



St Thomas 'C E School

Headteacher: Miss D Lyon

“Jesus at the heart of our learning community”

St. Thomas' CE Primary School October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our October Newsletter to let you know what has been happening in school since we returned in September and also some important information and dates for the rest of the year.

The children have settled back into school routine very quickly and are enjoying getting to know their new classes. I would like to welcome our new children and families who have started with us in Reception and in other year groups.

Curriculum Enrichment

Every term the staff plan lots of experiences, both in and out of school, to try and enrich the learning that is planned within the curriculum. Here are some of the events that have been taking place:

*Y5/6 Forest School

*Eagle and Wren classes attending dance sessions as part of PE led by a professional dance instructor

*Manx language and culture weekly sessions for Eagle class.

*Open the Book Assemblies led by Braddan Church

*Y5 day trip to Ardwhallan Outdoor Education Centre

*PC Kennaugh visiting Falcon class

Look at the list of dates at the end of the newsletter to see a list of dates of other experiences planned for the school year.

Isle Listen

Isle Listen, a charity who support mental health, lead age-appropriate sessions across the school roughly once every half term. In KS2, they lead 8x30mins sessions across the school year on such topics as Everyday Feelings, Shield of Positivity, What impacts our Mental Health and Positive Relationships. They will continue with this programme this year.



Isle Listen has also developed an age-appropriate programme for KS1 and they will be coming into school for 3 sessions across the year.

Forest School

We are so lucky at St. Thomas' to have a woodland nearby and also our very-own member of staff who is Forest School trained!



Miss Stubbs has already started Forest School sessions this year with Y5/6 every Wednesday morning. A BIG thank you to our ESO Mrs. Baker and also Mr. Wilde, volunteer, who accompany Miss Stubbs to Forest School.

Each class will have the same number of sessions as last year but they have been spread out into 2 different blocks to try and mitigate adverse weather!!

Nearer the date for your child's class, we will email parents / carers with a reminder of dates and a suggested kit list.

Y5 Ardwhallan Trip Wednesday 18th September

Y5 were one of the first classes on the Island to have a full day of outdoor experiences at the newly re-opened Ardwhallan Outdoor Education Centre on Wednesday 18th September. Transport to and from the centre was organised and funded by the centre itself and there was no cost to school!



During the day, the children took part in bushcraft activities, den building and fire lighting and wildlife exploration activities where they learnt more about mini beasts and went on nature walk identifying the different trees and plants. They all enjoyed some bread cooked over the fire. The children had a fantastic time and were very enthusiastic about every challenge they undertook.

It was an excellent way to start a school year through developing team building and relationship skills.

Thank you to Miss Stubbs and Mrs. Baker for accompanying the children-I know they had fun too! Find out more by looking at the photographs on the school Facebook page!



Rock Kidz Thursday 3rd October

This will be Rock Kidz third performance at Meadow Campus! Rock Kidz will lead a day's workshop on self-esteem - a blend of rock music and incredibly energetic children's TV presenters!! The children enjoyed it SO much last year that they asked could we book it again - so we did!

Rock Kidz transform the whole school into Rockstars and inspire them to be the best they can be. The team will be teaching the key message of self-esteem through their unique Rock Kidz songs. After school on the playground, Rock Kidz will also be selling some merchandise - t-shirts, hoodies etc and these proved really popular last year.

For this day, the children can come to school dressed as ROCK STARS to really get in the mood.

Donations for the Foodbank at Harvest Time

In the tradition of harvest time activities, the School Council would like to collect donations from the whole school for the IOM Foodbank.



With the current economic climate, the foodbank is being used by more families and even a small donation makes a huge difference. If you can spare anything from the list below, it would be gratefully received on **Wednesday 9th October**.

- Tinned meat or fish
- Tinned stew, curry, sausages, meatballs etc
- Chickpeas, lentils etc
- Breakfast cereal, porridge oats etc
- Tinned fruit
- Rice pudding
- Custard-instant, tinned or long-life cartons.
- Instant mashed potato
- Rice / noodles / pasta sauce
- Instant pot meals (needing only a kettle to prepare)
- Tea, coffee, sugar-small packs and jars are best.
- UHT Milk
- Fruit juice.
- Tinned vegetables
- Biscuits
- Condiments and stock cube

School and Campus Clubs

We are always trying to increase the amount of clubs we run before, in and after school. Here are the clubs running for this half of Autumn Term:

Tuesday	Y5/6	Netball Club	8:10-8:50
Wednesday	KS2	Girls Football Club -KC	12:30-1
Wednesday	Y 5/6	Badminton Club	3.30-4.30
Thursday	KS2	Spanish Club	12.30-1.00
Thursday	KS2	Girls' Football Club -KC	12.40-1.10

Please use the lower car park to drop off and collect your child.

Absence from School

Did you know that children with good attendance are more than twice as likely to pass their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those who are persistently absent?

Good attendance at school is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in life. Being in school gives children the best chance to learn, make friends and get the most from their education.

Absences from school are only authorised in exceptional circumstances and each application to take a child out of school is considered on it's individual merits. The Department of Education, Sport & Culture does not support nor encourage additional time being taken off school for holiday purposes.

If a holiday request is not authorised, this means that the decision will be formally recorded as 'unauthorised' but it does not mean that the holiday cannot take place.

Teachers will not be providing learning for children who are absent from school due to holidays.

PE & Swimming

Just a reminder on what is acceptable uniform for children to wear on the days they come into school wearing PE kits. Navy / black shorts or track pants should be worn with the St Thomas' orange PE top. In cooler weather, the blue St Thomas' sweatshirts are to be worn over the PE t-shirts.

If your child has long hair, could you please make sure that it is tied back on the days that they will do PE.

Stud earrings are the only earrings that can be worn at school and they will need to be removed by the child for PE lessons or school will provide tape to cover them.

Puffin Class Reception / Y1	Friday morning
Falcon Class Y2/3	Tuesday afternoon
Wrens Y4/5	Tuesday afternoon
Eagles Y5/6	Thursday afternoon

KS2 children go swimming on Friday mornings and St. Thomas' CE Primary School adhere to the **IOM Policy & Guidelines for Primary School Swimming.**

Children will not be allowed to take part in the lesson if they do not have the appropriate attire:

1. Jewellery, including watches, ear studs and friendship bracelets may not be worn in the pool. If earrings cannot be removed, then the child will need to wear a neoprene headband and this must be provided by parents / carers.
2. All children with long hair must wear a swimming hat. Children should have their own hat.
3. All boys must wear tight-fitting swimming trunks, not shorts.
4. Bikinis and loose-fitting clothing is not permitted.
5. Goggles may be worn and it is the responsibility of the parents / carers to provide them and also to show the children how to safely put them on and remove them.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

Children are allowed to bring healthy snacks into school to have at playtimes. We ask that **snacks or packed lunches DO NOT contain any nut products. This includes peanut butter, items cooked in nut oils, Nutella and other nut-based products.**

Events for 2024-25

Here are some events we have planned for this school year. We will let you know if we add anymore! (Dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances but we will endeavour to inform parents as quickly as possible)

Date	Event	Which class?
Autumn Term 1		
30 th Sept	Little Starters photo for IOM Newspapers	Rec
2 nd Oct	Assembly led by Rev Hull	School
3 rd Oct	Rock Kidz	Campus

7 th Oct	Isle Listen	KS2
9 th Oct	FOST meeting at St. Thomas' CE Primary School	All welcome
14 th Oct	Daffodil Competition bulbs sent home this week	Campus
22 nd Oct	Isle Listen	KS2
25 th Oct	School closes for half term	Campus
Autumn Term 2		
4 th Nov	School opens	Campus
5 th Nov	St. Thomas' Governor's Meeting	Governing Body
6 th Nov	Assembly led by Rev Hull	Whole School
13 th Nov	Girl's Football	Y2/3/4
18 th -20 th Nov	Rec/KS1 Pedestrian Skills	R/KS1
19 th Nov	Y5/6 Badminton Competition PM	Y5/6
20 th Nov	Falcon Class Trip to House of Manannan	Y2/3
20 th Nov	Open the Book Assembly	Whole School
26 th Nov	Isle Listen	KS2
27 th Nov	SUMT Assembly	Whole School
2 nd Dec	Y6 Police Treat (during this week)	Y6
4 th Dec	Assembly led by Rev Hull	Whole School
11 th Dec	Open the Book Assembly	Whole School
13 th Dec	Christmas Party PM	Whole School
16 th Dec	St. Thomas' Christmas Performance PM	All welcome
17 th Dec	St. Thomas' Evening Christmas Performance	All welcome
18 th Dec	St. Thomas' Christmas Assembly at St. Thomas' Church 2:15pm start	All welcome
20 th Dec	School closes for Christmas Holidays	
Spring Term 1		
6 th Jan	School opens	
14 th Jan	Isle Listen	KS1
24 th Jan	Young Carers Coffee Morning run by Y6	All welcome
29 th Jan	Open the Book Assembly	Whole School
30 th Jan	Lempen Theatre Company performance	Campus
11 th Feb	Isle Listen	KS2
14 th Feb	School closes for half term	Campus
Spring Term 2		
24 th Feb	School opens	Campus
3 rd Mar	Book Week	Campus
6 th Mar	World Book Day Dress-up	Campus
6 th Mar	Off by Heart Poetry Competition	Whole School
25 th Mar	Isle Listen	KS2
2 nd Apr	Open the Book Assembly	Whole School
4 th Apr	School closes for Easter	
Summer Term 1		
22 nd Apr	School opens	
6 th May	International Week	Whole School
9 th May	Eurovision!!!	Whole School
13 th May	Isle Listen	KS2
14 th May	Open the Book Assembly	Whole School
20 th May	Isle Listen	KS2
26 th May	Bank Holiday-school closed	
29 th May	School closes for half term	
30 th May	INSET- staff attend school for training	Staff only

Summer Term 2		
9 th June	School opens	
17 th June	Y5/6 Netball Competition	Y5/6
30 th June	Isle Listen KS1	KS1
7 th July	Bank Holiday for Tynwald Day	Campus
11 th July	Reports out to parents	Campus
18 th July	School closes for Summer Holidays!!	Campus

Thank you for all the ways you support your child in their learning.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Lyon
Headteacher