Newsletter

Issue 607 | 11th October 2024

Golden Children

Nursery: Fajr N and Fatimah M
Reception: Ayat K and Hareem R
Year 1: Nimra H and Hussain M
Year 2: Mikaeel M and Alaya M
Year 3: Abdul Rahman M and Abdullah A
Year 4: Aisha P and Saad B
Year 5: Aamir P and Layla B
Year 6: Zaynab L and Samihah K

Generosity

Our school value for this half term is 'Generosity'. Our quote for this half term is ***"God loves a cheerful giver",*** 2 Corinthians 9.7. It would really help if you could follow this up with your children at home and talk to them about what courage means.

St Thomas'

St Thomas''Privacy Notice' (How we use pupil information) is now available to view **HERE** in the 'Parents' section.

Winning Planet Team

The winning team this week is Mars.

Time Beaters

Well done to RAMC class and 1AH class.

Attendance Award

Well done to RAMC class.

Sport Star

Well done to Zainab S in 5VKD class.

Harvest

This year St Thomas' will be supporting Blackburn foodbank as part of our Harvest celebrations. If possible, we are asking each child to bring into school 1 item of food as a donation. Donations of tinned food, long life milk, dried pasta, food sauces and toiletries such as toilet tissue, soap and shampoo. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who are able to contribute to the charity in light of the present cost of living crisis. In school, we will be linking our Christian value of 'Generosity' at this special time in the Christian calendar. All donated items will be collected from school on Friday 18th October.

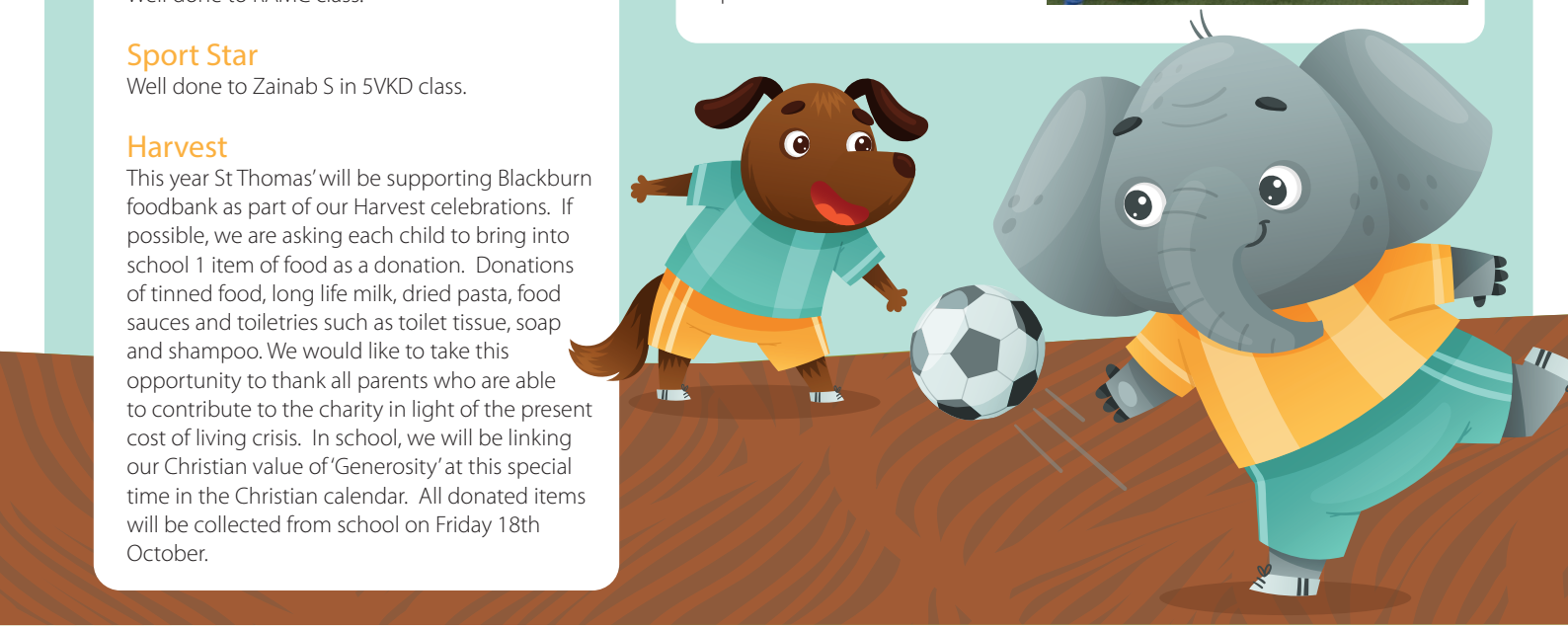
Diary Dates

16.10.2024 – Flu Vaccinations
17.10.2024 – Reception Reading meeting
18.10.2024 – Break up for half term
28.10.2024 – Inset Day – School closed for children
29.10.2024 – Return to school
08.11.2024 – Anti-Bullying Day
12.11.2024 – Cinema trip Year 5
13.11.2024 – Cinema Trip Year 3
14.11.2024 – Cinema trip in Year 4
25.11.2024 – Design Technology week in school
28.11.2024 – Christmas Tree up in school
10.12.2024 – Parent Progress Meetings
17.12.2024 – Reception Nativity
19.12.2024 – Christmas Dinner, Christmas jumper and Christmas Party Day
20.12.2024 – School closes at 2pm
06.01.2025 – School opens for Spring term

