



# St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Week 1

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Music lessons: violin, ukulele, guitar
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	After school activities: football (years 4, 5 and 6)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Music lessons: clarinet After school activities: orchestra
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Music lessons: guitar After school activities: football (years 1, 2 and 3)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Music lessons: keyboards, brass

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families that have joined us this week. I hope that your time with us is a happy one.

There are lots of exciting events coming up this term – please check the calendar on the school website for dates and information. The school website is our main communication tool and can be found at [www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk](http://www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk). In addition to the website we ask that parents download the 'school spider' which is available for android and iPhone smartphones. By doing this you will be able to keep up to date with events and emergency messages through its instant messaging tool. All newsletters can be also be found on the website and on the school spider app.

## ★ Stars of the Week ★

All of Class 3, the year 1 children from class 1, Lilly Wilson  
and Millie Hutchins

### **School Uniform and P.E. Kit**

Please label all items of clothing with your child's name using a laundry pen – this allow us to return lost items to their rightful owner. Please check periodically that the writing is still legible.

All children need to have a P.E. kit in school at all times. This P.E. kit needs to include jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for outdoor P.E. sessions and trainers. Most P.E. lessons will be taught on a Tuesday and a Thursday. In addition, all long hair must be tied back and earrings cannot be worn for P.E. Children must be able to remove earrings themselves as they can't be covered up by plasters.

### **Car Park**

The little car park which is accessed from Church Street is for staff members only as it is very small and does not provide enough space for all the staff. If additional cars use the carpark, then staff are forced to use Railway Street and the surrounding areas – causing problems for residents. I therefore am requesting that you do not use the school car park between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm. Using the car park at drop off and collection times causes danger to your children arriving and leaving school.

In addition, when parking your cars, please do so considerately and responsibly to allow pedestrians to use the paths and roads safely around school. Thank you.

### **Reading, Spelling and Homework**

All children will be receiving reading books (if they haven't already). The ability to read is the cornerstone of learning. It is crucial that you support us in this by hearing your child read on a daily basis for at least 10 minutes. Diaries to record your child's reading journey will be arriving in school shortly and will be handed out as soon as they arrive.

When we analysed of 2016-2017 data, the biggest hurdle preventing our children from succeeding in the area of writing was spelling. Every other element for the majority of our children was shown in their writing. Spelling now has a heavy weighting in the English curriculum and without accurate spelling, children cannot achieve expected and greater depth for their year group in writing. The introduction of spell zoo has seen some improvements – especially for those children who regularly practise at home with their parents. Children will be receiving their first set of spellings to learn next Friday. School staff are working very hard to ensure that spelling is covered within the classroom however, children do better if they are supported at home – just as they do with reading.

The rest of the homework will consist of a mental maths based activity (also crucial to a child's success) and learning logs.

### **Dinner Money and Music Money**

Dinner money and music money need to paid to the school office. We request that any money that needs to come into school does so on a Monday – so that it can be counted and be ready in time for collection. The cost for school dinners is £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week or £69.30 for the half term. Music tuition is £3.08 for a group lesson and £9.25 for an individual lesson per week. We would be grateful if you could send money into school a clearly marked envelope. Correct change would be appreciated.

From next half term – we hope to be able to offer a cashless system.