



Newsletter

Week 38

Friday 12th July

Monday 15 th July	Music lessons: Ukulele After School: <u>Choir</u>
Tuesday 16 th July	Music lessons: Keyboard and Woodwind Class 2 Visit to Liverpool After School: <u>Cricket</u>
Wednesday 17 th July	Music lessons: Violin
Thursday 18 th July	Music lessons: Guitar Reward day (non-uniform) After School: <u>Athletics and Beatlets</u>
Friday 19 th July	Leaver's Service in Church from 1.30pm School closes for the summer holiday and reopens on Wednesday 4 th September.

Summer Fair

The annual school summer takes place on **Saturday 13th July from 11.00am**. We will be setting up from 9.00am. Volunteers are very welcome to help set up and clear away at the end.

The fair takes a lot of organisation and I would like to thank in advance, those that have been involved in the organisation. The summer fair is our biggest fundraiser and all profits go directly to giving your children the 'added extras' that we cannot afford. Most recently, the money raised through various events has paid for the new fixed equipment in the playground and the coaches for the pantomime.

We are currently fundraising for an exciting new playground project that all the children will benefit from.

School Items for Next Year.

Bags

Please do not buy any rucksacks for school for the new school year. We have very little space in our cloakroom areas and from September we will not be allowing them. Children only need a drawstring PE kit bag and a reading book bag (which fits in their classroom tray).

Earrings

Children cannot wear earrings for PE. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced, please do so at the very beginning of the school holiday.

Staffing Changes

Mr Studdard will no longer be working with us from September, following a promotion within 'One Goal'. Mr Studdard has taught P.E. at our school for the last 5 years and will be greatly missed by all. We are looking forward to welcoming our new coach.

Sports Round-up 2018-2019



Our children have represented the school at many events this year and have been successful in reaching the finals of the lacrosse and rounders tournaments. This is the first time any team from St. Thomas' has reached a final in at least 15 years.

More recently children from our school won medals at the athletics tournament at the beginning of the month. More impressive though was the fact our school won the 'Sportsmanship Trophy' for the second time since it was introduced in 2017.

Earlier this week, 16 of our children took part in a swimming gala and returned with an impressive amount of medals.

Well done to all of those children who have taken part in sporting competitions this year, we are proud of you.

Commando Joe's

From September, we are launching a new initiative in school. All children will be having weekly lessons in Character Education. This will be delivered through Commando Joe's Missions.

The lessons follow the R.E.S.P.E.C.T. curriculum (Resilience, empathy, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication and teamwork). The lessons will take place once a week and all learning log homework will be related to these lessons.

Each lesson takes the form of a mission, where the children have to work together to carry out various tasks. Once the missions have been established, we will then use an online tracking tool to promote a clear understanding of character traits, their meaning and how personal improvements can be made. It is enhanced self-awareness and understanding of others that enhances emotional intelligence.



From September 2019, we will be changing the homework that is set for all children.

Reading

Children will be RAG rated according to support from home in the area of reading.

Children who are rated red will be heard every day in school, those who are amber will be heard three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday), and those who are green will be heard once a week. The RAG rating will be based on how frequently the children are heard read at home.

I have taken the decision to do this as data is showing that reading results, especially in key stage one are falling and fewer children are reading at home. Those who are heard the least at home will be heard more in school. However, there is a downside to doing this, if

staff are having to listen to many children read on a daily basis, there will be lesson time to offer support in other areas of the curriculum.

The curriculum is very demanding of children and they need your support at home, in order to reach their potential.

Spellings

In order to offer more time for reading at home, spellings will no longer be sent home for children to learn. All spelling practise will be done in school on a daily basis. This is due to many children struggling with spellings and because there are large numbers of children who do not practise their spellings at home.

In order to facilitate this move, school has invested in a new spelling scheme. Teaching staff will publish on their school webpage the spellings that are being worked on in the classroom. Each set is covered over a four week period, with plenty of opportunities for over teaching.

Maths

The parents association recently purchased a licence for 'times table's rock stars'. It is our intention that every child in school will use this as their maths homework. From 2020, there will be a national times tables test for year 4 children. However, for those in classes 4 and 5, there will be additional maths homework.

Learning Logs

Learning logs will be a little bit different from September and will follow Commando Joe's Missions. There will be two weekly tasks to choose from and the children will earn points for completing the tasks. The tasks will be given at the beginning of the unit and stuck in the learning log books. At the end of each unit, the points will be added up and prizes will be awarded in assembly.

Head lice



There is a **still a large number** of children in school with head lice. If head lice remain untreated, they will continue to spread. It is essential that all children are checked regularly and treated accordingly (along with other family members). **Long hair needs to be tied up to prevent the spread of head lice among the children.**

