Newsletter

Issue 608 | 18th October 2024

Golden Children

Nursery: Amira M and Zakariyya C
Reception: Ammo S and Arham M
Year 1: Muhammad Yusuf R and Muhammad J
Year 2: Fatima S and Zahra D
Year 3: Zaineb I and Zayn E
Year 4: Zainab D and Talha D
Year 5: Kinza Noor U and Ansa A
Year 6: Minhal I and Sheriyar 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 Jupiter.
The overall winning team this half term is Saturn.

Time Beaters

Well done to RAMc class.

Attendance Award

Well done to 6DR class.

Sport Star

Well done to Azad N in 5VKD class and Umayrah M in 2SWd class

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear family and friends,
As we approach the end of a busy half term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given both to your child and to the school. Together staff, parents and children have done an amazing job in providing nothing but the best for our children in their learning and emotional well-being. We are looking forward to welcoming all children back into school on Tuesday 29th October. We wish you all a lovely half term break.
Miss Arshad

Diary Dates

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
10.12.2024 - Parent Progress Meetings
17.12.2024 - Reception Nativity
19.12.2024 - Christmas Dinner,
19.12.2024 - Christmas Jumper
19.12.2024 - Christmas Parties
20.12.2024 - School closes at 2pm
06.01.2025 - School opens for Spring term

Year 6 Football



St. Thomas' football team attended the Jubilee shield on Tuesday evening at St. Bede's High School in Blackburn. The team played well, defending and attacking in all matches. The boys showed incredible sportsmanship throughout the evening. We are extremely proud of their football talents and exemplary behaviour.
A huge thank you to all of the parents who came to watch and support. We hope you enjoyed the event as much as the team and staff did. We cannot wait for the next match/tournament.



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www.stthomasblackburn.org.uk

Attendance

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

RDB	96.00%
RAMc	97.30%
1AH	95.70%
1SM	93.70%
2SWd	99.00%
2LB	86.20%
3MB	95.70%
3LD	93.30%
4SW	91.30%
4SP	96.30%
5VKD	98.00%
5KM/JB	98.00%
6DR/JM	99.30%
6HU	93.30%
Whole School	95.20%

A huge well done to all of the classes who have achieved a percentage of 96% and above.

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.

Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' would like to welcome all parents and toddlers to our weekly sessions. This is a chance for parents to meet with other parents and to bring their toddlers along to play and develop critical skills. If you are interested ring the office to book a place.

Date: Every Wednesday
Venue: School Hall
Time: 10.00 – 11.30 am
Cost: £1.50

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

A huge thank you to all who attended the meeting about early reading in reception last week. The meeting shared the important information about early reading, the journey of reading in reception and how reading can be supported at home. At St Thomas' we share a love of reading and stress the importance of reading a range of books alongside your child's reading books.

Harvest

Thank you to all the families who have donated to our Harvest appeal for Blackburn Foodbank. We have been overwhelmed with the donations that school has received at a time when our school value is 'generosity'.



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