Friday 27th February 2026

Issue 20 (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

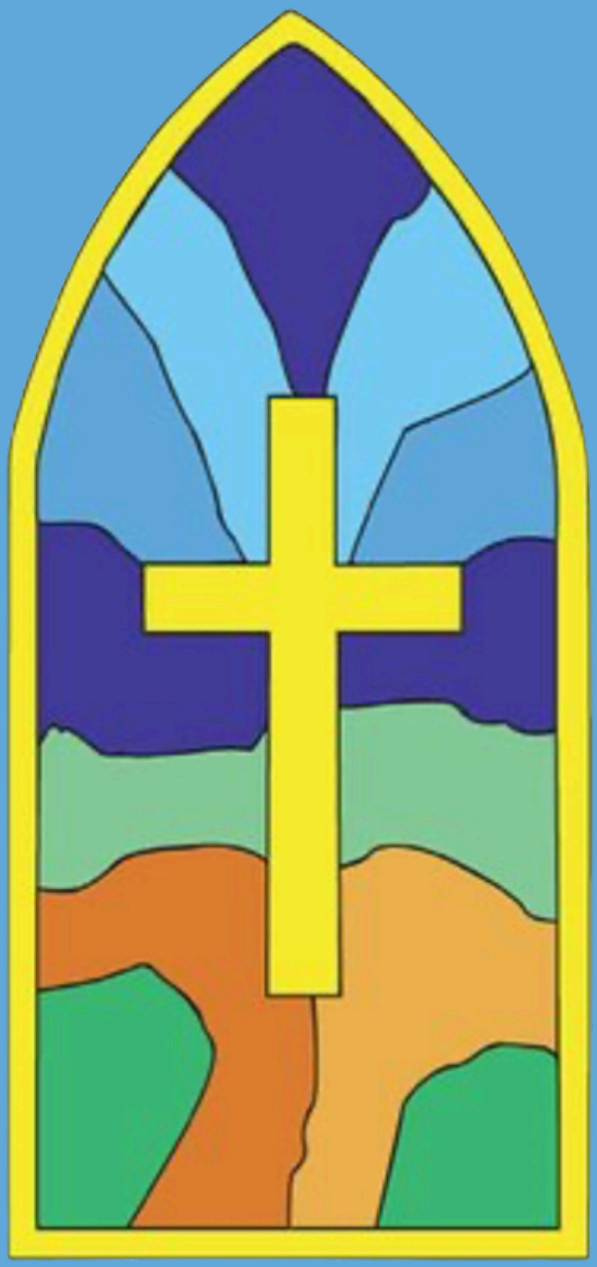
As we return to school for the new half term, it has been a genuine pleasure to step outside in the mornings and notice the daylight slowly stretching its way back into our routines. Those lighter mornings bring a welcome sense of optimism—reminding us that spring is on the horizon and that brighter days, in every sense, are ahead.

The last half term certainly ended on a challenging note, with many pupils and staff affected by the stomach bug that seemed determined to make its way through the school. Although it was an unfortunate end to a busy few weeks, the holiday break has clearly acted as a much-needed reset. It has been wonderful to see children returning refreshed, staff re-energised, and the overall atmosphere buzzing once again with enthusiasm and good health.

As we settle into this half term, I am grateful for the resilience of our school community and the way everyone pulls together—whether during illness outbreaks, busy seasons, or day-to-day routines. I look forward to the learning, growth, and opportunities that the coming weeks will bring.

Mr Pow

Headteacher



Safeguarding Spotlight

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding every child, we would like to highlight our expectations around mobile phones in school. Only Year 6 pupils who walk to and from school independently are permitted to bring a mobile phone, and these must be switched off on arrival and handed directly to their class teacher. Please ensure your child understands that this is a non-negotiable safeguarding requirement. Pupils in all other year groups must not bring mobile phones into school.

We also ask parents and carers to regularly check their child's phone at home to ensure that only age-appropriate apps, games, platforms, and content are being accessed. These routine checks are an important part of keeping children safe online and preventing exposure to inappropriate or unsafe material.

At school, we consistently reinforce key messages about staying safe online and using technology responsibly, including how to recognise risks, protect personal information, and make safe choices when using digital devices or engaging online.

By working together—home and school—we can help ensure that all children remain safe, responsible, and ready to learn.

