



Newsletter

Week 7

Thursday 18th October 2018

Monday 29 th October	Music lessons: Ukulele and Brass After School: Choir (finishes at 4.15pm)
Tuesday 30 th October	Music lessons: Keyboard and Woodwind Open Afternoon for prospective parents from 2.00pm After School: Football (Years 4, 5 and 6)
Wednesday 31 st October	Music lessons: Violin
Thursday 1 st November	Music lessons: Guitar After School: Football (Years 1, 2 and 3) and 'Beatlets' Samba Band (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Parent's Evening Class 5 only
Friday 2 nd November	Nasal Flu Vaccines – Reception – Year 5

Attendance Trophy

This week's winners are Class 4 with 98.7% attendance.

Class 1 – 95.7%

Class 2 – 98.57%

Class 3 – 92.9%

Class 5 – 93.4%

Average class attendance this week is **95.85%**. This is a disappointing end to the half term. The Education Welfare Officer will be visiting school on November 1st to discuss attendance.

Attendance is a collective responsibility. Parents have a statutory duty to ensure that their children are attending school regularly.

Health and Wellbeing



Tuck Shop Reminder

Just a reminder (it was on the newsletter dated 21.09.18) that children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have access to a healthy tuck shop on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All items cost 50p.

Resilience Award

Over the next two weeks we will be establishing a new weekly award for children who show a positive and resilient attitude in school. The children will be presented with a ticket which will give them free roller skating lesson at Roller City in Rochdale.

Jump-a-Thon

The whole school jump-a-thon takes place later on today. This has been organised by the health and wellbeing committee. A league table will be published for each year group.

Head lice!



I understand that many parents are getting frustrated with the amount of head lice their children are catching. The only way to get rid of them is to treat everyone in the family and keep on top of the situation with weekly combing and by using preventatives which can help.

The best advice is to prevent an outbreak by weekly, putting conditioner on the hair and then using a nit comb on the hair.

Parents have recommended using Vosene Head lice repellent shampoo and conditioner, alongside the daily Vosene spray. Other parents recommend using a combination of essential oils (lavender and tea tree) sprayed onto the hair. **School does not endorse any products, we are making you aware of what some parents have found works.**

As a school, we are not in position to do anything other than offer advice and remind parents that they have a duty of care to ensure that their child is treated if head lice are found.

P.E. Kits

All P.E. kits need to be in school when we return from the half term holiday. Thank you.

Sport –Girls Football Tournament



Girls from years 5 and 6 played in a football tournament on Tuesday 16th October. There were 11 teams in the tournament and St. Thomas' Girls came in joint fourth, having drawn three games and won one. An extra special mention has to go to the defence as they did not concede a single goal. Hannah Daw and Fallon Walker did an amazing job in goal. Well done girls – we are really proud of you.

Parental Engagement

Parents Forum

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the forum on Wednesday. The next meeting is on Thursday 29th November. Both will start at 2.00pm. The new Ofsted report will be the focus of the meeting. Once the report has been published, I will inform all parents of where it can be found and I will open an online forum to allow parents to raise any concerns which will be answered through the meeting and a follow up report from school

Workshops for Parents

Thank you to the parents who attended the first workshop on Thursday about language acquisition. The next session is focussing on how to support your children with reading and writing. This will be on Thursday 6th December.

Supporting your child at home

The half term holiday is the perfect opportunity to spend some time with your children engaging in meaningful activities with your child around which meaningful conversations can be had.

Safeguarding of Children

Keeping children safe

The school website has an excellent link to 'Parent Zone' via the internet safety tab at the top of the page. This site contains lots of invaluable information on keeping your child safe, including bullying, online activity, self-esteem in addition to advice around the law.

Reporting Concerns

If you have any concerns about a child you can report it to school. The Designated Safeguard Lead is Mrs Williams and Miss Hobbs is the Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead.

Autumn Safety Campaign



There is a very useful website that is supported by the emergency services and contains advice about keeping safe during autumn with particular reference to Halloween and Bonfire Night.

The website address is: <http://www.safe4autumn.com/>

Admissions

Admission to Secondary School 2019

The Secondary School application process is now open. You can apply for a place up until **31st October 2018**. It is an easy process – but if you need help, please contact Mrs Whittles or Mrs Milne who can support you with the process. Applicants can also call 0300 3030340 or call into any library in the borough.

The information and forms needed can be found on www.rochdale.gov.uk.

Missing the deadline for applications can have consequences for families, as it can mean not being allocated a place at your preferred school. It is also really important that parents use all preference places as only putting one will not mean that your child will definitely be allocated a place at that school – you will be offered the nearest available place if you do not get offered your first choice and alternatives haven't been listed.

The competition for places in the Pennine area has been fierce over the past couple of years and it is expected that there will be fierce competition again this year. It is really important that you put yourself in the best position possible to get the place at the secondary school you want.

Admission to Primary School 2019

The application process will open shortly. However, prospective parents are invited to make an appointment to look around St. Thomas' or alternatively there is an open afternoon on **Tuesday 30th October from 2.00pm**. The closing date is usually the middle of January. Primary school applications open on **October 1st**.

FROST

Thank you to all who attended the meeting on Monday 8th October. Many ideas were discussed. The first fundraising event of the year is in connection with World Vision. However, all the money raised is going to the parent's association. Frost have just paid for replacement play equipment to go in the playground where the broken equipment currently is. The equipment is on order and will hopefully be installed soon. The money from the next events will pay for the coaches for the whole school pantomime trip which is already booked.

The first event is a 'Pumpkin Heroes' themed disco on Friday 2nd November. A flyer has already gone out about a pumpkin carving competition that is being held as part of the event. More information about Pumpkin Heroes can be found at <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/get-involved/pumpkin-heroes/>



Staffing

Following the resignation of Mrs Brereton in the summer, Miss Hobbs has been appointed to the post of Assistant Headteacher. Miss Hobbs will continue to lead Inclusion across the school.

Miss Lockley will be absent from school from November 5th for two weeks due to surgery. Whilst Miss Lockley is absent, Mrs Williams will be teaching class 5 in the mornings (maths and English) and Mrs Horridge will be taking the class in the afternoons. There will be a supply teacher for the class on three of the days due to Mrs Williams having prior commitments. The supply teacher will be working on Friday 9th November, Wednesday 14th November and Friday 16th November. By doing this, we can guarantee that the children will still receive high quality maths and English lessons throughout the absence period.