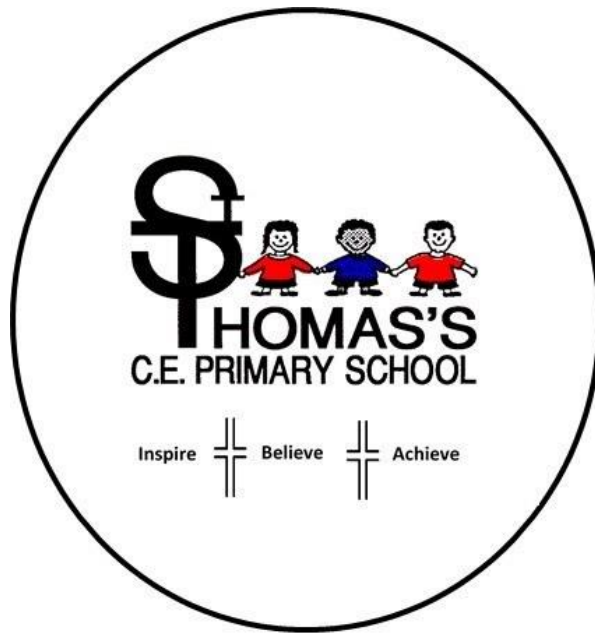




June 2025 Newsletter

In This Issue



This month

- **Message from the Headteacher**
- **Attendance and Punctuality**
- **School Logo**
- **Staffing Update (September 2025)**
- **Sports Day**
- **VE Day Celebrations**
- **Walk and Talk Group**
- **Dates for the Diary**
- **Term Dates for the Year**
- **Prayer**

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and look ahead to the exciting developments on the horizon.

Firstly, I'd like to update you on staffing for the next academic year. As with any thriving school, there will be some changes to both our leadership team and wider staff. These changes are detailed in the main body of this newsletter. While transitions can bring a sense of uncertainty, I want to reassure you that the values, high-quality education, and unwavering support that define our school will remain steadfast. Our commitment to nurturing every child and helping them flourish continues to be at the heart of everything we do.

To support a smooth transition, we will be holding our annual **Move Up Day on Wednesday 25th June**. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to meet their new class teacher and begin building those all-important relationships ahead of September.

In addition to staffing updates, you may notice some more visible changes around the school. We are thrilled to share that we have been working on a **redesign of our school logo**. A preview of the new design, along with a description of its meaning and symbolism, is included in this newsletter. We believe the new logo beautifully reflects our identity and strengthens our connection with the Trust.

The summer term is always one of the busiest, with exams, reports, and results playing a central role. It is also a time for reflection and celebration. With that in mind, I'm delighted to announce a very special event: a **whole school trip on Tuesday 15th July**.

We will be heading to **Burrs Country Park**, travelling in style via the **East Lancashire Heritage Railway**, and also visiting the **local transport museum**. This promises to be a memorable day for all, and we warmly invite parents to join us for a picnic lunch at Burrs to celebrate our wonderful school community. We've worked hard to keep costs low, and we're pleased to offer this three-part trip for just **£10 per child**. Further details, including payment information, will be sent out separately.

As always, thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated community, and I look forward to ending the year on a high note with you all.

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



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

3

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



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

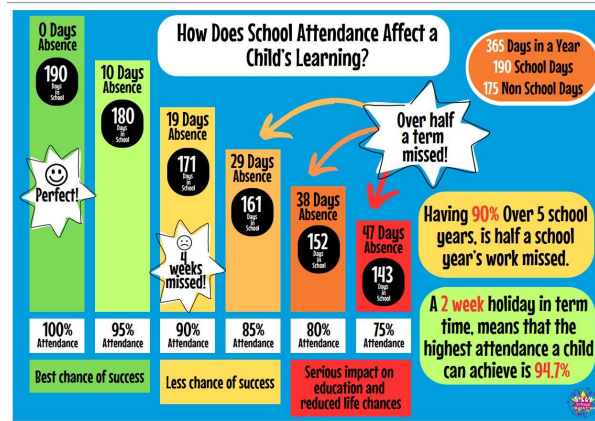


THIRD TIME

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



School Logo



I'm delighted to share with you our **new school logo**, developed in collaboration with the Trust over the past several months. This has been a thoughtful and creative process, and I'm

pleased to say the result is something that beautifully reflects both our school's identity and our shared values across the Trust.

You can view the new logo below. It incorporates elements of the Trust's wider branding, helping to align us more closely with Sycamore and our partner schools, while also celebrating the unique character of **St Thomas's CE Primary**.

A few key features you might find meaningful:

The Church: St Thomas is traditionally associated with building and architecture - not in the literal sense, but as a spiritual builder of faith and community. The prominent church in our logo reflects his legacy, symbolising the foundation of faith that underpins our school.

The Scroll: This element carries multiple layers of meaning. It honours St Thomas's role in spreading the teachings of Jesus, even as far as India, and his connection to early Christian texts. For us, it also represents the importance of **learning and teaching** - a value deeply held by our school and the wider community.

The Heart: Placed on the scroll, the heart symbolises the **love, nurture and support** that define daily life at St Thomas's. It reflects the warmth of our school family and the care we extend to every child, colleague and parent.

The Halo: The yellow and white arc surrounding the logo represents both our **Christian foundation** and our place within the Trust. At the same time, it subtly acknowledges the **diverse community we serve**, including our many Muslim families, by evoking the image of the moon - a respectful nod to shared values of faith and unity.

The version with the white background will be used on signage and documentation. The version with the red background is how the logo will appear on school jumpers.





