Friday 9th January 2026

Issue 16 (2025-2026)

St Mary and St Thomas Weekly Newsletter

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

PART OF

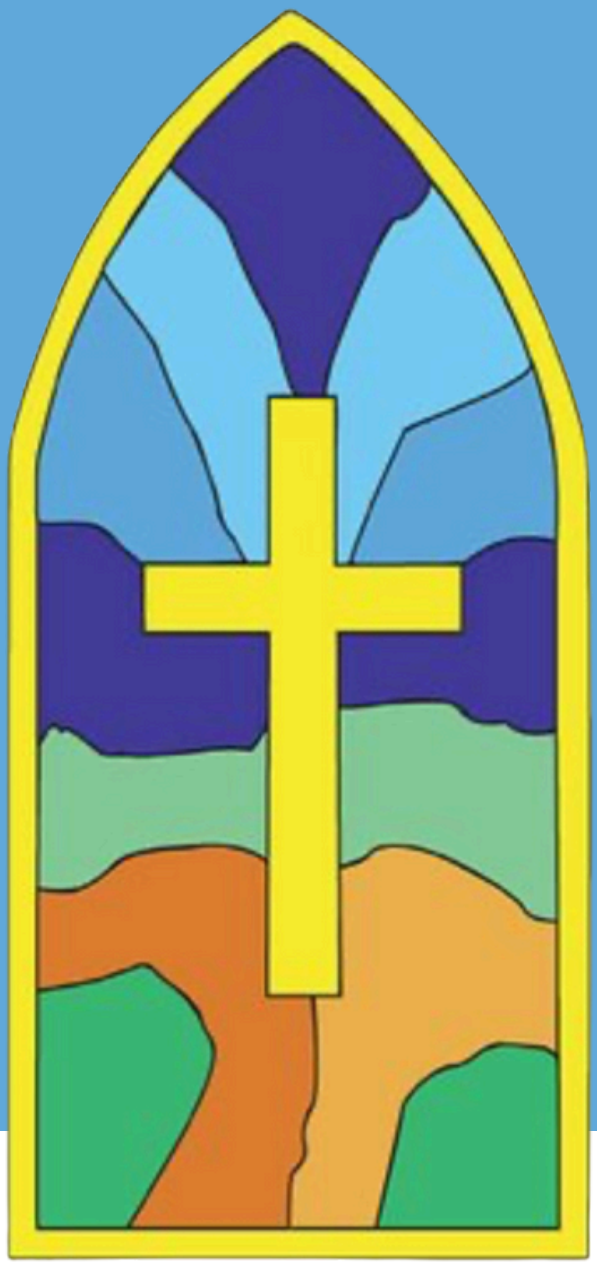
The Three Saints Academy Trust

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a restful and joyful Christmas break. As we step into the new term, I want to thank our entire school community for the hard work and dedication shown throughout the autumn term. This is an exciting time for fresh starts and new opportunities, and I'm looking forward to seeing our pupils continue to thrive both academically and personally. Let's make this term one of achievement, kindness, and growth together as we Believe, Achieve, Shine.

Mr Row

Headteacher



Safeguarding Spotlight

Returning to school after the holidays can feel exciting for many children, but some may find the change in routine a little overwhelming. Here are a few ways you can support your child:

- Reintroduce routines: Consistent bedtimes and morning routines help children feel secure.
- Talk and listen: Ask how they're feeling about being back at school. A simple chat can ease worries.
- Look for signs: If your child seems withdrawn or anxious, let us know—we're here to help.

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility." Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

Safeguarding Leads at SMST

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr Pow

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Mrs Fiendley
Miss Bowen
Miss Shields

Nathan Pow-Headteacher

Melissa Fiendley-Assistant Headteacher

Nicky Shields- Family Support worker

Lucy Bowen- EYFS Lead

Family of Faith

A reflection from... Mr Pow

As we return after the Christmas break, we are reminded of the importance of thankfulness a value that lies at the heart of our Christian ethos.

Thankfulness encourages us to pause and appreciate the blessings in our lives, both big and small.

We give thanks for the joy of learning, the friendships that enrich our days, and the opportunity to grow together as a school family. After time apart, being back together as St Mary and St Thomas is a gift in itself a chance to support one another, share kindness, and celebrate the sense of belonging that makes our community special.

Let us continue to nurture this spirit of gratitude in our classrooms and homes, remembering that thankfulness brings peace, strengthens relationships, and helps us see the goodness in every day.

in worship we learned the British Sign Language sign for 'Thank You'- we have tried using this sign throughout the week.

Our Christian Value this half term is...

Thankfulness

Mr Pow' Golden Book

Each week, staff celebrate children who have truly gone above and beyond by adding their names to Mr Pow's Golden Book. It's always a special moment when these names and the reasons behind them are shared during our celebration worship.

