

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our 2023-2024 school year! And a special welcome to all our new parents, we hope you and your children will enjoy your time here at St Thomas'.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Baker and Miss Downward have now officially joined the staff team! They were working with us last year on a relief basis, but are now fully fledged members of the school support team where they will provide classroom support as well as small group and individual support. Welcome! Some of their hours replace Mrs Liu who resigned over the summer. I'd like to thank her for the care and support she brought to the children and we all wish her well as she moves on from St Thomas'.

The Autumn term is always very busy, so here are the first lots of dates for the kitchen calendar! However, more dates will be added and things will change, but we'll do our best to keep you up to date. Most correspondence is via email, so please always check.

Regular dates:

PE will start next week. For now, we will stick with the children coming to school in their PE kit on their PE day. If the weather is particularly bad, the children can wear long trousers or tracksuit bottoms, and their school jumpers and a coat. We'll see how it goes!

Monday: Cross Country club (optional!!) - KS2 after school with Mr Kirk 3:15 - 4:15.

Tuesday: KS2 P.E.

Friday: KS1 and Reception P.E. (Children may leave their pumps at school, or come in trainers.)

Friday: KS2 Swimming*
(However - week one swimming, 15/9/23, is an assessment week and year 3 only)

Wednesday: KS2 Forest School with Miss Stubbs (kit as per the letter).

Specific Dates:

26/9 Wren Class: Manx Museum workshop

28-29/9 Eagle Class adventure days and overnight camp (details to follow).

2/10 Whale and Dolphin Watch visiting Falcon Class

4/10 Flu Vaccines administered by Manx Care (info/permissions will be sent in advance)

11/10 Individual School Photos

11/10 Hockey Tournament - yr3/4

18/10 Harvest Assembly - this is for the children and we will collect donations of food items for the Isle of Man food bank.

23-27/10 Half term

We will be holding meetings with parents in the near future, where you will have the opportunity to meet the class teacher. Dates to follow.

*Swimming: If you are able to help us out with swimming on a Friday morning, please let Mrs Tonge know. It involves half an hour at the NSC pool, 9.30 to 10.00am and will involve working with small groups of children at the poolside. Instruction and support will be given, but the more adults, the more we can divided the groups up and the quicker the children progress. Volunteers will be required to undergo a DBS check (police check).

Hockey: We are planning on entering the hockey tournament later this term on the 11/10, but we need a hockey coach. If you are free to coach a bunch of keen yr 3 and 4 hockey players, preferably on a Tuesday 3.15 to 4.15 for 4 weeks, please let me know! We have the hockey gear.

Uniforms: We have a selection of donated uniform items that you are welcome to take. Mrs Tonge has left them in the front entrance library area - please help yourself.

Finally "Dorothy", the dolphin we painted as our fundraiser for Hospice, is ready for a new home. If any of you live or work somewhere that could accommodate the dolphin, please get in touch. All we ask is for you to make an additional donation to Hospice IOM.

If you have any thoughts or questions, please get in touch. I'm usually on the school yard first thing if you need to have a quick chat. If you are on FaceBook, please look up our school page. It's a closed group, so request to join and we'll let you in.

Regards,
Mr Chris Kirk.
Head Teacher.