Newsletter

Issue 654 | 12th December 2025

Golden Children

Nursery: Inaya C and Gianna H
Reception: Ahmed A and Yahya D
Year 1: Alishbah M and Sulaiman M
Year 2: Zaryab M and Zahra S
Year 3: Ocean S and Ammarah K
Year 4: Ouwais M and Muhammad Zayn E
Year 5: Zainab D and Saad B
Year 6: Areebah A and Diya K

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 Israr U in 1SM class.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to 3VKD class.

Most Improved Attendance

Well done to 4SW class.

Time Beaters Award

This weeks' time beaters award goes to 5JK class.

Winning Planet Team

The winning team this week is Mars.

Diary Dates

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
14.01.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
15.01.2026 – Year 1 Phonics Parent Meeting
21.01.2026 – Nursery Reading Workshop
21.01.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
26.01.2026 – Parent Maths Workshop – KS2
28.01.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
04.02.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
07.02.2026 – Children Mental Health Day
11.02.2026 – Parents and Toddlers



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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.

RDB	94.9%
RAY	94.0%
1SM	85.7%
1JM	86.7%
2SW	88.7%
2BM	94.3%
3VKD	97.7%
3SY	91.4%
4SW	96.0%
4MB	93.7%
5JK	96.3%
5JY	91.7%
6HU	94.1%
6DR	92.7%



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

Year 5 First Aid Sessions

Year 5 children have completed their first aid training which gave them valuable, practical skills to help in real life situations. Throughout the sessions they learned how to stay calm in an emergency and assess a situation safely whilst providing basic care. The children were enthusiastic and engaged, asking thoughtful questions and practising each skill with growing confidence. The training not only equipped them with important life skills but also encouraged responsibility, teamwork and a sense of empowerment. This helped them understand that even at a young age they can make a difference in keeping others safe.





KS1 and KS2 Boccia Competitions

KS1 and KS2 Boccia teams took part in competitions against other schools. The KS1 team played for the very first time and improved as the competition went on, playing some incredible boccia and coming away with some medals!

The KS2 team took part in the BwD Boccia Tournament, again for their first taste of boccia. They played some amazing boccia, winning some very close fought games. Both teams had an amazing time learning new skills and meeting pupils from other schools. Well done everyone!

Clubs

We are delighted to have so many children involved in our after school clubs. The energy, creativity and feedback has been fantastic! A quick reminder about attendance: all our clubs are currently full. When a place is unused or a child drops out partway through, other children miss out. As sessions are sequenced and build on previous weeks, other children are unable to join partway through, so regular participation ensures continuity and progress.

While most clubs are free, please remember that the school fully or heavily subsidises these opportunities to make them accessible at minimal or no cost to families. We kindly ask that families ensure their child is committed to attending before signing up, so all children have a chance to benefit from these activities. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping our clubs run smoothly for everyone.

Class Assemblies

It was wonderful seeing so many parents and carers attend the celebration assemblies for Mrs Davidson's class and Ms McCrystal's class. The children were very excited to share this special moment and celebrate their hard work.

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 18th December we will be serving a Christmas Lunch for children and their teachers. If you would like your child to have a Christmas Lunch, please order on School Grid by Monday 15th December. Halal and vegetarian options are available. Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers.

Cancer Bank

The school council have been taking time to plan out the celebration days that are held in school. In celebration of St Thomas' Christmas Dinner and Festive Jumper Day they would like us to continue to support a local charity that is close to the hearts of many - Cancer Bank. This charity, founded by a former teacher of St Thomas', provides vital support to individuals affected by cancer. Their work includes supplying clothing tailored to people's specific needs when they may not be able to afford it themselves because they cannot work due to having treatment.

On Thursday 18th December 2025, along with Christmas Jumper Day, the school council would like to raise money to support the charity Cancer Bank. Please do not go out to buy something new, simply a Christmas Jumper or non-uniform. We are asking for a donation of £1 or anything possible. (Please note: The donation is per family NOT per child).

Thank you for joining in and making us be able to give back to people in our locality. From the School Council and Mrs Briggs

Reception Phonics meeting

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the reception phonics meeting. The session shared important information about phonics and how we teach early reading at St Thomas' C of E Primary school. Parents left with lots of practical information on how to support their child's reading at home. The reception children have made a fabulous start on their reading journey and we are so proud of their hard work. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. We know that a child who reads is a child who succeeds!

Antarctic Assembly

We had the fantastic opportunity to join a live broadcast from Antarctica with Robert Swan OBE and Jenny Cooke, co-founder of the 2041 School charity. Streaming 600 miles from the South Pole, Rob shared stories from the ice, the importance of protecting our planet's frozen continent and inspired our children to become champions for Antarctica. The children loved the facts presented and have been eager to learn more!

To become a champion for Antarctica we can all make one simple change…Turn off the lights when leaving a room, do not waste electricity!



