Newsletter

Issue 683 | 25th September 2026

Golden Children

Nursery: Muhammad S and Fatima S
Reception: Haniya H and Aisha S
Year 1: Zohan A and Ahmed A
Year 2: Umaima T and Yaseen Y
Year 3: Muhammad Bin J and Hareem M
Year 4: Humaira U and Kimaya L
Year 5: Maryam D and Uzair C
Year 6: Raqeebah S and Musa N

Generosity

Our school value for this half term is 'Generosity'. Our words of wisdom 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 justice 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 Fahd A in Reception Mrs Yaseen's class.

Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 5 Miss Gallagher's class.

Time Beaters Award

This weeks' time beaters award goes Year 5 Miss Gallagher's Class.

Winning Planet team

The winning planet team this week is Saturn.

Important: School Office Arrangements at the Start of the Day

At the start of the school day, we kindly ask all parents and carers who wish to visit the school office to please wait until the children have safely entered the school.

This allows our staff to focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of all pupils each morning.

Once the children have gone into class, from 8:45am onwards, we will be very happy to assist any parent or carer at the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Diary Dates

29.09.2026 – Flu Vaccinations
30.09.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
01.10.2026 – Parent Coffee Morning
05.10.2026 – School Photograph Day
07.10.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
08.09.2026 – Parent Coffee Morning
09.10.2026 – World Mental Health Day
13.10.2026 – Y3 Mrs Davidson class assembly
13.10.2026 – Y2 Miss McCrystal class assembly
14.10.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
15.10.2026 – Reception Reading Meeting
21.10.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
22.10.2026 – Half term school closes 3.15 pm

Outdoor Improvements Update – Reception / Year 1

As you are aware, we are working hard to improve our outdoor areas so that our children have the very best opportunities to learn and thrive. The final stage of these improvements near reception/year 1 will take place outside the Year 1 classrooms from Monday 28th September and is expected to last one week.

During this time, Year 1 children will be collected from their morning line up area at the end of the school day. Parents and carers will be able to come onto the school grounds once the gates have opened and collect their child directly from their class teacher. Morning drop off arrangements will remain unchanged.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we complete these exciting improvements for our children.



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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. 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	86.70%
RAY	87.30%
1SM	95.0%
1EB	94.50%
2BM	96.20%
2LM	97.30%
3VKD	94.70%
3ZD	92.0%
4MB	98.50%
4KO/LD	97.30%
5JK	98.70%
5SG	98.70%
6HU	96.0%
6DR	92.70%

School Photograph

School photographs will be taking place on Monday 5th October 2026. Please ensure your child arrives to school in full clean smart uniform. Please note: If we do not have photograph consent from our general consent form, your child will be unable to have their photograph taken. If you would like a new form, please contact the school office.

Harvest Appeal

This Harvest, we are proud to once again support Blackburn Foodbank and help local people who may be facing difficult times. Each participating school has been allocated a specific item to collect, helping the foodbank build up the balanced stock it needs for the busy winter months.

Our allocated item is tinned rice pudding, and we would be very grateful for any donations of this item. However, any tinned food donations would be greatly appreciated. Please ensure that all donations are brought into school by Friday 9th October.

Guided Reading Workshops

The Reception Reading Meeting was a huge success!
A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our guided reading workshops. It was wonderful to see so many of you engaging with the session and learning more about how you can support your child's reading journey at home.

Reception parents and carers also had the opportunity to take home reading books for their children. We now look forward to working together to develop your children's love of reading, alongside building those vital reading skills. Thank you once again for your continued support. We are excited to see our young readers flourish!

Parent Coffee Morning Success

Our Parent Coffee Morning was another great success. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend and take part in positive conversations and discussions. This week's focus was on helping children settle happily and confidently into school. We shared ideas, advice and practical strategies to support children during this important transition period. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to such a welcoming and supportive morning. For further information, please see the link below.
https://bit.ly/4yjbBy0

Parking at Lidl

When dropping off or collecting your child from school, please avoid parking in the disabled (Blue Badge) bays at Lidl unless you have a valid Blue Badge. These spaces are reserved for people who depend on them, whether that is a Lidl customer or one of our own parents/carers, and it is important that they remain available when needed.

We are very grateful to Lidl for allowing our families to use their car park. By parking responsibly and considerately, we can help maintain this positive relationship and demonstrate the values we promote within our school community.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us show consideration and respect towards others.

Parents and Toddlers

St Thomas' warmly welcomes all parents and toddlers to our Parent and Toddler sessions.

The sessions began on Wednesday 9th September, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and children in attendance. The sessions provide a great opportunity for parents to socialise while toddlers enjoy playing, learning and developing important skills.

Venue: St Thomas' School Hall
Time: 10.00–11.00 am
Cost: £1.50



Primary School Admissions for September 2027

Applications are now open for children starting primary school in September 2027. Applying online is quick, easy and secure. You will receive a confirmation email once your application has been submitted and can access your application at any time. You can apply online through Blackburn with Darwen Council's Parent Portal: **www.blackburn.gov.uk/SynergyWeb**

As some schools receive more applications than places available, it is important to understand the admissions process and submit your application correctly and on time. Before completing your application, we recommend that you read the information and guidance available on the school admissions process, as well as the admission policies of your preferred schools: **www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/you-apply-school-place**

If you require any help or advice, please contact the School Admissions Team on 01254 666605 (Option 1) or email admissions@blackburn.gov.uk

Should you require any further 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 2027
Reception Class Admissions – 15th January 2027

