Friday 30th January 2026

Issue 19 (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

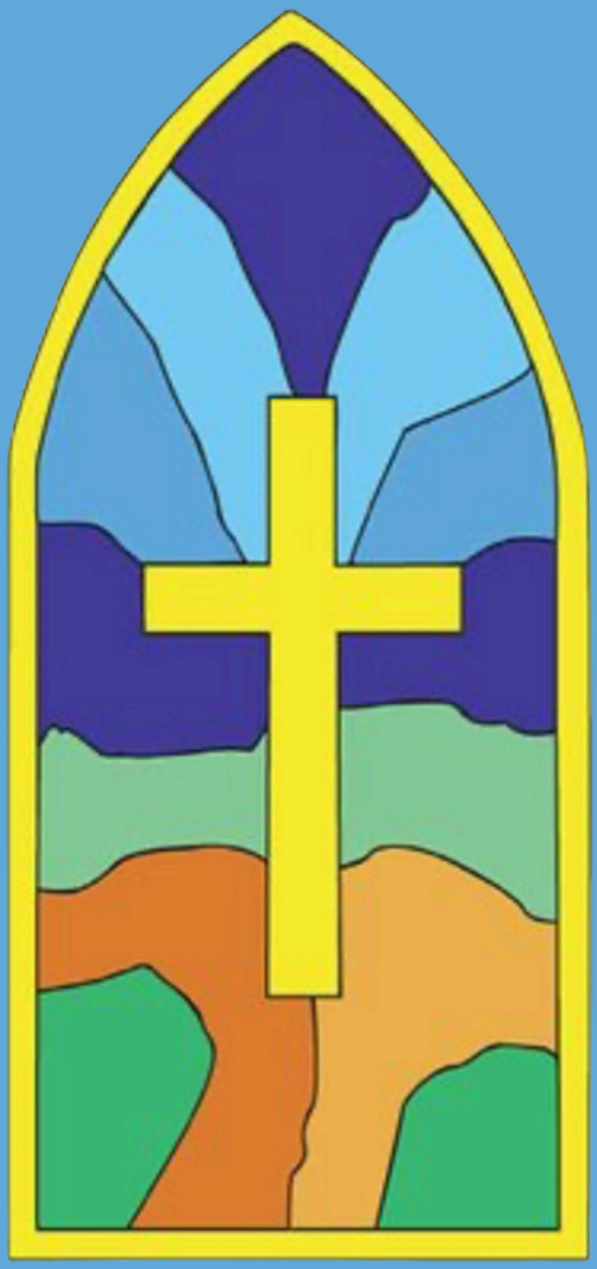
Headteacher Reflection

This week has been a gentle reminder of the importance of slowing down and noticing the world around us. During worship, we have been focusing on thankfulness in nature, encouraging the children to reflect on the small but meaningful signs of beauty and hope that surround us each day.
One such moment came in our Nursery outdoor area, where it was wonderful to spot a daffodil beginning to bloom. It certainly felt like the warmer spring weather is not too much of a distant thought. Moments like this offer a powerful opportunity to pause, reflect and be grateful — something our children have embraced with thoughtfulness and curiosity.
As a school community, these shared reflections help us nurture not only academic learning, but also a sense of appreciation, wellbeing and connection with the world around us. It has been lovely to see pupils engaging so positively with this theme.

Mr Pow

Headteacher

Safeguarding Spotlight



Understanding Language

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we would like to highlight the importance of understanding the language children are using and the new terminology they may be learning or encountering.

Children today are exposed to a wide range of language through school, friendships, online platforms, games and social media. Some words, phrases or acronyms may be unfamiliar to adults, yet carry meanings that are important for us to understand in order to keep children safe and supported.

Language evolves quickly, and children may sometimes use terms without fully understanding their meaning themselves. At other times, language can reflect influences from online spaces or popular culture that adults may not immediately recognise. This is why open conversations are so important.

