Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father. – *Matthew 5:16*

St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

BISHOP RUTH VISIT
We were delighted to welcome Bishop Ruth, Bishop of Liverpool, to our school for a special visit. She joined us for collective worship, spent time in classrooms, and answered thoughtful questions from pupils in Reception and Year 6. Accompanying her were Father Harry from St Thomas Church, Mr Thorpe from the Liverpool Diocese Education Department, and Mrs Tennyson, CEO of our trust 'The Three Saints Academy Trust'. It was a memorable day filled with inspiration, curiosity, and community spirit.

RECEPTION, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 DROP OFF
Starting Monday 13th October 2025, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will enter school via the 'nursery' entrance door. This change is being made to allow parents who need to visit the school office to do so without families passing through that area. **School staff** will be present at the nursery entrance to welcome children. **Adults dropping children off** must not enter through the nursery door and should use the main entrance if they need to access the school building. **Toast** will still be available and now offered at the new entrance door. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth and safe start to the school day. There are no changes to the end of the day door.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY
Thank you to all students and members of staff who have supported and helped raise awareness for World Mental Health day by wearing something yellow today.

COMPUTING
We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the Computing Quality Mark by the National Centre for Computing Education! This recognition reflects the high standard of our computing curriculum and the dedication of our staff to delivering engaging and effective learning. A special thank you goes to Mrs Thompson for her outstanding work and commitment in leading this achievement. The award is granted following a formal assessment of the quality of computing education provided in school, and we are proud to celebrate this success.

CLASS DOJO
As we have previously mentioned all our school communications are now sent out via CLASS DOJO but it has come to our attention that some parents have not been receiving recent messages for their child. If this is the case for you please contact the school office.

RECEPTION AND Y6: HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CHECK NEXT WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
Every year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Next Wednesday 15th October the School Screening team are our school to do this height and weight check on our Reception and Y6 children. If you DO NOT want your child to participate you will need to contact the team to OPT OUT via Email: wchc.schoolscreeners@nhs.net or Telephone: 01744 411277

Y5 FAMILY WORSHIP
All Y5 families are invited to join us for Y5 Family Worship next Wednesday morning (15th October) at 9am. Please come if you are able to.

RECEPTION FAMILY LEARNING
Reception families are invited to join us for a Family Learning session next Wednesday 15th October at 2pm. This is a lovely opportunity to see how your child learns within the school environment.

Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

Y3 FAMILY LEARNING
Y3 families are invited to join us for a Family Learning session next Thursday 16th October at 2:15pm. Please join us if you are able.

POPPY APPEAL
We are now selling poppies each afternoon in aid of the Royal British Legion. If your child wishes to purchase a poppy or some merchandise please send them into school with a small donation. All money collected is a donation so no set price but suggested donations are as below. Thank you for your support in this.
Snap bands £1.50
Ribbon wristbands £1.00
Poppy keyring reflector £1.00
Plastic poppy £1.00
Paper free poppy £1.00
Poppy sticker 50p

PARKING
Parents and Carers who drive to carefully read and follow the signage around the school, including access instructions and the yellow road markings. Please note: The road directly in front of the school is restricted to pedestrian and cycle access only during the following times: 8:00–9:30am and 2:00–4:00pm, Monday to Friday. This means that no vehicles are permitted to drive along this road during these hours. Your cooperation helps ensure the **safety** of our children and the smooth running of the school day.

