS WITH THEIR READING

Lockdown has been difficult for so many reasons! For our children, the biggest challenge could possibly be that they are not getting to see their friends face to face. Or perhaps the transition to a whole new way of living for a while has been challenging. Reading can be seen as one of the many ways we can make this time a little easier and it has been proven to have beneficial effects on mental health and wellbeing.

Here at St Thomas' we are mindful that we are unable to send books home to our children currently so we wanted to let you know of all the ways that you can keep your children reading whilst we can't be together in school. Attached with this newsletter is a leaflet we have created containing details about how families can access an array of reading resources during this time.

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

Morning worship from St Thomas' is now streamed live via Youtube on a Sunday at 10:45am. There is a direct link on the [church website](#) just before the service begins, or search for "St Thomas Church Stockton Heath livestream" on YouTube.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

As you may well already be aware, the DfE has announced that schools will close for the planned February half-term holidays so we will be able to offer key worker place during that week. Please note that Mr Waldon's February sport camp which was advertised yesterday is now already fully booked.

SAFEGUARDING

During this period of lockdown, it is more important than ever that you contact us if you're worried about a child:

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr Moss:
stthomas_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Toft:
ytoft@st-thomas.co.uk

Pupils will currently be accessing online resources more than ever usual; it is important that we are all mindful of keeping children safe online during this time. The following website has particularly helpful advice for setting parental controls:

www.internetmatters.org



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CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week takes place between 1 and 7 February 2021. The theme of the week is "Express Yourself". The aim is to encourage us all to explore ways we can express ourselves and share feelings, thoughts and ideas. It's clear that this lockdown is proving more challenging for many families. Many children and young people have likely experienced loneliness and been affected by lack of physical contact with their friends, families and peers, and the boredom and frustration associated with a loss of all the activities they have been used to taking part in.

On Warrington's Happy? OK? Sad? site, you'll find links to a range of free services and resources, relating to children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. [Click here](#) for more details. The areas covered include:

- Mental health support services for children and young people
- Free mental health resources for young people
- Make Time and the Five Ways to Wellbeing resources
- COVID-19 and wellbeing resources for young people

Young Minds runs a [Parents' Helpline](#), which offers free, confidential advice and support to parents and carers concerned about the mental health of a child. This support can be accessed by phone, webchat and email. The Young Minds site also provides mental health and wellbeing information to young people themselves.

If any of our parents or pupils are struggling, please don't suffer in silence, contact the school and we will do what we can to support you and signpost you to appropriate help. When school re-opens, there will be a focus on wellbeing, recognising that this is important for enabling learning for all children, particularly those who have experienced challenges throughout the lockdown.

PARENT DONATIONS

We are very grateful to all our families who donate regularly via direct debit to the school. Our finances have been dramatically affected by the Covid crisis; not just the increased expenditure on sanitising products, cleaning and the need to invest in new resources for learning, but a loss of income from our link club and nursery, the hire of the school hall and of course all of the PTA's usual fundraising.

Your contributions have however enabled us to invest in online resources to support pupils' learning in the classroom and remotely, including a SeeSaw upgrade, Oxford Owl, Reading Eggs, Athletics and Spelling Shed.

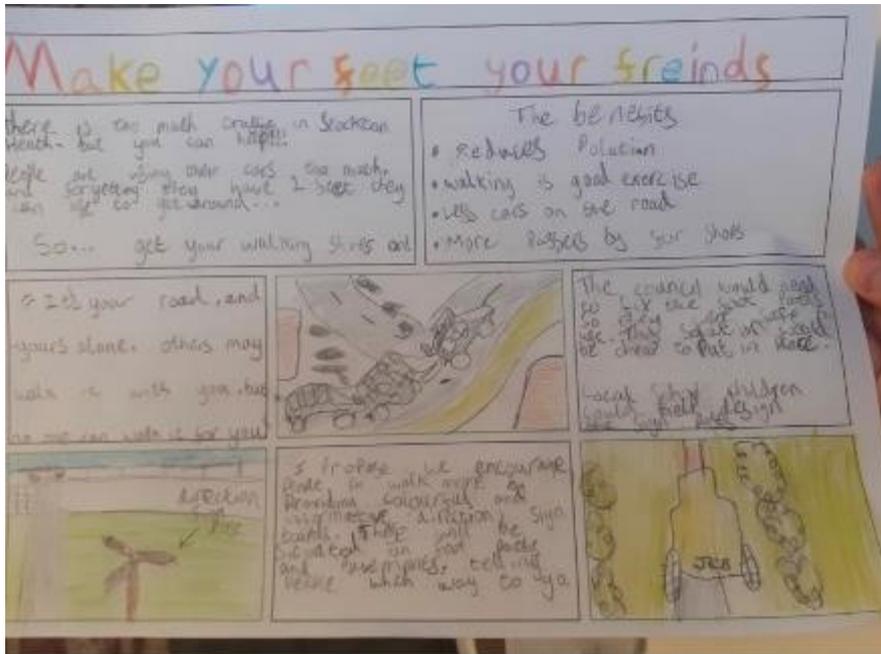
We also owe a huge thank you to our finance governor Katy Tait for managing our gift aid claims, which generated an additional £1,335 for the 18-month period up to September 2020.

