

YEAR FIVE

Autumn 2 Half Term Newsletter

Miss Noonan (Class Teacher) & Mrs Johnson (Class Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Gibson (Thursday mornings, alternate Wednesday afternoons)

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely half-term break. The children certainly earned their rest after our fantastic Grasmere trip—it was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone!

A big thank you to all the parents who attended parents' evening. It was wonderful to meet with you and discuss each child's progress in detail. Your ongoing support makes such a difference, and we're so grateful to work with families who are so engaged in their children's learning.

We have a busy and exciting half term ahead as we head towards Christmas. There are plenty of lovely events planned, and we're sure it will be a wonderful few weeks. Please keep an eye on the main school newsletter for details of upcoming Christmas activities—we can't wait for our festive favourites, including nativities, Breakfast with Santa, and Christmas Craft! I have also attached some key dates for your diary later on in the newsletter.

Home Learning

Reading, reading and more reading...

The children have made a fantastic start with their Reading Plus journeys. As discussed during parents evening Reading Plus can give us many insights into the children's reading ability and progress. The children have 5 assignments to complete per week on their Reading Plus accounts. They will access Reading Plus during school time to complete some of these but please encourage the children to be logging on at home and completing them. We still want the children to be reading paper books as well so a mix between physical books and reading plus is ideal. Children are frequently reminded about the importance of reading, and that it is their responsibility to get their Learning Journal signed. Please could we ask for your support in this, signing your child's Learning Journal whenever they have read, whether this be on Reading Plus or reading books for pleasure. Regular reading supports fluency, confidence, and comprehension, and forms an important part of our school's homework policy. Thank you for supporting your child by making reading a daily habit at home.

Some facts and figures about reading:

- Research shows that reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing; aids in building social connections and relationships with others, and is associated with a range of factors that help increase the chances of becoming successful adults.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



- Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.
- Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.

Staff listen to children read regularly, although this doesn't always happen through individual 1:1 reading sessions. Teachers hear pupils read in a variety of lessons – from whole-class guided reading to subjects such as history and geography – as reading is an essential part of every area of learning.

Spellings

Please see attached our home spellings for this half term. They are also uploaded onto the school website for you to refer to and on Seesaw. Please regularly practice these spellings in full sentences, this will allow for handwriting practice as well as using the words in the correct context.

TTRS

We are so excited to be starting our half term with our Rockstar day on Friday 7th November. This will be a brilliant way to acknowledge the children's effort with their times tables and have some fun with their amazing knowledge. As you know, having a secure times table knowledge is vital in allowing the children to access other areas of the maths curriculum. Please encourage the children to use TTRS 5 times a week to keep retrieving that key knowledge.



Behaviour

At St Thomas', we hold behaviour in the highest regard and place great importance on positive learning behaviours. This half term, our class focus is **demonstrating respect** to everyone. As always, this will include encouraging children to proactively demonstrate kindness, good manners, and consideration in all that they do, both in the classroom and around school. By working together to uphold these values, we can create a happy, respectful, and purposeful learning environment where every child can thrive.

PE

Swimming will continue to be our weekly PE lesson for the rest of autumn term. We will continue swimming on Tuesday afternoons up until Tuesday 16th December. The children are welcome to come into school wearing our school PE kit on Tuesdays. Please note, if children do not have a St Thomas'/plain navy PE hoody, please send the children into school wearing their school jumper/cardigan rather than a branded item.



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Trips

There are no trips planned for this half term but we will begin to prepare for our residential to Robinwood with our parent meeting on Monday 1st December in the year 5 classroom at 3:30. Our trip is the first day of spring term after the Christmas holidays for two nights (Monday 5th - Wednesday 7th January).

Please do have a look at their website to find out more information about the centre:

https://www.robinwood.co.uk/activity_centers/cross-lanes/

Key Dates for your diary: Please note, there may be other events that aren't included in the list below.

Friday, 7th November - Rockstar Day

Thursday, 13th November - Bonfire Disco

Monday, 1st December - Robinwood Parent Meeting (Year 5 Classroom 3:30)

Friday, 5th December - Mrs. Lockleys Christmas Shop & Christmas Fair

Thursday, 11th December - Class Worship (Team 2)

Friday, 19th December - End of Autumn Term

Monday, 5th - Wednesday, 7th January - Robinwood Residential

As usual, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Miss Noonan 😊



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Autumn 2

Year Five - Curriculum Map

Maths In maths, we will be focussing on the key skills of multiplication and division, including a long multiplication method. We will then be moving on to interpreting graphs and tables.	English In English, we will be reading <i>FAR-ther</i> by Grahame Baker-Smith and we will be writing setting descriptions and letters. We will continue to practice new grammar features in our writing such as modal verbs, brackets & dashes for parenthesis and making our writing cohesive.	RE In RE, we will be focussing on Christmas where we think about the most important part of the Christmas story. We will also spend time looking at the gospels of Matthew and Luke and what we as Christians can take from them.
History In history, following on from our Ancient Greece unit we will begin to look at Alexander the Great. We will look at his predecessor, King Philip of Macedon, and some of the most famous battles that he led his army to victory.	Geography In geography, we will use our knowledge from KS1 regarding oceans and continents to learn about different climates and biomes and begin to compare the climates across continents. We will learn about the Equator and lines of latitude that help us understand climates.	Science In science, we will be learning about Materials. We will be exploring properties of materials including solubility, conductivity, flexibility, fair testing, separation of mixtures, reversible changes, dissolving, mixing and change of state.
PE In PE, the children will continue to build their stamina when swimming and they will be demonstrating a variety of survival skills in water. They will also continue to practice treading water and different ways to enter the water.	Computing In computing, we will be exploring computing systems and networks - Sharing Information and we will be creating our own videos by capturing, editing and manipulating. We will investigate the use of devices and software.	MFL In French, we will be developing our cultural understanding of France and will be able to talk about the members of our family. https://www.languageangels.com Username: stthomas5 Password: 5
DT DT will be delivered by specialist DT teacher Mrs O'Donnell at set dates during the school year.	Music This half term we will be learning to play the ukelele on a Wednesday morning with Sefton Music Services.	PSHE In PSHE, we will be celebrating our character strengths. We will demonstrate how we may have different strengths to each other and the importance of using our strengths in a variety of scenarios.



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Year 5 - Home/School Spellings - Autumn 2

Here are the home spellings for year 5 this half term, you may notice some spellings are repeated this is to help strengthen the children's learning. The children will be learning the words in class the week prior to the test. Tests will be every Friday, please practice the spellings with your child in sentences to help with the application and understanding of each word. You can find copies of these spellings on our class webpage.



	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Test date	Friday 14 th Nov	Friday 21 st Nov	Friday 28 th Nov	Friday 5 th Dec	Friday 12 th Dec
	celebration decoration creation animation aversion depression omission immediately develop especially	electrician physician musician unicorn universe bicycle biceps triangle equipment relevant	quadrant pentathlon hexagon octopus octave circle circuit shoulder average recognise	subtitle subtotal intercom interaction supersonic superstore superfood criticise occupy occur	antigravity automobile automatic advice advise device devise profession interfere interrupt

