Newsletter

Issue 649 | 7th November 2025

Golden Children

Nursery: Noorul-Hawwa H and Aila H
Reception: Muawiyah A and Essa W
Year 1: Muhammad Y and Almir A
Year 2: Megan S and Sahil M
Year 3: Hiba B and Adham N
Year 4: Eesa P and Arham T
Year 5: Minsa S and Ibraheem N
Year 6: Umar B and Faizan M

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 Hirah A in 4SW class.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to 2BM class.

Most Improved Attendance

Well done to Reception AY class.

Time Beaters Award

This weeks' time beaters award goes to 3VKD class.

Winning Planet Team

The winning team this week is Saturn.

Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' warmly invites all parents, carers, and toddlers to our weekly sessions. On Wednesday, 12th November 2025, we are delighted to welcome a Speech and Language Specialist, who will offer information and advice on activities to support your toddler's speech and language development. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

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

Diary Dates

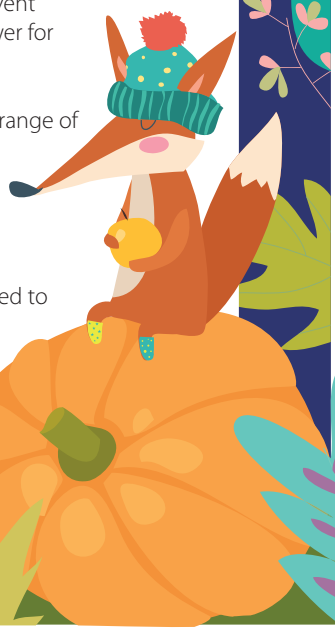
12.11.2025 – Year 3 Cinema Trip
12.11.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
14.11.2025 – Anti Bullying Day
14.11.2025 – Year 4 Cinema Trip
17.11.2025 – Road Safety Week
19.11.2025 – Year 5 Cinema Trip
19.11.2025 – Parents and Toddlers
19.11.2025 – Year 2 Fire Safety Talk
24.11.2025 – Assessment week
26.11.2025 – 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

Anti-Bullying Week

We are looking forward to taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, which runs from Monday 10th to Friday 14th November. Throughout the week, we will be exploring ways we can all work together to prevent bullying, under this year's theme: 'Power for Good'.

On Friday 14th November, we have a range of exciting activities planned to help highlight the importance of kindness, respect, and standing up for others.

To kick off the week, children are invited to take part in 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 10th November - a fun way to celebrate confidence, creativity and joy in every child. Please remember that full school uniform should still be worn, with the exception of the odd socks.



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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	88.6%
RAY	95.8%
1SM	92.9%
1JM	97.1%
2SW	93.8%
2BM	99.6%
3VKD	94.6%
3SY	89.6%
4SW	93.3%
4MB	87.5%
5JK	98.3%
5JY	87.9%
6HU	94.2%
6DR	91.8%

999 Text Service

Did you know that in an emergency, if you need the ambulance service, police, fire service, or coastguard but are unable to speak, you can text 999 for help? To use this service, you must first register your phone. Simply text the word 'register' to 999, then follow the instructions you receive. Registering now could help save lives, including your own.

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

Thank you for continuing to support our recycling efforts both at school and at home. Every contribution helps us move towards a more sustainable school community.

Did you know…

- For every tonne of paper recycled, around 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water are saved.
- Recycling paper can also save enough energy to power an average three-bedroom home for a year!
- All newspapers are made from recycled paper - and it takes just seven days for an old newspaper to be recycled and appear as a new one.

You can recycle most clean paper, including newspapers, magazines, cardboard, and junk mail. However, please remember that paper contaminated with food or grease, laminated paper, and some types of wrapping paper (those with foil or glitter) cannot be recycled. 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

Cinema Trips

A reminder that cinema trips will be taking place on the dates below. If you haven't already done so and wish for your child to participate in this trip, please sign them up on parent pay. By doing this you will also give permission for them to watch the film as detailed below. All films are PG certificate.

Year 3: 'Missing Link'
Wednesday 12th November 2025, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Year 4: 'Paddington in Peru'
Friday 14th November 2025, 9.00am – 12.30pm

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

Children may bring a small snack, e.g. Biscuit or packet of crisps and a small drink (no fizzy or glass please). It is also really 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 are on school dinner that day.