Staffing Update (September 2025)



We have been very busy in school preparing for the coming year and looking carefully at our staffing structure to ensure all our children get the best possible opportunities going forward and continue to build on their achievements for this year.

As we informed you in a previous letter, Mrs James, our long-standing Assistant Headteacher, has been appointed as the Head of School at Christ Church Walshaw Primary School and

that I will be taking on the role of Executive Headteacher for the next two years, working between both St Thomas's and Christ Church Walshaw.

From September 2025, our class teachers will be as follows;

Nursery - Miss Lee

Reception A - Mrs Taylor (Early Years Leader)

Reception B - Miss Birks

Year 1A - Mrs McKean (Monday to Wednesday) & Mrs Worrell (Wednesday to Friday)

Year 1B - Miss Logue

Year 2A - Mrs Hussain (Monday to Wednesday) & Mr Hyde (Wednesday to Friday)

Year 2B - Mr Grover (Primary Phase 1 Leader)

Year 3A - Miss McCoy

Year 3B - Mrs Williams

Year 4A - Mrs Lewis

Year 4B - Mr Lawson

Year 5A - Miss Heyes

Year 5B - Ms Carney (Monday to Wednesday) & Miss Edge (Thursday and Friday)

Year 6A - Mrs Thomas (Primary Phase 2 Leader)

Year 6B - Miss Shah

We will be holding our Move Up Day on **Wednesday 25th June** to give the children the opportunity to meet their new teachers. Classes will move up into the corresponding letter for the next year group, i.e. the children currently in Reception A will move up into Year 1A.

Other key staff roles within the school from September will be as follows;

Executive Headteacher - Mr Van Hecke

Head of School - Mrs Butler

Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Houghton

Assistant Headteacher - Miss Edge

Office Administrators - Mrs Parker & Mrs Smalley

School Business Manager - Mrs Cliffe

Parent Support Advisor - Mrs Begum

Sports Day



Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 9th July. Please note that this date is weather dependent.

This year we will be focusing on races for Sports Day. The children will compete in year groups during the following times;

9:30am to 10:30am - Year 4 and Year 5

10:45am to 11:45am - Year 2 and Year 3

1:15pm to 2:00pm - Reception and Year 1

2:15pm to 3:00pm - Year 6

Children will need to come to school in their PE kit and trainers, and have their water bottle with them.

If the weather forecast is for warm weather, please ensure that children have sunscreen (applied at home, prior to school) and a sun hat with them.

Families are welcome to come and watch on the school field. We ask that you do not take photos or film during Sports Day.

The gate to the field will be open prior to the events starting. There will be an area for families to sit but please bring your own chairs or picnic blankets as seating will not be available.

VE Day Celebrations



This year's anniversary of VE Day was very special as it marked 80 years since World War 2 ended in Europe.

The day began with Mrs James' assembly which helped us to understand what VE Day was and why we were commemorating it. Throughout the day, every class enjoyed a variety of activities which helped us learn about the celebrations around Britain on 8th May 1946. Reception and The Harbour even had a street party!

The day was also about celebrating peace and remembering all those people who made the ultimate sacrifice which allows us to live our lives in freedom.





Walk and Talk Group



The Walk and Talk Group is an excellent opportunity for our parent/carers to get together while enjoying a pleasant walk through our local area. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to connect, share experiences, and chat in a relaxed, friendly environment. We've shared some photos from our most recent walk along Roch Valley

We hope you can join us on our next walk!





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

Wednesday 25th June - Move Up Morning

Friday 27th June - Year 6 trip to Fusilier Museum

Wednesday 9th July - Sports Day

Thursday 10th July - Wimbledon themed school lunch

Tuesday 15th July - School trip to Burrs Country Park

Wednesday 16th July - Year 6 Leaver's Assembly

Thursday 17th July - Coffee Morning

Friday 18th July - School closes at 2pm for the summer holidays

Tuesday 2nd September - School reopens for the Autumn 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
	9	10	11	12	13	
	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
	25	26	27	28	29	
December	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

Term Dates 2025/2026

HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025-2026						
	PUPIL DAYS				PAD DAYS	SCHOOL DAYS PER HALF TERM
	BANK HOLIDAYS					
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Autumn Open
	25	26	27	28	29	38 days
Sept 2025	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	1	2	3	
October	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	Autumn Half Term
November	3	4	5	6	7	34 days
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
December	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	Autumn Close
Jan 2026	29	30	31	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	30 days
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
February	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	Spring Half Term
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
March	2	3	4	5	6	29 Days
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
April	30	31	1	2	3	Spring Close
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
May	27	28	29	30	1	24 days
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
June	1	2	3	4	5	35 days
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
July	29	30	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	Summer Close
TOTAL PUPIL DAYS						195

Prayer



As we come to the end of another school year,
We thank You for the journey we have shared together.
For the lessons learned, the friendships formed,
And the challenges that helped us grow.

Bless our school, our teachers, and all who support us,
As we prepare for new beginnings and fresh adventures.
May our hearts remain open, our minds curious,
And our spirits kind and strong.

We give thanks for the strength of our community,
Whose support uplifts and unites us each day.
Guide us in the changes ahead,

And help us hold fast to the values that unite us.

Let our new logo be a symbol of our shared purpose,

And our trip a celebration of all we've achieved.

We ask for Your peace, Your wisdom, and Your joy,

As we look forward with hope and gratitude.

Amen.

Contact Us



If you wish to contact us

St Thomas's Primary School

Pimhole Road

BL9 7EY

0161 764 7565

stthomas@bury.gov.uk

Visit us on the web at www.stthomascep.co.uk

On Twitter @StThomasBury