Headteacher's Award Winners

Nursery	Suthiksan for having a fantastic first week at nursery
Reception	Miracle for a superb superhero creation
Year 1	Nadia for always doing her very best
Year 2	Grayson for super knowledge in History
Year 3	Dunnie for showing resilience in his Maths Work!
Year 4	Jemima for settling wonderfully in her first week
Year 5	Mason for excellent effort in all lessons Oscar James
Year 6	Lucy for showing resilience

Lunchtime Award Winners

Reception	Ellis
Year 1	Harry
Year 2	Micheal
Year 3	Michael
Year 4	Jaydan
Year 5	Oscar James
Year 6	DJ

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... **94.5%**	**Class Attendance Last Week** Nursery- **80.9%** Reception- **82.8%** Year 1- **94%** Year 2- **96%** Year 3- **97.9%** Year 4- **98.9%** Year 5- **90%** Year 6- **97.9%**
Whole school attendance last week... **93.06%**	
Class attendance winners last week... **Y4 with 98.9%**	

Important Date or Events

PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS (WEEK COMMENCING 19TH JAN)

Reception / Y1 - Monday 19th Jan
Nursery and Y2 - Tuesday 20th Jan
Y3 / Y4 - Wednesday 21st Jan
Y5/Y6 - Thursday 22nd Jan
Please ensure you have booked a time for your child on Class Dojo!

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY AFTERSCHOOL WRAPAROUND CLUB CANCELLED

Due to essential Safeguarding Training for staff the afterschool Wraparound club will be cancelled on this day. Breakfast club will run as normal.

MONDAY 19TH JANUARY AFTERSCHOOL WRAPAROUND CLUB CANCELLED

Due to staff training the afterschool Wraparound club will be cancelled on this day. Breakfast club will run as normal.

Y2 PARENT INSIGHT WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY 9AM

All Y2 parents are invited to join us for a Y2 Parent Insight session on Wednesday 21st January at 9am in the school hall. Please join us if you are able to.

Y5 CRUCIAL CREW TRIP TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY

We are pleased to let you know that our Y5 class will be attending a specially designed Crucial Crew event on Tuesday 20th January. The event takes place at the Sea Cadets building in St Helens at 12:30 until 3pm. Children will eat their lunch early at school and walk to and from the event, so full school uniform, school shoes and waterproof coat are needed. Crucial Crew is a multi-agency safety event aimed at Year 5 children (9 to 10 year olds) designed to provide children with life skills that will enable them to keep themselves and others safe.

Y6 SATS FAMILY LEARNING THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY

All Y6 parents are invited to join us for a Y6 SATS Family Learning session on Thursday 12th January at 2:15pm. Please join us if you are able to.

Information

Y4 FAMILY LEARNING

Thank you to all families who participated in our family learning session this Wednesday for our Y4 class. We hope you found it useful!

Y5 FAMILY LEARNING

Thank you to all families who participated in our family learning session this Thursday for our Y5 class. We hope you found it useful!

CLUBS FOR SPRING 1 NOW LIVE

Clubs are now live on Class Dojo for this have term! All clubs are free and based on a first come first served basis. You must sign your child up to the club on Class Dojo. Clubs are not on the first and last week of each half term.

UNIFORM POLICY

From Monday please can all parents ensure children are in the correct uniform as per the School's uniform policy (see next page). PE kits are to be worn on PE days only. PE trainers are to be worn on PE days only. If any parents have any issues with regards to uniform, please speak to Mr Pow on Monday morning.
Branded school uniform can be bought from www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stmaryandstthomas

EARINGS POLICY

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.

RECEPTION 2026 APPLICATION DEADLINE

A final reminder that the deadline to apply for you child to join our reception class in September 2026 is next Thursday 15th January. 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. Please apply using the below link:
https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/2868/Applying-for-primary-school-for-September-2026

RECEPTION HEARING SCREEENING MONDAY 2ND FEBUARY

The 0-19 team will be in school on MONDAY 2ND FEBUARY to carry out a hearing screening on all Reception age children. A letter has been sent out via email and Class Dojo with more detail. If you do not wish for your child/children to take part in the hearing screening you need to email the School Screeners on wchc.schoolscreeners@nhs.net with your child's full name, DOB and the school they attend.

UNIFORM LIST

UNIFORM

- Black trousers, shoes, skirt or pinafore
- Navy round neck sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without school logo. If you would like the school logo, you can purchase these from Price & Buckland's website)

- Blue and white checked dress/ pinafore and or black shorts (summer term only)

- White polo shirt (with or without school logo. If you would like the school logo, you can purchase these from the Price & Buckland's website)

- Black or white socks
- Black tights
- Black shoes, low heels, not boots or trainers
- No jewellery is permitted
- Due to restricted space in school we do not allow backpacks.

PE UNIFORM

On the day your child has PE they can come to school in their PE kit so long as it is correct as re-iterated below. From Tuesday 6th June, if your child does not have the correct colour PE kit they will need to come into school in their normal school uniform and bring their PE kit into school to get changed into before their PE lesson. After their lesson they will then get changed back into their school uniform. PE kit should be kept in a small school PE bag labelled with your child's name if they are getting changed in school. For After School Sports clubs the PE uniform still applies.

- White T-Shirt

- Black shorts/black leggings/black jogging bottoms

- Pumps
- Trainers can be worn for sport outside

LABELLING

All uniform and PE kit should be clearly labelled with child's name and class.