As a school community, we recognise that families are often the first to encounter new or emerging language at home. If you hear words or phrases that are unfamiliar, concerning or frequently used, sharing this information with school can be extremely helpful. By understanding the language children are accessing, we are better placed to address it appropriately, support pupils and respond quickly where needed.

Safeguarding Leads at SMST

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr Pow

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Mrs Fiendley
Miss Bowen
Miss Shields

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

Family of Faith

A reflection from...

Miss L Pennington

(our new School Business Manager)

As I reach the end of my fourth week as School Business Manager at St Mary and St Thomas Primary School, I have been reflecting on just how thankful I feel. Starting a new role can feel daunting, but I have been met with such warmth, kindness and support from everyone across our school community. From day one, I have truly felt welcomed.

Thankfulness is an important part of our Christian faith, and over these past few weeks I have seen it lived out in so many simple but meaningful ways within school — through encouragement, patience and a genuine sense of care for one another, staff and pupils. These small acts have made a big difference and have helped me settle in with confidence.

I am grateful to be part of a school and a Trust where compassion, respect and service are part of everyday life. Thank you all for such a lovely welcome. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you and supporting our school community in the weeks and months ahead.

Our Christian Value this half term is...

Thankfulness

Student Reflection by Evie Bowden, Head Girl, Y6, on why she is Thankful for our school ...

The teachers make all our lessons interesting. We have 3 school rules (Ready, Respectful and Resilient) and our friends are always respectful. We have before and after school clubs that children enjoy. We also have great class assembly's and do public speaking. We get taken for competitions and residentials and go on amazing school trips!

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	Teddy B for having an excellent attitude towards learning
Reception	Sophia S for fantastic phonics!
Year 1	Maria for excellent independent work
Year 2	Klein for excellent wffort
Year 3	Asel for amazing work and participation every day!
Year 4	Cameron J for excellent participation in lessons
Year 5	Sofia for amazing determination and hard work
Year 6	Phoebe for excellent homework

Lunchtime Award Winners

Reception	Okeri
Year 1	Bobby
Year 2	Maui
Year 3	Lalin
Year 4	Dottie
Year 5	Olivia
Year 6	Terrence

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... **94.1%**	**Class Attendance Last Week** Nursery- **91.9%** Reception- **89.3%** Year 1- **82.3%** Year 2- **95%** Year 3- **95.9%** Year 4- **88.3%** Year 5- **95.7%** Year 6- **87.1%**
Whole school attendance last week... **91.7%**	
Class attendance winners last week... **95.9%**	

Important Date or Events

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.

PARENT FORUM WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBUARY 3:30-4:30PM

All parents are warmly invited to attend the Parent Forum meeting for this term, which will take place at school on Wednesday 4th February at 3:30pm. The main focus of the meeting will be behaviour, and Mr Pow would welcome your thoughts and contributions. Please come along and share your views—this is a valuable opportunity to have your voice heard as a parent.

Y1 PARENT INSIGHT THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 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.

NUMBER DAY FOR NSPCC FRIDAY 6TH FEB

Once again this year we are celebrating Number Day in aid of NSPCC. Children and staff are invited to wear an item of clothing with a number on it in exchange for a donation. This could be a favourite sports cap or top or even design your own t-shirt! Children will also enjoy lots of number and maths theme activities throughout the day.

VALENTINES DISCO TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Our Valentines disco takes place this year on Tuesday 10th February. If you would like your child to go you must book them a ticket and pay for it by 6PM Friday 6th FEBRUARY so we have time to get the appropriate amount of refreshments. Please book and pay £3 via Arbor using the 'TRIP' icon. Rec/KS1 disco is 3:15pm-4:15pm, please can reception and KS1 children bring their party clothes in a bag to school so they can get changed at home time and go straight to the disco.