NURSERY
We've recently discovered that some parents and families may not be aware of the opportunities and support available through our school nursery for children aged 3 and above. We want to ensure that every family has access to this information and feels confident in exploring what our nursery has to offer. If you or someone you know would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

RECEPTION 2026
All of our current nursery cohort go up to reception next September 2026. The application to apply for their place opens online next Monday 15th September and the closing date for you to submit your child's application is 15 January 2026. Please click the link above next Monday and follow the steps to apply for their primary school place. You will be notified on 16 April 2026 confirming your child's school place.
Please note, your child is sadly not guaranteed a place in our school reception despite attending our nursery. This is a council and admissions decision not the schools. If we could, we would undoubtedly have all of our nursery children continue their St Mary and St Thomas journey and attend our reception class.
Please do apply as soon as you are able and definitely before the 15th January 2026
https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/2868/Applying-for-primary-school-for-September-2026

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS
All Y6 children will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026. This needs to be done online via the sthelens.gov website as below. The deadline for application is 31st October
Applying for secondary school for September 2026 - St Helens Borough Council

ABSENT REPORTING REMINDER
A reminder that all absences must be reported via ringing the school on **01744 734320** and leaving a clear message on the Absence report line. Class Dojo, text or in-app messages are not to be used for absence reporting as these may be missed first thing in a morning.

EARRINGS
A reminder that as part of our commitment to safety and consistency, we kindly remind families that children should not wear earring during the school day. This helps prevent accidents during play and P.E. However, small, clear plastic spacers may be worn during the school day.

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk
Web www.sm-st.co.uk

FAMILY OF FAITH

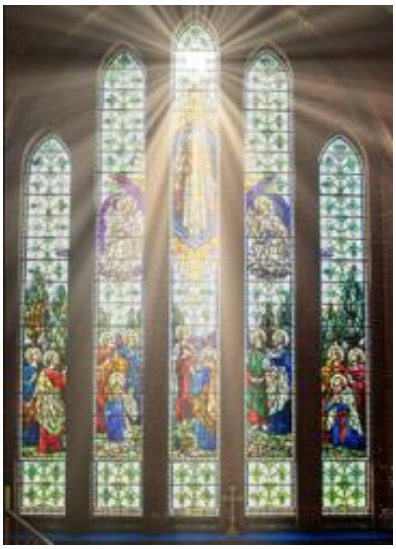
Our **Christian value** focus this half term is…

Perseverance

This week in worship, we explored the theme of spreading the word of God and reflected on how the Church of England has evolved over the past 30 years. We also discussed the recent appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, marking an important moment in the Church's ongoing journey.

A reflection from…
Mrs Thompson

This week's visit from the Bishop was a wonderful opportunity for us all to pause and think about perseverance. She is a true example of what we can achieve if we show perseverance. She led us in a beautiful prayer that reminded us of God's strength within us. Her message linked to *James 1:12*: *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial."* I've seen that same spirit of perseverance across our school — children challenging themselves in lessons, practising new skills, and showing resilience when things don't go to plan. It's inspiring to see how our pupils support one another and keep going, just as the Bishop encouraged us to do. Perseverance isn't always easy, but it helps us grow in confidence, faith, and hope every day.



St Thomas Church
Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB
01744 732463 / stthomaseccleston@gmail.com

Sunday Services
Parish Mass: 9.30am – 10.30am
Evening prayer: 4.30pm

"Seeking to love God and neighbour in the community of which we are part."

Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

BEHAVIOUR MATTERS!

Ready, Respectful, Resilient

Mr Pow's Golden Book

Each week, staff write the names of children who have gone above and beyond in Mr Pow's Golden Book. It is so exciting when the names and reasons are read out in our celebration assembly!

It may be that a child has been ready to learn every moment of every day. Maybe they have been incredibly respectful to a visitor or a friend. Or maybe they have been resilient in a way that has *wowed* the staff!

Class Dojos

Children can receive Dojo points for being ready, respectful and resilient throughout the school day. They receive 5 Dojos if they read five times, which they should do every single week.

Each child has their own Dojo character and milestones are celebrated with certificates and prizes each time they meet one.

We celebrate milestones such as 100, 200 and 300 dojos in assembly too!

Headteachers Award Winners

Nursery – Archie for growing in independance

R – Thathya for being a kind member of our class

Y1 – Isaac for perseverance in writing

Y2 – Aiylah for working hard in class

Y3 – Wynter for an excellent attitude to learning!

Y4 – Alicia for excellent resilience in her written work!

