Newsletter

Issue 684 | 2nd October 2026

Golden Children

Nursery: Muhammad Hashim A and Aaliyah P
Reception: Zayaan K and Aafiyah G
Year 1: Akshaj L and Muhammad Ali R
Year 2: Arham M aned Zakariya A
Year 3: Azaan M and Khadeejah P
Year 4: Arooj H and Maryam P
Year 5: Kinza S and Muhammad Yusuf K
Year 6: Mustafa I and Aliza M

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 Muhammad Zayn E in Year 5 Miss Gallagher's class.



Diary Dates

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
09.10.2026 – Parliament Trip
09.10.2026 – Blackburn Town Hall
13.10.2026 – Y3 Mrs Davidson class assembly
13.10.2026 - Y2 Miss McCrystal class assembly
14.10.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
14.10.2026 – Yorkshire Build Society Workshop
21.10.2026 – Parents and Toddlers
22.10.2026 – Half term school closes 3.15 pm
23.10.2026 – Inset Day - School closed for children
02.11.2026 – Inset Day - School closed for children
03. 11.206 – School Opens Autumn Term 2
06.11.2026 – Year 2 Child Safe Talk
06.11.2026 - Year 6 Road Sense Talk

Attendance Award

Congratulations to Year 6 Mr Usman's class.

Time Beaters Award

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

Winning Planet Team

The winning planet team this week is Saturn.

World Mental Health Day 2026 – Wear Something Yellow

On Friday 9th October 2026, schools, workplaces, and communities across the UK come together to wear bright yellow for Young Minds. The goal is simple: smash the stigma surrounding mental health, start open conversations, and show children and young adults that support is out there.

Why It Matters

- Over 1 in 4 young people experience some kind of mental health condition.
- Many feel isolated or unsure of where to turn for help.
- Wearing yellow and taking part will help raise awareness that support is out there.

How St Thomas' is Taking Part

- Wear Yellow: Children are invited to wear a yellow item (one please) or accessory on Friday 9th October- e.g., yellow socks, scarves, t-shirts, hair accessories!
- Get Involved: Join us in raising awareness and discussing positive wellbeing. Children will complete activities in School on the day.

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Tel: 01254 54706 | Fax: 01254 694813 | Email: office@stthomasce.blackburn.sch.uk | Head: Miss Y Arshad
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	97.70%
RAY	86.0%
1SM	96.90%
1EB	94.50%
2BM	87.30%
2LM	96.30%
3VKD	91.0%
3ZD	96.30%
4MB	96.10%
4KO	95.70%
5JK	94.30%
5SG	98.70%
6HU	99.0%
6DR	95.90%

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.

Nut Allergies

We have an increasing number of pupils in our school who have severe nut allergies. Anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) can occur as a result of digestion, inhalation or any other contact with nut-based products. We kindly ask that all packed lunches and break times snacks do not include nuts.

We understand this may cause some inconvenience but I am sure you agree the safety of all children is paramount. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

Snacks

The nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 classes are provided with a snack as part of the school's fruit scheme'. The children in years 3 to 6 can bring a healthy snack into school to eat at break time. Please can all parents be aware that the snacks provided for break time should not be crisps, chocolate bars and/or nuts. When children eat sugary foods, they are less likely to concentrate during lessons. Therefore, please ensure your child is given a healthy option such as fruits and raisins.

Please note that St Thomas' is a 'nut free' school, this is to protect our children with severe nut allergies. Please also note that due to choking hazards, all grapes regardless of a child's age should be cut into at least two halves.

Harvest Appeal – this is the last week

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.

Parent Coffee Morning

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. We shared ideas, advice and practical strategies to support children in settling happily and confidently back into school.

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/4i3Wsem

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 has been wonderful to see so many parents and children in attendance.

Our sessions provide a lovely opportunity for parents to socialise, meet other families and enjoy some time together, while toddlers can play, learn and develop important skills through fun and engaging activities.

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

We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones!

Climate Change

Most cooked and uncooked food waste can be recycled through a council food waste collection. This includes: - fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, dairy, plate scrapings and tea bags, as long as they are free from any packaging. By recycling our food waste, we are helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, protect our environment and create valuable compost and renewable energy.

Are you doing your bit?

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.

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