If you feel able to contribute to our school fund with a small monthly donation, please contact the office to request a direct debit and gift aid form.

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20

HOME LEARNING SUPERSTARS

We are immensely proud of the way your children have adapted and embraced the new ways of learning. We know this isn't always easy for pupils or indeed for parents, so really wanted to celebrate some of the hard work and creativity that we have seen in recent weeks. Keep up the good work, you're all amazing!

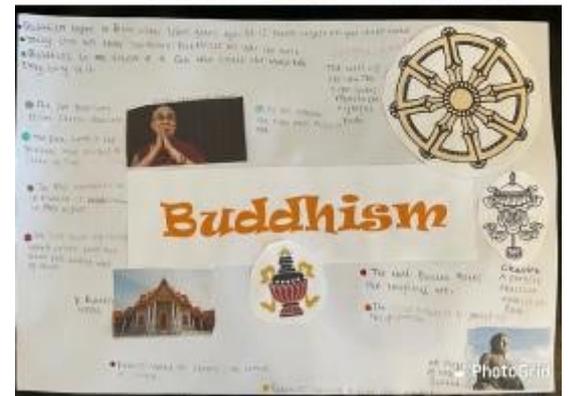


Mrs Lister says “I was SO impressed with Jensen’s work today...the Learning Objective was to solve an environmental issue and the task was to create a persuasive poster to present to the Council, outlining a solution to the traffic problems in Stockton Heath.”

Year 4 marked World Religion Day in RE last week and researched Buddhism as a way to further their knowledge and understanding of different world religions.



Phoebe in Y6 used various household objects to investigate Reflecting Light in science.



“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20

Annie in Reception worked incredibly hard to use her phonics to name animals from our book 'Here We Are'. She then decided to open her own petting zoo and used the labels for the animals within her zoo. Annie makes a fantastic virtual tour guide!



After learning about our wonderful world with Reception, Olivia went to Ackers Pit to feed the ducks and swans. She looked at the different animals that lived in the pond and named them. She then built a snowman and explained each step.

Annabel made an amazing postcard to her Reception teachers after she went on a journey to space. You wouldn't believe the things she got up to! She saw asteroids, went to Saturn and made a fantastic picture of an astronaut to go on the front.



Year 5 have enjoyed completing our 'Forces' unit in science and have managed to carry out investigations into air resistance, water resistance and friction!

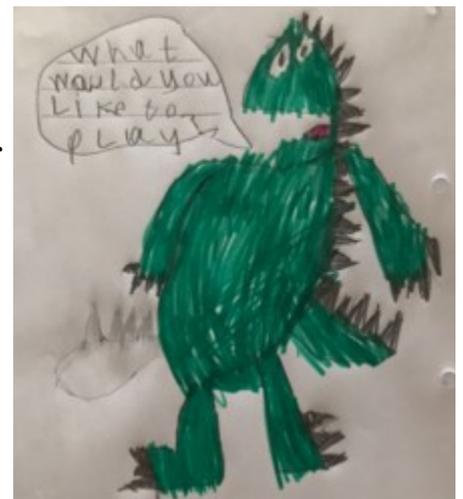


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Year 5 spent the first few weeks of term studying local author Lewis Carroll. Some of our children walked down to Daresbury to find out where he was born and to look at the beautiful Carroll window in All Saints church. We followed this by finding out about the mystical creatures featured in his poem 'Jabberwocky'.

Year 1 have been learning all about questions within our English work. Finlay has been reading different questions and wrote his own question to ask Hootopize and drew his favourite character, Dinosaur from our class text Toys in Space too. He worked so hard to remember to include the question mark and even created his own speech bubble too!



In their learning about the Seasons, Year 1 are focusing at the moment upon Winter. Lola made her own collage snowman called Rosie using lots of things that she found around her house. She even added a little unicorn friend so she wouldn't be lonely!! Lola really thought carefully about the materials to use to make her snowman and found some superb resources to decorate it!! Very well done Lola!

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