Y5 – Cole for being an outstanding pupil

Y6 – Christiano for being a resilient reader

Lunchtime Award Winners

Rec – Maisie-Grace

Y1 – Kiki

Y2 – Florence

Y3 – Maddison

Y4 – Anthony

Y5 – Niamh

Y6 - Terence

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts!

Our school day starts at 8.45am; that's when the doors open!

Children should arrive at school on time, so they don't miss any learning! Regularly missing lessons can have a negative impact on wellbeing and on your academic achievement too.

Being on time is such an important skill and sets you up for a life of success and positive wellbeing!

Children should be in school EVERY DAY… unless you're poorly. Every day counts!

Every minute in school is a learning minute. The research tells us that children who are in school every day achieve more, and their wellbeing is better too!

Please let school know if you'll be absent before 9.15am or we'll have to contact you to check in.

.

Whole school attendance this year to date…

96.0%

Whole school attendance last week…

97.7%

Class attendance winners last week…

Y4 with 100%

Class Attendance Last Week

YN – 98.7%
YR – 96.7%
Y1 – 97.6%
Y2 – 98.6%
Y3 – 97.3%
Y4 – 100%
Y5 – 96.9%
Y6 – 96.3%

Online relationship support for parents

Parents in this area can now access THREE ONLINE COURSES from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.

Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.

Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.

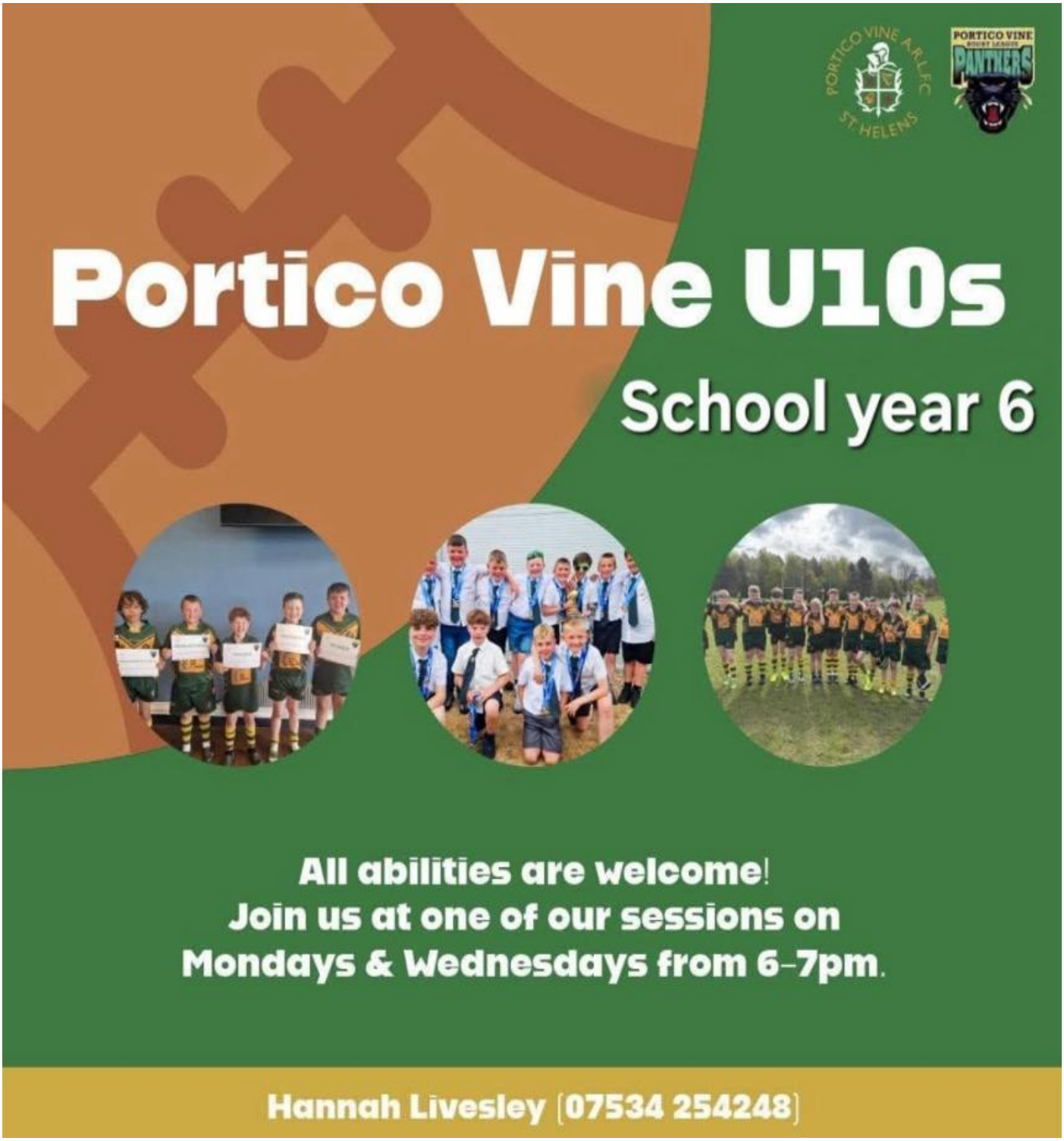
Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all FREE to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents



Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR RECEPTION AGE CHILDREN TO BE PART OF OUR TAG RUGBY TEAM READY FOR THE NEW SEASON

LEARN TO PLAY TAG RUGBY, HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE

TRAINING WEDNESDAYS 17:30-18:30

CONTACT DAVE: 07496834822

MEET OUR NEW MASCOT

RUCKLEY

WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE CHEEKY LANERS

RUGBY TOTS

Every Wednesday

5:30 - 6:15

Ages 2-5 👦

Free of charge - All welcome!

Based at LSH Rugby Union Club

If you want more information please contact the club's Facebook page Liverpool St Helens Rugby Club - Minis and Jun

PLAYERS WANTED

WEST PARK R.FC. U8s

COME JOIN THE FUN

WEST FARK RFC

We're looking for new players to join our amazing U8s rugby squad.

If you've got energy, a big smile, and love running around in the mud — you'll fit right in

- ✓ Make friends
- Learn new skills
- Play as a team
- Respect
- Exercise
- Character building
- Enjoyment

TRAINING:
WEDNESDAYS.
7:00 – 8:00 PM

LOCATION:
WEST PARK RFC

GET IN TOUCH TO JOIN THE TEAM!

Phil Thompson: 07931793829

WEST PARK RFC – WHERE LITTLE LEGENDS ARE MADE!

Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Second Tuesday of the month at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon

(with the exception of October, see alternative dates below)

Fourth Tuesday of the month at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm

(with the exception of Oct/Nov/Dec, see alternative dates below)

12 August at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

26 August at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

9 September at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

23 September at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

7 October at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

21 October at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 November at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

25 November at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

9 December at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

16 December at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Sutton Family Hub, Ellamsbridge Road, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3PY

Central Link Family Hub, Westfield Street, (off Peter Street), St Helens, WA10 1QF

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025/2026

Name of School: St Mary & St Thomas Church of England Primary School

The following dates were determined by the Governing Body at their meeting held on 27th November 2024.

*These should be the same as the dates in the standardised school year pattern unless you intend to take an in-service training day at the start or end of a term.

Term	Open on:	Close on:
Autumn Term	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	Friday 24th October 2025
	Monday 3rd November 2025	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term	Monday 5th January 2026	Friday 13th February 2026
	Monday 23rd February 2026	Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term	Monday 13th April 2026	Thursday 21st May 2026
	Monday 1st June 2026	Friday 17th July 2026

Easter Bank Holidays:

Good Friday: 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: 6 April 2026

Bank Holidays during term time:

May Day: Monday 4 May 2026

CPD Days:

1st September 2025

2nd September 2025

21st November 2025

22nd May 2026

20th July 2026

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk