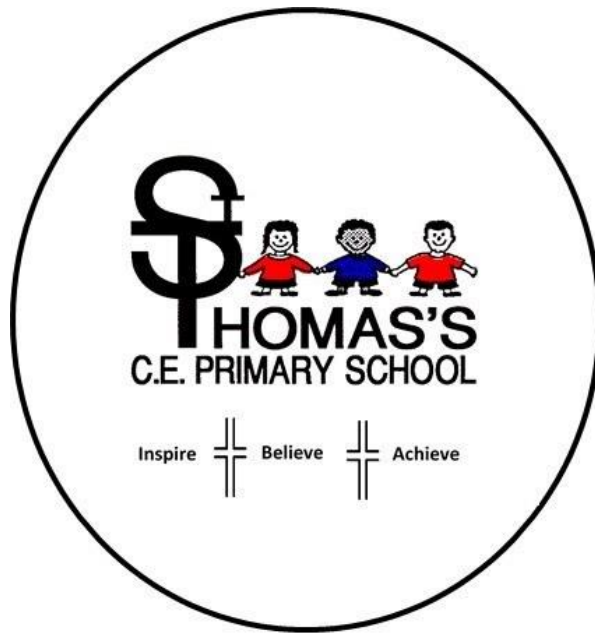




April 2025 Newsletter

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Message from the Headteacher



Headteacher's Easter Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our pupils, parents, and staff for their unwavering support and dedication. Your contributions have been invaluable in making this term a success.

Celebrating Eid

With the end of Ramadan upon us, we are excited to celebrate Eid in school this week. We have planned parties for Thursday, and children are welcome to come in their own clothes to join in the festivities. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate this significant occasion.

Easter Break

We will be finishing for the Easter break on Friday at 2pm. The school will be closed for two weeks and will reopen after the Easter weekend on the 22nd of April.

Spring and New Beginnings

Spring is a time of renewal and new life. As we see the world around us blossoming, we are reminded of the words from the Bible: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This season brings hope

and the promise of new beginnings. As the famous author Albert Camus once said, "Spring is the time of plans and projects."

Fun Fact: Did you know that during spring, the Earth's axis is tilted in such a way that the length of day and night is almost equal? This phenomenon is known as the vernal equinox.

Local Events

There is a lot happening in the local area over the Easter holidays. Here are some exciting events you might want to explore:

- **Easter Adventures at Dunham Massey:** From April 3rd to 27th, enjoy a nature-inspired trail with activities highlighting the fascinating world of pollinators. The trail includes a map, pencil, and a chocolate egg
- **Annual Duck Race at The Quays:** Join the fun as hundreds of yellow rubber ducks race to the finish line, accompanied by live entertainment and activities for the whole family
- **Lambing Week at Tatton Park:** From April 5th to 13th, visit The Farm at Tatton Park to experience lambing season and learn about farm life

Free Activities:

- **RHS Bridgewater Gardens:** Enjoy a free adventure trail following Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare around the gardens
- **Chester Zoo:** Participate in the Really Wild Egg Hunt, where you can uncover beautifully painted giant eggs inspired by African wildlife
- **Go Ape Rivington:** Experience thrilling outdoor adventures in the heart of the Pennines

Local Parks with Events:

- **St. Mary's Park:** Located in Prestwich, this park offers a variety of family-friendly activities and is a great place to enjoy the spring weather
- **Boggart Hole Clough:** This large urban park in Blackley features picturesque woodland and hosts various events, including Easter egg hunts and nature trail

We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to enjoy quality time with your families.

Building Works and Adaptations

Thank you for your patience during the current building works. The children have been fantastic in adapting to having packed lunches in their classrooms this week and last. They have been a real credit to the school, showing resilience and flexibility.

Curriculum Development

Our school continues to develop teaching and learning across all year groups. We are particularly proud of our new English curriculum, which follows the Literacy Tree scheme of work. The children are studying a wide range of books to support both reading and writing. We hope you enjoyed reading their work at parents' evening a couple of weeks ago.

Healthy Eating During Holidays

As we head into the holiday period, it's important to maintain healthy eating habits. Encouraging children to eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains will help them stay energized and focused. Here are a few tips:

- **Include a variety of colourful fruits and vegetables** in meals and snacks.
- **Opt for whole grains** like brown rice, whole wheat bread, and oats.
- **Limit sugary snacks and drinks** and choose healthier alternatives like water, milk, and natural fruit juices.
- **Encourage regular meal times** to maintain a routine.

Upcoming Exams

Next term will be equally busy as we move into the exam season. Year 6 will undertake their SAT exams, and we wish them the best of luck. Year 1 will undertake the phonics screening, and Year 4 will complete the multiplication screening check. As ever, attendance will be extremely important during this time, and we ask that all children are in school each day.

Holiday Reminders

Over the holiday period, please remind your children to read often, use Times Tables Rockstars to practice their tables, and ensure they practice their spelling. Your support in these areas is crucial for their continued progress.

Thank you once again for your support. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Attendance and Punctuality



Our school gates are open from **8:40am** until **8:55am**, and open again at **3:10pm** when school finishes.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8:55am and will be kept open by the class teacher until 9:00am. Following this, any late arrivals will be recorded by staff in the office who will record and update any changes on arrival.

Absence

Parents must notify the school on each day of absence by 8:45am or as soon as practically possible.

When phoning school to inform of your child's absence, please press 1 on the menu unless you need to speak to the office staff. When leaving a message, please clearly state your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.

If your child has sickness/diarrhoea, they must not attend school for 24 hours after the bout of symptoms.

Medical or Dental Appointments

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence if the office has been informed of the appointment in advance.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

We request that an appointment card is shown at the office in advance of the appointment so the class teacher can be informed.

Holidays During Term Time

Taking holidays in term time will affect a child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking children away during term time.

If you need to request a holiday during term time, then you will need to complete a Leave of Absence form which can be obtained from the school office.

Although the school will look at each request for leave on its own merit, requests will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.

When taking your child out of school when a holiday is not authorised/requested, you may face legal action under Section 444 (1) or (1A) of the Education Act 1966 or be issued with a Penalty Notice under Section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Penalty Notices are issued **per parent, per child** at £80 each if paid within 21 days and rising to £160 each if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice will result in the Local Authority taking legal action against you under Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1966.

The full version of our attendance policy can be found on the school website. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting your child's attendance and punctuality. Regular school attendance enhances their learning experience and helps them achieve their full potential.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Together, let's ensure every school day is filled with enriching educational experiences for our children.

ATTENDANCE

Bury
Council

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.

Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £160 but if you pay it within 21 days it will be reduced to £80

£160



2

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised, the school will consider prosecution

1 day = 2 sessions

A PENALTY FOR EACH CHILD



+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid within 21 days

4

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+£160

+£160

+£160

+£160

4 children & 2 parents = £1,280

Reduced to £640 if paid within 21 days

5

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

SECOND TIME

2 parents and

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

4 children = £1,280

No discount for early payment



THIRD TIME

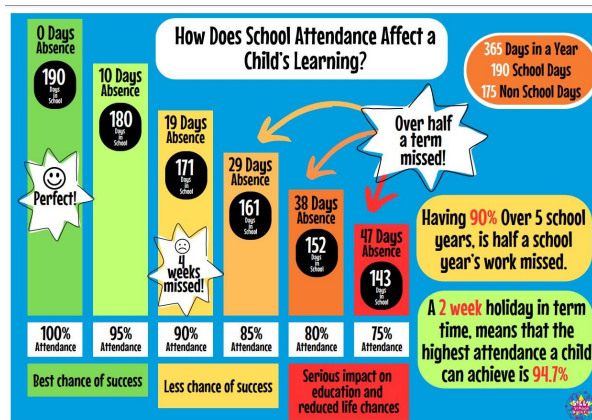
A penalty notice fine will not be given.

Instead your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000

2 parents & 4 children = £20,000





Walk and Talk Group



Following on the success of our first Walk and Talk group walk, Mrs Begum and Mrs James will be holding our second walk on **Tuesday 29th April at 9am**, which will be followed with tea and cake in school after the walk.

Our first group walk was a wonderful success, bringing together a great group of parent/carers who enjoyed a pleasant walk through our local area. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to connect, share experiences and chat in a relaxed, friendly environment.

We're looking forward to the event and we hope you can join us!

Information on Statutory Assessments



As we come to the end of the Spring term, we would like to keep you informed about the upcoming assessments that will be taking place for our students during the Summer term.

It is important for students to be well-prepared for these assessments, and we encourage parents to support their children during this time.

Key Stage Two Statutory Exams for Year 6:

Our Year 6 pupils will be undertaking the Key Stage Two statutory exams, which are a crucial part of their educational journey. These exams include assessments in Reading; Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling; and Mathematics. The tests are designed to measure the children's ability to apply their knowledge in these key areas of the curriculum. We encourage parents to support their children by ensuring they have ample time for revision and rest.

The timetable for the KS2 SATs for Year 6 in 2025 is as follows;

Monday 12th May 2025 - English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1 and Paper 2

Tuesday 13th May 2025 - English Reading Paper

Wednesday 14th May 2025 - Mathematics Paper 1 and Paper 2

Thursday 15th May 2025 - Mathematics Paper 3

Phonics Screening for Year 1:

The phonics screening check for Year 1 is a short assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words. It is not a formal test but a way for teachers to identify if any additional support is needed. The check consists of 40 words, both real and pseudo-words, that your child will read to a teacher. We recommend that parents engage in regular reading practices with their children to build their phonics skills.

The Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 will take place within the 1-week period starting from **Monday 9th June 2025**

Multiplication Screening for Year 4:

Year 4 pupils will participate in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This check is designed to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. The MTC is an online, on-screen assessment where pupils will answer questions on time tables 2 to 12. We advise parents to help their children practice their multiplication tables regularly.

The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for Year 4 will be administered within the 2-week period starting from **Monday 2nd June 2025**

We understand that assessments can be a source of anxiety for some students, and we aim to support them through this period with additional resources and guidance. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or require further information.

Further information is also available from the following Government websites:

National curriculum assessments: key stage 2 tests - GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-tests>

Phonics screening check: information for parents - GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents>

Multiplication tables check - GOV.UK

Dates for the Diary



Our key dates for the diary are listed below, please note that these dates may change and reminders for upcoming events will be posted on Parent Hub

Thursday 3rd April - Eid Parties in school (non-uniform day)

Friday 4th April - School closes at 2:00pm for the Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd April - School reopens for the Summer term

Tuesday 29th April - Parent Walk and Talk Group at 9am

Wednesday 30th April - Year 4 Science of Sound Workshop

Monday 12th May - Start of the Year 6 SATs

Tuesday 20th May - Nature Day themed school lunch

Friday 23rd May - School closes for the half term break

Monday 2nd June - School reopens for Summer term

Term Dates 2024/2025

St Thomas's C.E. Primary School Term Dates 2024/2025

HOLIDAY PATTERN 2024-2025						
	PUPIL DAYS			PAD DAYS		
	BANK HOLIDAYS					SCHOOL DAYS PER HALF TERM
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					TERM
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
Sept 2024	6	7	8	9	10	Autumn Open
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	33 days
October	30	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	Autumn Half Term
November	28	29	30	31	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	39 days
December	25	26	27	28	29	
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	Autumn Close
Jan 2025	30	31	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	30 days
	27	28	29	30	31	
February	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	Spring Half Term
	24	25	26	27	28	
March	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	30 days
	24	25	26	27	28	
April	31	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	Spring Close
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
May	28	29	30	1	2	23 days
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	Summer Half Term
June	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	35 days
July	30	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	Summer Close
	28	27	28	29	30	
TOTAL PUPIL DAYS						195

Prayer



Spring Prayer

As we embrace the beauty and renewal of spring, we give thanks for the new life and fresh beginnings that this season brings. We are grateful for the vibrant colours, the blossoming flowers, and the warmth of the sun that remind us of Your endless love and grace.

During this special time, we also celebrate the end of Ramadan and the joyous occasion of Eid. We thank You for the strength and patience shown by those who have observed fasting and prayer throughout Ramadan. May their devotion and faith be rewarded with peace, happiness, and blessings.

We pray for unity and understanding among all people, regardless of their faith or background. Help us to appreciate the diversity within our community and to support one another with kindness and compassion.

As we move forward into this season of growth and renewal, may we be inspired to nurture our relationships, seek new opportunities, and spread love and positivity in all that we do.

Contact Us



If you wish to contact us

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