Newsletter

Issue 655 | 19th December 2025

Golden Children

Nursery: Hasnain R and Ayan M
Reception: M Umair a and Hassan Y
Year 1: Yusuf H and Yusuf A
Year 2: Umar P and Ibrahim D
Year 3: Mohammad Eesa K and Mariyam D
Year 4: Aysha A and Habiba L
Year 5: Mohammed Mustafa I and Maheen A
Year 6: Abdul Raheem H and Aamir M

Diary Dates

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
27.01.2026 – Year 3 and Year 4 Maths workshop
28.01.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
28.01.2026 – Year 1 and Year 2 Maths workshop
29.01.2026 – Year 5 and Year 6 Maths workshop
04.02.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
07.02.2026 – Children Mental Health Day
11.02.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
13.02.2026 – Safer Internet Day

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.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to 5JK class.

Most Improved Attendance

Well done to 5RE class.

Time Beaters Award

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

Winning Planet Team

The winning team this week is Saturn. The winning planet for the half term is Mars. The children in planet team Mars can come into school on Friday 9th January in non-uniform clothes.

Christmas Celebrations

The children had a truly wonderful Christmas Dinner Day, filled with festive cheer, delicious food and lots of smiles. Everyone enjoyed a special Christmas dinner, followed by class parties, games and celebrations. It was lovely to see the children having so much fun together and making happy memories to end the term. A big thank you to all staff who helped make the day so special.



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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	90.5%
RAY	87.7%
1SM	88.7%
1JM	89.0%
2SW	91.3%
2BM	94.3%
3VKD	97.0%
3SY	92.4%
4SW	96.7%
4MB	92.3%
5JK	97.3%
5JY	97.2%
6HU	93.1%
6DR	97.0%

Headteacher Message

Dear Children, Parents and Staff,

As we reach the end of the busy term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together. This term has been full of learning, growth and memorable moments! I am incredibly proud of the resilience, dedication and creativity our children have shown and I am grateful to our staff for their commitment to excellence in teaching and support.

We have celebrated many successes this term, from academic achievements to sporting events, artistic performances and community projects. These accomplishments remind us of the power of hard work, collaboration and kindness.

To our children, take time over the holidays to recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. Use this time to reflect on your achievements and set your sights on the opportunities ahead.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement in your child's education makes a real difference and helps create a thriving school community.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe, restful and joyful holiday. I look forward to welcoming you all back for the new term, ready to embrace new challenges and celebrate new successes together.

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!
Miss Arshad

Year 6 SATs Meeting

We will be holding follow up SATs meeting for Year 6 parents and carers on Wednesday 7th January. During the meeting teachers will discuss recent progress levels and explore the next steps and teaching focuses for Spring Term. The meeting will also explore that SATs tests in more detail and parents and carers will find out to further support children in preparation for the tests. It is important that all parents and carers of Year 6 children attend the meeting. There are 2 sessions to choose from; 3.30pm – 4.00pm or 4.00pm – 4.30pm. Please book your preferred slot via ParentPay. Meetings will be held in your child's classroom; please arrive at the door your child is dismissed from each day.

Year 2 SATs Meeting

On Thursday 8th January, we will be holding SATs meetings for Year 2 parents and carers. The meeting will give parents and carers the chance to look at test techniques in more detail and to find out how you can help your child to prepare for the tests. It is important that all parents and carers of Year 2 children attend the meeting. There are 2 sessions to choose from; 3.30pm – 4.00pm or 4.00pm – 4.30pm. Please book your preferred slot via ParentPay. Meetings will be held in your child's classroom; please arrive at the door your child is dismissed from each day.



Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' warmly invites all parents, carers, and toddlers to join our friendly weekly sessions.
Each week, toddlers can explore a wide range of toys and activities designed to support their language, physical and social development. We also enjoy welcoming guest specialists in early childhood development, who share valuable tips and engaging activities with our families.
From painting and playdough to storytelling and sensory play, there is always something exciting for little ones to discover. Our sessions also offer a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to connect, chat and build friendships within our school community.

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

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



Support for Families

Many families experience financial pressures at times, and this can be particularly challenging during the festive season. If you or someone you know is struggling, support is available.

Local foodbanks can provide three days' worth of nutritionally balanced food, along with additional advice and support. To access a foodbank, a voucher is required. Vouchers can be requested from local agencies.

For information on how to access a voucher, as well as foodbank locations and opening times in Blackburn, please visit:
https://blackburn.foodbank.org.uk

Christmas Choir

Our children enjoyed a heart warming visit to Age UK at Accrington Road Community Centre and Ferrier Court, where they went carol singing for local residents and service users. The children sang with great enthusiasm, bringing smiles and seasonal joy to everyone. They also spent time talking to the residents and playing games. The visit helped the children understand the importance of community, kindness and giving back, while creating a warm and joyful atmosphere for all.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Age UK and Ferrier Court for warmly welcoming the children. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and a great example of our school community spirit!



Cancer Bank

Thank you to all parents and carers for your kind support of our Cancer Bank non-uniform day. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £264.90. These donations will help Cancer Bank provide essential items and practical support to individuals and families affected by cancer in our community. Your support truly makes a difference and we are very grateful for your continued kindness.