Year 2 Football

Some of our Year 2 pupils were selected for an infant football tournament at the Soccer dome, competing against 5 other schools. The children showed fantastic skills, shooting and tackling in the tournament and were fantastic representatives for the school. Thank you to Mr Barker and Mr Davies for organising a superb event.





St Thomas' Church of England Primary School, Newton Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1NE
Tel: 01254 54706 | Fax: 01254 694813 | Email: office@stthomasce.blackburn.sch.uk | Head: Miss Y Arshad
www.stthomasblackburn.org.uk

Attendance

Please see the table below for school's attendance figures.

RDB	92.70%
RAMc	99.70%
1AH	97.30%
1SM	94.30%
2SWd	95.00%
2LB	90.50%
3MB	98.70%
3LD	93.00%
4SW	91.00%
4SP	99.70%
5VKD	95.30%
5KM/JB	96.00%
6DR/JM	92.00%
6HU	96.70%
Whole School	95.10%

Half Term Soccer School Camp October Half Term

Over the half term holiday Pro Sport is running a soccer camp at St Thomas' School. The week will be fun filled for all children to attend whist developing fundamental football skills. The camp is for both boys and girls and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The window for booking places is open to the children of St Thomas first and then to children from other schools. So, act fast to secure your child's place on this camp! Please note that this camp is not run by the staff at St Thomas'. **CLICK HERE** to book your child's place.

Physical Geography Photography Competition

Physical Geography is our planet, landscapes and the natural environment. Whether you love Geography or fancy yourself a keen photographer, to enter this exciting competition, all you need to do is find an example of physical geography (this doesn't have to be far from home!) and take a good photograph. After this, write up a short explanation of why you have taken the photograph, and how it is an example of "physical geography". Perhaps it is an example of erosion or weathering, a serene picture of nature at its best, an example of climate change, weather or an unusual landscape from your holidays. Winners will be announced shortly after the week commencing 6th January. Photographs must be original. Please submit all photographs via email to: office@stthomasblackburn.org with the subject: "Physical Geography Competition - Child's Name". The competition will run from 20th September until 6th January 2024.

Attendance - Changes to Penalty Notices

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to fixed penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence during term time. These changes will come into effect on 19th August 2024. The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19th August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent, for the same child, within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days, with no option for a discounted rate for an early payment.

  The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 5 days of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

School Admissions

The school admissions process is now live for Reception and High school application forms. All applications are submitted online at **www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions.** Blackburn with Darwen admission team contact details are 01254 666605 and admisson@blackburn.gov.uk. Should you require any assistance, please ring the school office who will be more than happy to help you should you encounter any issues. Please remember, if your child attends our St Thomas' Nursery, you do not automatically get a place in Reception class, you will need to complete an application as detailed above. If you are interested in a Nursery place for your child please speak to the school office so that your child's name can be added to the list.

The deadline dates for all applications are set out below:
Secondary School Admissions - 31st October 2024
Reception Class Admissions – 15th January 2025
Nursery Class Admissions – 19th January 2025

Reception Reading Meeting

We are inviting all reception parents into school on 17th October 2024 for our annual Reading meeting. The reading meeting is an opportunity for the reception teachers to share how we teach early reading at St Thomas' and how you can support your children at home on their reading journey. For more information please see the letter sent via parent pay and follow the instructions to book your place at the meeting. Your child's reading book will be given out at the reading meeting. We look forward to seeing all of the reception parents there.



scan me to apply

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

For September 2025

Primary school applications are open

3rd September 2024 to 15th January 2025

Secondary school applications are open

3rd September 2024 to 31st October 2024

If you need help contact the school admissions team:
tel: 01254 666605
email: admissions@blackburn.gov.uk
online: www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions

Blackburn with Darwen



10% SIBLING DISCOUNT

PRO SPORT COACHING

Half Term SOCCER SCHOOL

Join us for a fun filled week of football at our half term soccer school. Build confidence and develop skills while focussing on the fundamentals of football, small games and fun drills.

ST THOMAS' CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newton Street
Blackburn
BB1 1NE

Monday 21st October - Friday 25th October 2024
9am - 4pm

£12 per day or £50 for the week!
Children will need suitable clothing for football, a packed lunch, drinks and snacks.

To book your child's place, head to:
WWW.PROSPORTCOACHING.CO.UK/ACTIVE-CAMPS
For more information contact us on: **info@prosportcoaching.co.uk.**