The KS2 disco will take place from 4:20pm-5:20pm. They will need to be collected at normal time and brought back to school for 4:20pm (unless they are in wraparound). If you would like your child to attend both wraparound care and the disco please book them on to wraparound the usual way and let the office know they would like to attend the disco. If attending both you do not need to book or pay for the disco, please just let the office know so we can ensure there are enough refreshments for every child.

Important Date or Events

PARENT INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

All parents are invited to join us for a PARENT INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP on Wednesday 11th February, 3:30- 4:30pm. The session will cover common online risks, parental controls, and ways to support positive online behaviour. This workshop will offer practical advice and the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences.

Y5 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBUARY

All Y5 parents are invited to join us for a Y5 Ash Wednesday service at Church- 9am, Wednesday 11th February. Please join us if you are able to.

Information

SCHOOL START TIME REMINDER 8:45AM

We would like to remind families that the school day begins promptly (for reception to Y6) , with children expected to be ready to come into school at 8:45am. We understand that being late on the odd occasion can happen. However, we have recently noticed an increase in excessive lateness for a number of pupils after the school doors have closed.

Please note:
* Children arriving after 9:00am will have missed registration and must enter via the main door near the school office to sign in.
* This procedure is essential for fire safety and ensuring we know who is on site.
* If a child is not in school by 9:15am and we have received no communication from parents/carers, the school will contact home by phone or text to establish the reason for absence.

Establishing a consistent and timely morning routine helps set positive habits that will benefit children throughout their lives.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

HEALTH UPDATE

This week we have sent letters via class dojo's regarding 2 cases chicken pox and Scarlett fever within school.
Chicken Pox is usually a mild illness, but it is extremely contagious. Therefore, if you suspect your child may have chicken pox, national guidance is that your child must be excluded from school until 5 days after spots appear. Whilst exclusion is usually 5 days, all lesions must be crusted over before they return to school. As normal please inform school as soon as your child has a confirmed case on chicken pox.
With Scarlet Fever the symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The advice is to stay at home and away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.
We still have a number of other bugs circulating around school at the moment so are reminding parents to keep emphasising the importance of good hygiene at home. Please encourage children to wash their hands thoroughly, particularly after using the toilet and before and after eating food. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep everyone as healthy as possible.

Information

INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

You may have noticed a few new faces around school since the start of January:

- Miss Lyndsey Pennington – joins us as School Business Manager, a role she shares with Willowtree School.
- Mrs Davies – joins us as a Learning Support Assistant in Year 2.
- Mrs Flinn - Although Mrs Flinn has been with us for a while we are pleased to have her as a permanent member of the team starting from January.

A huge welcome to all our new staff members! We hope they have enjoyed their first few weeks here at SMST and are settling in well. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to the contributions they will bring to our school community.

SEPTEMBER RECEPTION INTAKE

If your child turns 4 between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 then they are due to start Reception class in September 2026. The deadline for applying for a reception place has now passed, however you can still submit a late application if you have not already done so. This cannot be guaranteed to be considered witing the first waive of applicants. Please speak to School Admissions at St Helens council to do a late application or speak to the school office if you need help.

UNIFORM POLICY

Please can all parents continue to 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.

HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES

A useful reminder of term dates for the remainder of this school year and for the following school year 2026/2027 can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Please check carefully including all CPD/INSET days.

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.

The Three Saints Academy Trust

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025/2026

Term	Open on:	Close on:
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:

22nd May 2026 2025

20th July 2026 2025

The Three Saints Academy Trust

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2026/2027

Term	*Open On:	*Close On:
Autumn term 2026	2nd September 2026	23rd October 2026
	4th November 2026	18th December 2026
Spring term 2027	5th January 2027	12th February 2027
	22nd February 2027	25th March 2027
Summer term 2027	12th April 2027	28th May 2027
	7th June 2027	21st July 2027

Bank Holidays during term time:
May Day: Monday 3 May 2027

CPD Days

1st September 2026

2nd November 2026

3rd November 2026

20th November 2026

4th January 2027