Newsletter

Issue 650 | 14th November 2025

Golden Children

Nursery: Muhammad A and Hajra P
Reception: Anha Noor Y and Zayyan M
Year 1: Ruqqaiya S and Zainab W
Year 2: M Ismaeel F and Hareem M
Year 3: Zaid H and Hawa S
Year 4: Laiba C and Zayaan A
Year 5: Muhammad M and Hania R
Year 6: Aamir P and Bisma N

Trust

Our school value for this half term is 'Trust'. Our quote for this half term is ***"My God is my strength in whom I trust."*** Psalm 18:2.
It would really help if you could follow this up with your children at home and talk to them about what trust means.

St Thomas'

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

Sports Star

Well done to Zayaan K R2AY class.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to 2SW class.

Most Improved Attendance

Well done to 4SW class.

Winning Planet Team

The winning team this week is Saturn.

After-School Clubs

St Thomas' are proud to offer a wide range of after-school clubs each half term, providing children with opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and have fun beyond the classroom.

As places in these clubs are limited, we ask that if your child is signed up for a club and offered a place, they attend every session for the full half term. Regular attendance helps children get the most out of the experience and ensures that club places are used fairly. If a space is left unused, it means another child misses out on the chance to take part.

Thank you for your support in helping us make our after-school provision enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

Diary Dates

17.11.2025 – Road Safety Week
19.11.2025 – Year 5 Cinema Trip
19.11.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
19.11.2025 – Year 2 Fire Safety Talk
24.11.2025 – Assessment week
26.11.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
03.12.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
09.12.2025 – Parent Progress Meeting
10.12.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
11.12.2025 – Reception Phonics Meeting
16.12.2025 – Reception Nativity
17.12.2025 – Talent Show
17.12.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
18.12.2025 – Christmas Dinner
19.12.2025 – School closes for half-term
05.01.2026 – Inset Day – School closed for children
06.01.2026 – Start of Spring 1
07.01.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
07.01.2026 – Year 6 SATS Parent Meeting
08.01.2026 – Year 2 SATS Parent Meeting
14.01.2026 – Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Meeting
15.01.2026 – Year 1 Phonics Parent Meeting



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www.stthomasblackburn.org.uk

Attendance

Daily attendance in school is of the greatest importance for your child's learning. Children are required to be in school for 190 days of the year. As a reminder:

- Please call the school office before 8.30am if your child is not going to be at school
- Absence due to illness can be unauthorised, if we suspect your child is well enough to come to school. This can also result in a fine of up to £160 per adult per child for persistent absence.
- Pupils with less than 90% attendance are referred to as persistent absentees.
- Holidays in term time will receive a fine (up to £160 per adult per child) and could lead to prosecution or other legal interventions.

That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, shopping, visits, holidays and any non-urgent appointments. We thank all of our parents in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
5 days off school each year	97%	Good
10 days off school each year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
30 days off school each year	85%	Very concerned

RDB	92.8%
RAY	93.3%
1SM	93.3%
1JM	98.3%
2SW	100%
2BM	99.2%
3VKD	96.3%
3SY	92.9%
4SW	98.3%
4MB	96.3%
5JK	94.2%
5JY	94.2%
6HU	95.0%
6DR	93.5%

Reception and Nursery Admissions

A reminder that the school admissions process is open for Reception places. All applications must be submitted online at www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions. For any queries, you can contact the Blackburn with Darwen Admissions Team on 01254 666605 or email admissons@blackburn.gov.uk. If you need any help with the application process, please ring the school office who will be more than happy to help. Please remember, if your child attends our St Thomas' Nursery, this does not guarantee a place in Reception class and you must still complete the online application as detailed above. If you are interested in a Nursery place for your child please speak to the school office to ensure that your child's name is added to the list.

The deadline dates for applications are set out below:
Reception Class Admissions – 15th January 2026
Nursery Class Admissions – 16th January 2026

Recycling

At St Thomas', we are continuing to make our school more eco-friendly. Thank you for supporting our recycling efforts at home and in school - every small action helps make a big difference!

Did you know…

- Recycling just one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a light bulb for up to 6 hours!
- Around 80% of the plastic bottles we use could be recycled - but only about half actually are.
- Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose in landfill, so every item recycled really does make a difference.

You can recycle most clean plastic bottles, tubs, and containers. Please make sure items are rinsed and empty, and remove any lids where possible. Plastic bags, film, and crisp packets can't go in household recycling bins but can often be recycled at supermarket collection points.

If you're ever unsure, please check the latest guidance on the Blackburn with Darwen Council website:
https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/bins-and-waste/recycling-and-waste



Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' warmly invites all parents, carers, and toddlers to join our friendly weekly sessions.

On Wednesday, 12th November 2025, we were delighted to welcome Hannah Clarke, Speech and Language Specialist, who led an engaging and informative session. Both parents and children found it extremely valuable, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

The children especially enjoyed story time, where Hannah read Dear Zoo and shared helpful tips to support early language development, such as encouraging children to look closely at the pictures and using expressive gestures to bring the story to life.

Venue: St Thomas' School Hall
Day: Wednesday
Time: 10.00 – 11.30 am
Cost: £1.50

Parent Progress Meetings Years 1 to 6

Following the Autumn Term Assessments, we are holding Parent Progress Meetings. This meeting gives a chance to understand the format of the tests, your child's results and next stages to help your child develop in various areas of Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. During the meeting, you will be provided with information stating your child's achievements and how we can work together to further develop your child's progress.

Meetings will take place:
Date: Tuesday 9th December
Time: 3.30 – 4.00pm or 4.00pm – 4.30pm

Please log onto Parent Pay and book the relevant time allocation with your child/ren's class teacher to attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Cinema Trips

The Year 3 and 4 children thoroughly enjoyed their free trip to the cinema. They had a fantastic time and were wonderful ambassadors for St Thomas', showing excellent behaviour and impeccable manners throughout the visit.

Year 5 are now looking forward to their cinema trip. If you haven't already done so and would like your child to take part, please sign them up via parent pay. Completing this also gives permission for your child to watch the film listed below, which has a PG certificate.
Children may bring a small snack, (for example, a biscuit or packet of crisps) and a small drink (no fizzy drinks or glass bottles please). It is also very important that no nut products are taken in case of severe allergic reactions. Children will walk down to Vue Cinema and return to school after the film. The school kitchen will prepare a packed lunch for all children that normally have a school dinner that day.

Year 5: 'Sonic the Hedgehog 3'
Wednesday 19th November 2025, 9.00am – 12.45pm

Parenting Programmes

At St Thomas' we are committed to ensuring that Parents and Carers are aware of the wide range of support available both within school and across the wider community.

BWD Family Hubs offer a comprehensive range of free Parenting Programmes, and in some cases, creche facilities are also provided. You can self-refer to these courses via their website: https://familyhubsbwd.org/

One particularly popular course is 'Riding the Rapids' - designed for parents and carers of neurodiverse children, with or without a diagnosis, who may display behaviour that challenges. You can find more information and enrol here: https://familyhubsbwd.org/looking-after-your-family/parenting-programmes/riding-rapids

We hope you find these links helpful, either for your own family or for friends and relatives who may also benefit from this support.

