Friday 23rd January 2026

Issue 18 (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

Can you believe that we are in February already! It has been wonderful to see pupils continuing to embrace new learning and approach each day with enthusiasm. Even though the new term is well underway, this time of year always offers a fresh sense of momentum and purpose.

As we move forward, I'd like to take a moment to revisit one of the most important foundations of a successful school year: attendance and punctuality. Every minute of learning matters. Arriving on time not only helps children start the day calmly and confidently but also ensures they do not miss key teaching and morning routines that set them up for success.

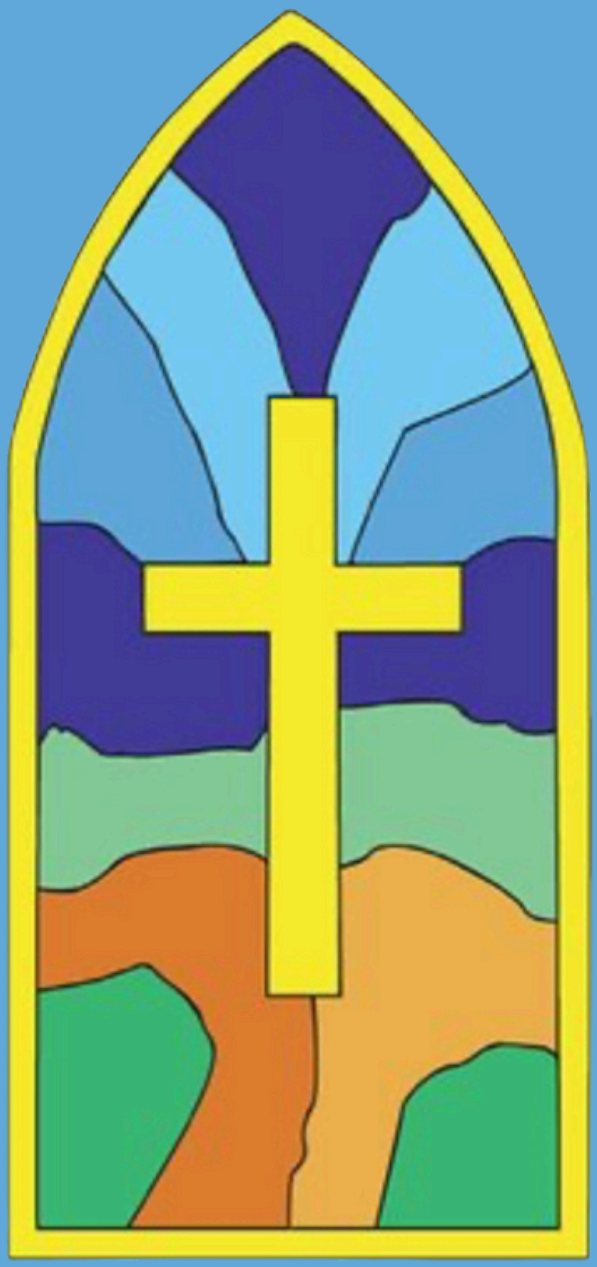
A gentle reminder to all families that our school doors open at 8:45am. Staff are ready to welcome pupils from this time onward. However, it is important to note that staff are not on duty outside the school before 8:45am, and therefore responsibility for children's supervision before this time lies with parents and carers.

Arriving too early can present a safety concern, especially as there is no formal supervision before the doors open. We ask for your support in ensuring children arrive between 8:45am and 8:55am, ready to begin their day promptly and safely.

Mr Pow

Headteacher

Safeguarding Spotlight



At St Mary and St Thomas, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and we want to remind all families that we are here to support you. If your child comes into school with any bumps, bruises, or minor injuries that happened at home, please let a member of staff know. Sharing this information helps us keep accurate records and ensures we are working together to keep every child safe. Our safeguarding team is always available to listen, offer guidance, and support families whenever needed. By keeping communication open, we can continue to provide a safe, caring environment where all children can thrive.

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 Shields

It has been wonderful to see staff and children across the school supporting one another, creating a truly caring and positive atmosphere. We have also noticed parents stepping in to help other families during drop-off and pick-up times, which has been greatly appreciated. This sense of togetherness aligns beautifully with our Christian values, especially our focus on thankfulness this week, as we recognise and celebrate the kindness shown within our community. A real community spirit has been felt across the school, and it has been a joy to witness.

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	Teddy R for always working his hardest in his maths lessons
Reception	Zain for designing a fantastic castle
Year 1	hannah for amazing English work
Year 2	Ameila for super effort in class
Year 3	Toby for fantastic writing
Year 4	Milana for being brilliant in her first week
Year 5	George C for outstanding participation
Year 6	Isabelle H for consistently being respectful

Lunchtime Award Winners

Reception	Thathya
Year 1	Liam
Year 2	Ellis
Year 3	Emily
Year 4	Anna
Year 5	Harry S
Year 6	Emmanuel

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... **93.9%**	**Class Attendance Last Week** Nursery- **95.2%** Reception- **94.6%** Year 1- **87.7%** Year 2- **94%** Year 3- **94.8%** Year 4- **99.3%** Year 5- **97.5%** Year 6- **93.8%**
Whole school attendance last week... 94.5**%**	
Class attendance winners last week... **Y4 with 99.3%**	

Important Date or Events

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.

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 at 9am, Wednesday 11th February. Please join us if you are able to.

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.

HALF-TERM BREAK DATE REMINDER

A reminder we finish for half-term next FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY at normal time and re-open at normal time MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY.

Information

STOMACH BUG UPDATE

We would like to let families know that a vomiting and diarrhoea bug is currently circulating in school, and a number of children and staff have been affected in recent days.

To help prevent the spread of illness, our school policy—following Public Health guidance—is that any child or staff member experiencing vomiting or diarrhoea must remain at home for 48 hours after their last episode before returning to school.
We know this can be inconvenient, but this guidance is essential in helping to keep everyone in our school community safe and healthy. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

NUMBER DAY

What an amazing effort the children and staff have gone to for number day! Some amazing outfits and the children have had great fun with all our number and maths activities. Thank you to all who have donated to the NSPCC, we have raised £69.30 so far. Well done everyone!

PARENT FORUM UPDATE

Thank you to all paretns who attendedt this week's parent forum. It was great to hear your thought and views and we hope you found it useful.

NO AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS NEXT WEEK!

Please remember there are no afer school clubs running next week apart from TUESDAY BRASS CLUB and the normal WRAPAROUND CARE CLUB which runs until 5:30pm. New clubs will be out after half term.

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.

Information

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

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.

At St Mary and St Thomas, we are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all members of our school community. We kindly remind parents and carers that abusive language, aggression, or disrespectful behaviour—towards staff, pupils, or other families—will not be tolerated. Our staff work hard to support every child and family, and we expect all interactions to reflect the values of courtesy and mutual respect. Thank you for helping us uphold a positive school environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected.

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