



St Thomas's

CE Primary School

May 2026 Newsletter

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Message from the Head of School



As we move further into the summer term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the continued hard work and positivity shown across our school. In particular, I would like to commend our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs last week with remarkable maturity, resilience and determination. They conducted themselves in an exemplary manner throughout, supporting one another and demonstrating everything we are so proud of at St Thomas's CE Primary School. Well done, Year 6, we are incredibly proud of you and hope you receive the results you truly deserve!

As we look ahead, a gentle reminder that the Phonics Screening Check will take place next half term for our Year 1 pupils and selected Year 2 pupils, alongside the Multiplication Tables Check for our Year 4 pupils. We wish all children the very best as they prepare and know they will approach these assessments with the same positive attitude. Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of good attendance. Being in school every day is vital for children's learning, confidence and wellbeing, and makes a significant difference to their progress.

Wishing all of our families a restful and enjoyable half term break—please make the most of the sunshine and, above all, stay safe.



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

A PENALTY FOR EACH CHILD



3


+£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

+£160

+£160

+£160

+£160

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

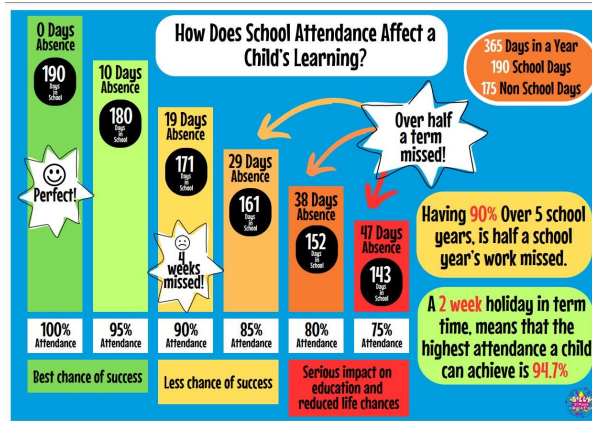
THIRD TIME

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





Sir David Attenborough Day - Rights Respecting School

To celebrate Sir David Attenborough's birthday, our children took part in a range of inspiring activities that reflected our commitment to being a Rights Respecting School, particularly the importance of protecting our planet for future generations.

Across school, there was a real sense of hope and aspiration as pupils learned how their actions can make a difference.

In Nursery, the story *Somebody Swallowed Stanley* helped children understand the importance of looking after our oceans by picking up litter. Reception children joyfully learned and performed *What a Wonderful World* and created beautiful artwork for display. Year 1 linked their learning about penguins and Antarctica to raise awareness of climate change and the need to protect these incredible animals. Year 2 pupils wrote fact files and designed informative posters to share how we can all help care for our world.

In Year 3, children explored their Art & Design skills through the Kapow curriculum, creating impressive animal artwork by completing half images with careful detail and creativity. Inspired by William Morris, Year 4 produced thoughtful artwork from different viewpoints, including striking camouflage designs. Year 5 explored collage techniques to show how animals adapt to their environments, while Year 6 pupils wrote heartfelt birthday cards to Sir David Attenborough, explaining how he has inspired them and how they will use the Rights Respecting School articles to guide and educate others.

In the Harbour, children enjoyed moving like safari animals to music and thoughtfully matched animals to their natural habitats around the world.

We are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and their growing understanding of how they can help build a better, more sustainable world. Please watch the video via the link below to see all our work from Sir David Attenborough Day

[Sir David Attenborough Day](#)

Emotionally Friendly Schools

We are pleased to announce that we've achieved our Bronze Accreditation for being an Emotionally Friendly School! This is a great achievement for our school and we will be continuing to ensure that wellbeing is central to everything that we do as we work towards our Silver Accreditation.



New Uniform Supplier



Following the closure of Monkhouse in Bury, we have moved to a new uniform supplier, Smart Start Schoolwear which is located opposite M&S on The Rock.

Smart Start Schoolwear will be supplying items with our new school logo. While children are allowed to wear items previously bought with the old school logo, please ensure that any new items purchased have the new logo on them.

