

October Newsletter 2024

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## Message from the Headteacher



As we reach October and head towards the half-term break, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our first half-term. The term has started fantastically, with many new opportunities for the children at St Thomas's Primary School.

This year, we are thrilled to be collaborating with Bury Music Service as part of our wider opportunities offer. Three whole year groups will be learning a new musical instrument, and there will be several opportunities throughout the year for parents to see how the children are progressing. For other year groups, the service will support pupils in understanding and reading music. I am confident that the children will thoroughly enjoy their music lessons this year.

Our core aims at school are to Inspire, Believe, and Achieve. The musical opportunities at St Thomas's will certainly inspire many pupils to believe they could one day perform on a stage or at a venue across the country. Music education is a powerful tool that can ignite creativity and passion in our students, and we are excited to see where this journey takes them.

This term, we have also embarked on an exciting new chapter with our English curriculum. We will be using Literacy Tree to enhance children's understanding of reading and writing. Mrs. Taylor is leading this initiative and will host a parents' information morning next term to provide more details. In the meantime, to support your children at home, we ask that you listen to them read every night and ensure they have access to Spelling Shed to work on

their spelling patterns. Additionally, please encourage them to practice their times tables on TTRS. These small daily practices can make a significant difference in their learning journey.

We will conclude this term with our much-anticipated Harvest Assembly, a cherished tradition in our school calendar. Once again, we will be making food donations to the Porch Box charity to support families in need. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about the importance of giving and community support.

In addition to the events listed above, we will hold parents' meetings next term, with dates included below. We will also host several parent coffee mornings and are looking for volunteers to organize a local walk as part of one of those mornings. These events are a great way to build our school community and get to know each other better.

As you are aware, we are always striving to improve our school attendance. This year is no different. There is much to celebrate around attendance, and in school, we have a class monopoly board where children can win prizes such as a nature walk, extra break time, a movie afternoon, and a lesson with Mr. Van Hecke. All these activities are designed to encourage positive attendance and make school a fun and engaging place to be.

Next term will also see our wider opportunities continue, including a lunchtime Uno club and choir. These clubs provide a fantastic way for students to explore new interests and develop new skills. If you wish to get involved in organizing an event or coffee morning at school, please speak to Mrs. Begum in the school office. Your involvement and support are greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a restful half-term and look forward to welcoming you all back for Autumn 2. Let's continue to work together to make St Thomas's Primary School a place where every child can thrive and achieve their full potential.

## 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.

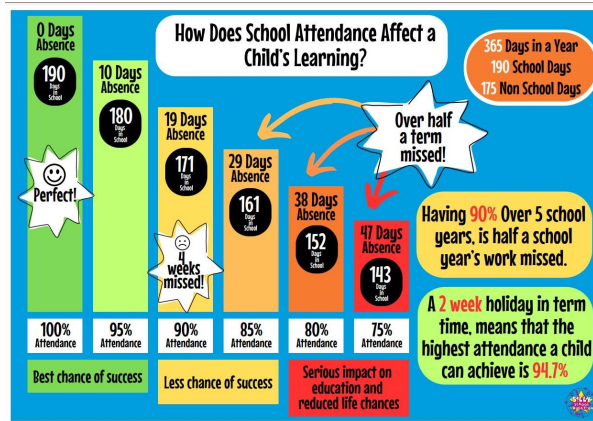
Although the school will look at each request for leave on its own merit, requests will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.

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.



## High School Applications



The deadline to submit your high school applications for September 2025 is on Thursday 31st October 2024.

Information on the application process, key dates and how to apply online can be found on the Bury Council website via the following link;

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/secondary-school>

## Birthday Celebrations



We love celebrating birthdays at St Thomas's Primary School and making each child's special day memorable! Here's how we celebrate:

- **Non-Uniform Day:** On their birthday, children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school. This helps them feel special and stand out on their big day.
- **Book Donation:** We encourage children to donate a book to the school library. This book can be shared with their class, and it's a wonderful way for the birthday child to contribute to our school community. The donated book will have a special label inside to commemorate the child's birthday.
- **Sharing with the Class:** The birthday child will have the opportunity to share their donated book with their classmates. This can be a lovely moment for them to talk about why they chose the book and what it means to them.

**Important Reminder:** Due to allergies and dietary restrictions, we kindly ask that parents do not send cakes or other sweet treats into school. This policy helps us ensure the safety and well-being of all our students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in making birthdays at St Thomas's a joyful and inclusive experience for everyone!

## 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 17th October** - School Photographs

**Friday 18th October** - Harvest Assembly

**Friday 18th October** - School closes for half term break

**Tuesday 29th October** - School reopens for Autumn 2

**Friday 1st November** - School Coffee Morning at 9:00am

**Monday 4th November** - Robin Hood Pantomime

**Friday 15th November** - Rock Kidz

**Monday 18th November** - EYFS/KS1 Parents Afternoon

**Tuesday 19th November** - KS2 Parents Afternoon

**Thursday 21st November** - Parents Evening

# Term Dates 2024/2025

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

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

## Prayer



### **Autumnal Prayer**

As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, we give thanks for the beauty of this autumn season. We are grateful for the opportunities to learn, grow, and share in the warmth of our school community.

Bless our students, teachers, and families as we journey through this term. May we find inspiration in the changing seasons and embrace the new beginnings that each day brings. Help us to support one another with kindness and compassion, and to celebrate the achievements and efforts of all.

Guide us in our studies and activities, and grant us the wisdom to make the most of the opportunities before us. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the blessings we receive and the strength to overcome any challenges we face.

We pray for a safe and restful half-term break, and look forward to returning with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the term ahead.

Amen.

## Contact Us



If you wish to contact us

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On Twitter @StThomasBury