"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

Miss Shields

Family of Faith

A reflection from...
Mr Pow

This half term, our Christian value focus is Compassion. Compassion means noticing when others are in need and responding with kindness, care, and understanding. Jesus showed compassion through His words and actions, reminding us to “love your neighbour as yourself.” By following His example; offering help, speaking kindly, and looking out for others, we help make our school a community where everyone feels valued and supported.

Our Christian Value this half term is...

Compassion

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	David for great listening and attention on carpet
Reception	Arthur for having a super maths brain!
Year 1	Elijah for super English work
Year 2	Aiylah for super effort in writing
Year 3	Frankie for fantastic magnet eyes all week
Year 4	Joe Mc for excellent work on fractions
Year 5	Jesie-Mae for excellent effort
Year 6	Phoebe for being ready and respectful

Lunchtime Award Winners

Reception	Sophia
Year 1	Rion
Year 2	Winter
Year 3	Wynter
Year 4	Amelia
Year 5	Jason
Year 6	Christiano

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... **93.8%**	**Class Attendance Last Week** Nursery- **83.7%** Reception- **82.7%** Year 1- **91.7%** Year 2- **92.3%** Year 3- **93.7%** Year 4- **91.3%** Year 5- **96.4%** Year 6- **94.8%**
Whole school attendance last week... (week before half-term) **91.1%**	
Class attendance winners last week... **Y6 with 98.2%**	

Important Date or Events

CLUBS NOW LIVE!

Afterschool clubs for this half term are now live on Class Dojo. As usual all clubs are free and based on a first come first served basis and you need to book your child a place if you wish them to attend. Clubs start next week Monday 2nd March and run until Friday 20th March, as usual there are no clubs the first a last week of term. All clubs frinish at 4:30pm except BRASS and TUESDAY MULTISPORTS with Mr Hodgekinson, which finishes at 4:15pm.

WORLD BOOK DAY FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

We will be celebrating world book day next Friday 6th March. Children are invited to some to school in pyjamas for a day of 'Cosying Up With a Book'. If they wish they can also bring their favourite book from home. Sensible shoes to be worn - if you would like to change into slippers during the day, ensure that you can also bring a pair of shoes for outside. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Y2 PARENT/ TEACHER MEETINGS 11TH MARCH 12:30-5:30PM

As the last set of Y2 Parent/Teacher meetings had to be cancelled we have now re-arranged to Wednesday 11th March and slots are now available to be booked from 12:30 to 5:30pm. However please note the next set of Parent/ Teacher meetings are due to take place in April so some parents may not wish to double up. Please use these next meetings as an opportunity for any parents who wish to speak to Mrs Murphy about any issues they may have or to discuss support plans from the Autumn Term. Thank you.

SPRING DISCO NEW DATE TUESDAY 17TH MARCH

We are pleased to announce the new date for the Spring Disco is Tuesday 17th March. All tickets will automatically carry over to this date so you dod not need to buy a new one if you have already purchased one for the Valetines Disco. Please contact the school office if you would like a refund.

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.

Information

A REMINDER ABOUT COMMUNICATION

To help us respond to your queries as quickly and efficiently as possible, we kindly ask that parents and carers do not email staff directly or contact individual members of staff via Class Dojo. All communication should be made through the school office by calling 01744 734 320 or by emailing stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk. The school email account is monitored regularly, ensuring that important information can be dealt with in a quick and timely manner. If you would like your message to be passed on to a particular member of staff, please state clearly who it is for the attention of, and the office team will ensure it is forwarded appropriately. Please note that staff Class Dojo accounts and individual teacher email addresses are not monitored constantly, so messages sent this way may not be seen promptly.
Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Y6 LONDON RESIDENTIAL TRIP INSTALLMENT DUE

The next instalment for the Year 6 London Residential trip is due by Friday 6th March. The minimum payment due at this stage is £60, which means that a total of £120 should have been paid towards the trip by this point. Where possible, we recommend paying more than the minimum amount to help reduce the size of the final instalment. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding payment, please speak to the school office or Mr Pow, who will be happy to help.
Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Information

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.

WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY

Cosy up with a book

Come to school on Friday 6th March 2026 in pyjamas for a day of 'Cosying Up With A Book'.

If you wish, you can also bring your favourite book from home.

Sensible shoes to be worn- if you would like to change into slippers during the day, ensure that you also bring a pair of shoes which can be worn outside.

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

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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