Newsletter

Issue 605 | 27th September 2024

Golden Children

Nursery: Anha Noor Y and Aliyah S
Reception: Sulaiman M and Muhammad A
Year 1: Umar P and Nwah N
Year 2: Ruqayyah Z and Abdullah L
Year 3: Zakariyya P and Umaimah H
Year 4: Adam N and Mumtaz B
Year 5: Abu Bakr P and Aaliyah P
Year 6: Abdus Samad L and Aishah M

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 Venus.

Time Beaters

Well done to 4SP class

Attendance Award

Well done to 6HU class

Sport Star

Well done to Ammo S in R1AMC

Updated Contact Details

Please ensure school has your updated email and contact details. We will be sending all letters and messages via email to the details we have on our school system. If you are unsure, please ring the school office to confirm or alternatively email us at: office@stthomasce.blackburn.sch.uk.

Diary Dates

09.10.2024 – Year 2 Football competition
10.10.2024 – World Mental Health Day
16.10.2024 – Flu Vaccinations
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

Parliament Visit

The year 6 children had a fantastic visit to Parliament this week. They were thrilled to explore such an iconic place, learning about how government works and seeing democracy in action. From standing in the historic chambers to hearing about the role of MPs, the experience was both educational and inspiring. The children then went on to visit Buckingham Palace and see the changing of the guards. Thank you to parents for the early morning drop off! It's a day the children will remember for a long time!

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.



Year 2 Science Work – Parents, We Need Your Help!

In science, the children have been learning about classifying animals. To make the learning experience even more exciting, we would love your help! Please send into school a picture of your child with an animal. This could be a picture of your pet, a picture of your child at the zoo or a photograph of their favourite animal. Please can the photographs be brought into school by next Wednesday. The children are really excited about this activity, and we look forward to seeing all the wonderful pictures! Thank you for your continued support.

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	87.70%
RAMc	89.30%
1AH	97.30%
1SM	92.70%
2SW	94.70%
2LB	99.00%
3MB	98.70%
3LD	94.10%
4SW	96.00%
4SP	95.70%
5VKD	98.00%
5KM/JB	99.00%
6DR/JM	95.70%
6HU	99.30%
Whole School	95.40%

Guided Reading Workshops

A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to make time to come to our guided reading workshops across years 6, 5 and 4 last week. The children were excited and proud to show you the range of activities and challenges that they undertake as part of our reading curriculum. As you know reading is at the heart of everything we do at St Thomas', reading as the Dr Seuss quote says "Reading can take you to places you have never been before."

Asda Rewards for Schools

ASDA is running a scheme where they will donate to schools 0.5% of the value of shopping bills for customers. All you need to do is use the app and scan each time you do a shop. Please let parents, families, friends know! Please **CLICK HERE** for further information. Even if you don't shop at Asda but opt in and select St Thomas' CE Primary School, Asda will add £1 to the school Cash pot to help get started!

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.

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

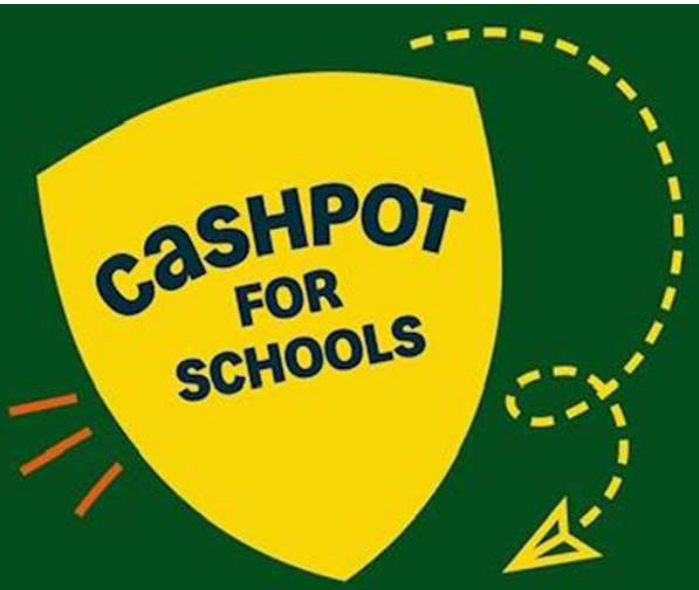
The school admissions process is now live for Reception and High school application forms. All applications are submitted online at **www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions.** Blackburn with Darwen admission team contact details are 01254 666605 and admisson@blackburn.gov.uk. Should you require any assistance, 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

Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' welcomes all parent and toddlers to their 'Parent and Toddler' sessions. The sessions have started this academic year and it has been wonderful to welcome new friends to the group. Parent and Toddlers provides an opportunity for parents to chat to others and bring their toddlers along to play, meet new friends and develop critical skills.
Venue: St Thomas' School Hall
Time: 10.00 – 11.30 am
Cost: £1.50



Cashpot for Schools is our mission to support primary schools across the UK.

Every time you shop with Asda Rewards from 2nd September to 30th November, we will donate 0.5% of your total spend to a primary school of your choice. Plus, Asda will pop £1 into your school's Cashpot every time someone opts in.

Even more, Asda will get your school started with a further £50. To redeem this, make sure to shop & scan and remind your school to sign up with Parentkind.

For more info, please see our **Terms & Conditions**.

You won't give up any of your own earnings, and your Cashpot will continue to grow! **Shop. Scan. We donate!**



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.**