Please find the list of our branded items available at Smart Start Schoolwear and their prices below;

- School Jumper £11.99 (Available in sizes 2 - 3, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, 7 - 8, 9 - 10, 11 - 12 and 13 - 14)
- School Cardigan £12.99 (Available in sizes 2 - 3, 3 - 4, 5 - 6, 7 - 8, 9 - 10, 11 - 12 and 13 - 14)
- Velcro Book Bag £6.99
- Satchel Book Bag £11.99

During June, Smart Start Schoolwear will be offering a 10% discount on all items.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School Uniform



Jumper with Logo



Cardigan with Logo



White Polo Shirt



Grey Trousers



Grey Shorts



Grey Skirt



Grey Pinafore



Red Gingham Summer Dress

PE Kit



Red T-Shirt



Black Shorts



Black Tracksuit Bottoms



Black Leggings



Black Pumps



Black Trainers

Free School Meals



All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 get a free meal at lunchtime, under the government's Infant Free School Meals scheme. **You do not have to apply for these. But if your child is in a Key Stage 1 Year Group and you get one of the qualifying incomes it will help the school if you make a claim for free school meals, as the school can get extra funding.**

From Year 3 onwards, free school meals are only available if you meet the eligible criteria. You can view the eligibility criteria and apply for free school meals on the [Bury Council website](#)

If your child will be entering Year 3 in September and you think you would qualify for free school meals, please ensure that you have applied for them before September.

If your child is on school dinners, please ensure that you pre-order their lunch choice on School Grid. Orders should be placed at least a week in advance to provide accurate numbers for the kitchen. If you do not place an order for your child, then they will receive a cheese sandwich at lunch time.

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

Friday 22nd May - School closes for May half term

Monday 1st June - School reopens for Summer 2

Monday 8th June - Year 6 Class Photo

Wednesday 17th June to Thursday 18th June - Year 5 Residential Trip at Waddow Hall

Friday 26th June - Non-uniform Day (£1 Donation)

Monday 29th June - Year 6 Trip to Stockport Air Raid Shelters

Wednesday 1st July - Year 2 Beach Trip

Thursday 2nd July - Summer Fair

Thursday 9th July - Year 6 Peter Pan Production

Thursday 16th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Friday 17th July - School closes for the summer holidays

Term Dates for 2025/26

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

Term Dates for 2026/27

HOLIDAY PATTERN 2026-2027						
	PUPIL DAYS			PAD DAYS		SCHOOL DAYS PER HALF TERM
	BANK HOLIDAYS					
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	24	25	26	27	28	Autumn Open
Sept 2026	31	1	2	3	4	38 days
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	
October	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	Autumn Half Term
November	26	27	28	29	30	35 days
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
December	30	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	Autumn Close
Jan 2027	21	22	23	24	25	30 days
	28	29	30	31	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
February	25	26	27	28	29	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	Spring Half Term
	15	16	17	18	19	24 Days
	22	23	24	25	26	
March	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
April	29	30	31	1	2	Spring Close
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
May	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
June	7	8	9	10	11	Summer Half Term
	14	15	16	17	18	30 days
	21	22	23	24	25	
July	28	29	30	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	

TOTAL PUPIL DAYS

195

Prayer



Dear God,

As we continue through this summer term, we thank You for the many blessings within our school community. We give special thanks for our Year 6 pupils, who showed courage, resilience and determination during their SATs. We are proud of the way they supported one another and demonstrated kindness, maturity and perseverance throughout.

We pray for our Year 1 and Year 2 children as they prepare for their Phonics Screening Check, and for our Year 4 pupils as they get ready for their Multiplication Tables Check. Help them to approach these challenges with confidence, positivity and calm hearts, knowing they are supported and valued.

Lord, remind us all of the importance of coming to school each day ready to learn, grow and care for one another. Bless our families during the half term break with rest, joy and quality time together. Keep everyone safe and help us to return refreshed and ready for the weeks ahead.

Amen.

Contact Us



If you wish to contact us

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

On Twitter @StThomasBury