



St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 14th February 2025

Spring Disco

Thursday's Spring Disco was another fantastic success, filled with a perfect mix of fun, hot dogs, and some truly crazy dance moves! A huge thank you to Daniel Johnson for generously giving up his time to ensure our children had such a fantastic time with their friends. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the staff members who worked hard behind the scenes to make the event such a happy and fun experience for everyone.

Halton Libraries

I am thrilled to let you know that Widnes library and Halton Lea library are an official **World Book Day token exchange hub** again this year. Children can come to the library to exchange their World Book Day tokens for a brilliant free book (please see poster attached). The hub opens **Thur 13th Feb** and runs all the way until the end of March.

PLUS! They have loads of World Book Day themed free drop-in events during **half term**.

There is so much happening at Halton Libraries. Thanks for being part of it 😊

Where's Wally?



We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**, and this year, the staff theme is *Where's Wally?* While children are more than welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite characters, we are also inviting them to join in on our theme and come dressed as Wally, **please remember costumes do not need to be shop bought!** It will be so much fun to see how many Wally's we can find throughout the school. From his iconic red-and-white striped shirt to his round glasses, we cannot wait to see how creative the children will get with their Wally-inspired outfits. It is sure to be a day filled with lots of fun and book-themed excitement!

Art Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who attended our Art Exhibition! We hope you were as impressed with the children's incredible talent and creativity as we were. A special thank you to Miss Bates for her hard work and dedication in putting together such a wonderful event. If you were unable to join us, do not worry—there will be plenty of pictures shared on social media, so you won't miss out on the amazing works of art. Thank you so much for your support and the overwhelming, kind, and positive comments! Your words truly mean a lot to us and help make this event even more special. We are grateful for the encouragement and enthusiasm from everyone, and we are so happy to share the incredible talent of our children with you. We are also excited to announce that your child's masterpiece will be available for purchase on Arbor.

Safety

The school has been made aware by Cheshire Police of a recent spate of knife crime in the area. Miss Slingsby has spoken to the children in Y5 and Y6 about the importance of staying safe, but we kindly ask that you also have a safety plan in place for your family, especially if your children will be out and about during the half-term. It is important that we all work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our children and the wider community. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Careers Week 2025

We have been participating in The Primary Careers Programme and as part of this, we will be holding a Careers Week **beginning the 10th March 2025**.

We are hoping to have visitors from lots of industries and fields to deliver short sessions to our pupils explaining what their careers involve, pathways into the industry and skills that our children might be learning in school which would be useful for this career choice.

If you have a role, or know anyone who may be suitable, and are able to spare the time to come in and support us by delivering a session to a class, please contact Miss Sutton or the school office and we can provide more details and outline the session intentions further.

Year 6 Walking Home

As the nights are getting lighter, Year 6 children who have a signed consent form will now be able to walk home independently after clubs. This change allows children to enjoy the extra daylight and encourages them to develop their sense of responsibility. Parents and carers are reminded to ensure they have completed and returned the necessary consent forms for their child to take part in this arrangement. Thank you for your understanding while continuing to prioritize the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Happy Half-Term

Happy half term! It is hard to believe we're already halfway through the year! It has been a busy few weeks, and the next half term is shaping up to be just as action-packed. Don't forget to check our Looking Ahead dates for upcoming events. We are already looking forward to the longer evenings, Easter celebrations, and hopefully some nicer weather! Wishing you all a lovely and restful half term, and we will see you back on Monday, 24th February. Enjoy!

Looking Ahead:

Here are some important dates for your diaries to help you plan for the next few weeks:

- 14th February – End of Term
- 24th February – School Reopens
- 25th February – Y4 Swimming
- 4th March – Choir cancelled
- 5th March – Ashes to Go 8:30am
- 5th March – Ash Wednesday Worship (Parents Welcome 9am in school hall)
- 6th March – World Book Day (Thursday)
- 10th March – Y6 Library visit
- 10th March – Y4 Library visit
- 18th March – Y4 Clonter Opera Trip
- 21st March – Red Nose Day
- 28th March – Non-uniform day (Easter treat donations)
- 31st March – Easter Egg competition entries
- 3rd April – Easter Service Y4 (Parents Welcome at the Church at 9:30am)
- 3rd April – Easter Bingo (children only)
- 4th April – End of Term

Please note, these dates are subject to change – please ensure you check them each week for any amendments or additions.

Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Friendship

"We look after each other and always try to be kind"



St Michael with St Thomas Church

Come and join the Sunday services at our beautiful church! See times below.

Don't forget Children's Church on the first Sunday of every month.



Holy Communion Service

🕒 Every Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for 1 hour

Let's Talk About Rights!

This week our Article of the week for you to discuss at home is: *Article 12: If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit both of them*

What does this mean?

- How do children access this right?
- How can duty bearers help to ensure children have this right?

Article of the WEEK



Ready, Respectful, Safe!

Ready



**We are ready to learn,
ready to listen and ready
to embrace
opportunities.**

**We respect our friends,
our teachers, our visitors
and all members of our
community.**

Respectful



Safe



**We know how we can
keep ourselves safe and
make sure we do all we
can to keep our school
family safe.**

Quotes from Miss Slingsby's
#Positivegossip Book this week:

- Oliver (Y5) for positivity and perseverance and always wearing a smile – Mrs Hogan
- Bella (Rec) for being such a caring and helpful friend to Daniel
- Whole school for a beautifully sung worship, really made me happy to take part – Miss T
- Amelia B, Bobby and Faith (Y5) for being incredibly helpful at lunchtimes
- Evelyn, Freya and Lottie (Y3) and Reuben (Y2) for being lovely, kind friends at lunchtimes all week

Headteacher's Award Winners

Unfortunately, we did not have our celebration assembly today, certificates will be given out on our first Monday back on the 24th February

Rec – Ellie-Mae for being super sensible during our dragon dance

Y1 – Frankie for always working hard during our lessons

Y2 – Lottie-Rose for amazing improvement in behaviour

Y3 – Bobby for trying hard to be independent in maths

Y4 – Max for brilliant focus during learning this week!

Y5 – Bailie for a super attitude all week and wonderful work

Y6 – Kaycie for wonderful enthusiasm for learning and being such a positive role model.

Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Harper-Rose

Y1 – Lola

Y2 – Lottie-Rose

Y3 – Lottie

Y4 – Riva-Rose

Y5 – Leo

Y6 – Evie

Attendance Counts!

#momentmatter

Whole School Attendance – this year:

95.5%

Whole school attendance – this week:

94.2%

Class attendance winner:

99.3% - Y4

Class Attendance:

Rec – 95.7%

Y1 – 98.9%

Y2 – 87.0%

Y3 – 94.4%

Y4 – 99.3%

Y5 – 94.6%

Y6 – 89.3%



Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

Please note 'Feeling unwell', 'poorly' or 'under the weather' is not sufficient, more detail is required such as 'has been sick' or 'has a temperature' is required.

There are lots of ways to notify school of absence. You can call the school number and leave a message on the absence line, you can send a message via Arbor or you can email the school office.

Thank you for your continued support

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

1 Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need.

Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.here4you.co.uk)



HALTON LIBRARIES

FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025

Come and celebrate World Book Day with us **NO NEED TO BOOK**

Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

JUST
DROP-IN

MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

The Magic Balloon - paper plate hot air balloon crafts - Widnes Library 11-12:30

The Adventures of Paddington Bear - Farm Escape crafts - Runcorn Library 11-12:30



TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Beast Quest - design your own shield craft event- Widnes Library 11-12:30

Rainbow Magic - make your own fairy houses - Halton Lea 11-12:30



WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler's Acorn Wood craft event - Halton Lea 11-12

FREE PACKED LUNCHES at WIDNES and HALTON LEA 12-1



THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Pokémon library takeover (various themed crafts) - Widnes library 11-12:30



FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

The Adventures of Paddington Bear - Farm Escape crafts - Ditton Library 11-12:30

The Wolf Trials - create your own adventure map - Halton Lea library 11-12:30



PLUS

Space themed Lego Club

Rhymetime and Saturday Stories

Plus choose your own World Day Book from our World Book Day hub.

See our website for more information: <https://library.haltonbc.info>



www.halton.gov.uk/libraries

Like us on  Follow us on  Follow us on 



HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Exchange your World Book Day
token at Halton Lea library or
Widnes library any time from
Thursday 13th February to
Saturday 22nd March.



SPONSORED BY

NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens

VIVIAN
TRUONG