Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

St Michael with St Thomas C of E Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 23rd October 2026

End of Half Term

We have already reached the end of our first half term! September feels like only yesterday, yet we've already enjoyed so many experiences, from learning about the rainforest and visiting Chester Zoo to "Meet the Teacher" sessions and learning to ride a bike. We hope you all have a lovely half-term break and enjoy some time to relax before we return for another busy few weeks. There's plenty to look forward to, including Local History Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Interfaith Week, our exciting Replay project and the annual Enterprise Fair. We will also be welcoming a very special visitor for breakfast with our younger children as we begin our Christmas celebrations! Please remember to check the Looking Ahead section of the newsletter each week to keep up to date with everything that's happening. Thank you for all your support this half term, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on 4th November!

Healthy Schools

We have had a number of families asking for support and we are delighted to be working alongside Healthy Schools to offer our parents access to helpful advice, support and services to support their children. We have two upcoming parent workshops available:

- ***Understanding Children's Behaviour – 24th November at 2:00pm***
- ***Support with Fussy Eating – 3rd December at 1:30pm.***

We highly recommend these sessions to any parents who would like some friendly advice or support in these areas. The workshops are very informal, relaxed and informative, and have been a great success when we have offered them previously. If you would like to attend, please show your interest by booking onto the sessions via ***Arbor under Clubs****. We hope you can join us!*

Reception Open Evening – September 2027

Even though our new Reception class has only just started, we are already looking ahead at next year and we would like to invite families of children starting School in September to our annual Open Evenings. The Open Evenings are for any children who will be starting school in September 2027. Please support us in promoting our event by sharing our advert on our social media and with family, friends, sports clubs and local group pages etc to get the word out to as many families as possible about our amazing school. Open Evenings will be held on ***3rd December 2026*** *at* ***3:30pm*** *and* ***5:30pm****.*

Reception Welcome Worship

This week, we held our special Reception Worship to officially welcome our new Reception children into our school family. It was a lovely occasion, made special by a blessing from Rev Linda, who also gave each child a special bookmark to treasure as a reminder of this important milestone.

We were incredibly proud of the children, who showed such confidence and courage when standing up and speaking in front of so many people, sharing some of the lovely songs they have been learning to support their learning in class.

A huge thank you to all the adults who were able to join us and share in this special celebration. It was wonderful to come together as a school community to welcome our newest members, and we look forward to watching them grow, learn and flourish as part of our school family!

Poppies

We are pleased to let you know that we will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year. Children will have the opportunity to purchase poppies, snap bands, pencils and other items in support of this important charity. These will be available to buy during breaktimes and lunchtimes next week. Suggested prices are £2.00 for snap bands and bracelets, £1:00 for pencils and donations for poppies.
This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country, while raising money to support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces and their families. Thank you for your support and generosity!

School Photos

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Monday 2nd November 2026. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest at Customerservice@htempest.co.uk

School Trips

We understand that this is a busy time of year, with lots of exciting trips and events taking place, and we want to give families as much time as possible to make payments. However, we do need to confirm bookings with venues and purchase train and other travel tickets in advance. To help, we have extended the payment deadlines for some trips until the end of term, giving parents and carers a little extra time. Prompt payments are still greatly appreciated, as they help us to finalise arrangements and ensure each trip runs smoothly. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Please remember that children who do not attend a trip are expected to attend school as normal on that day.

Tue, 10 Nov 2026	*Acorn & Oak Sensis*	*Acorn & Oak*	*23 Oct 2026*
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	*KS1 Panto and Party Food*	*Year R, Y1, Y2 and Y3 Trips*	*23 Oct 2026*
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	*KS2 Panto and Party Food*	*Year Y4, Year Y5 and Year Y6*	*23 Oct 2026*

Congratulations



We wanted to share some exciting news Millie, Sophia and Amelia, are heading to Disneyland Paris next week with Karina Burns Dance Academy for a very special experience!

Millie and Sophia have been given the fantastic opportunity to perform on stage at Disneyland Paris, where they will be taking part in a number of dance performances, while Amelia will be taking on the exciting role of mascot for the dance academy!

The girls have worked incredibly hard and it's such a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their love of dance. We're all incredibly excited and it would be lovely to celebrate their achievements with the school community.

School Disco

The children had an absolutely fantastic time at our Autumn Disco this week! 🍂🎶 The dance floor was full of energy, with some brilliant dance moves from both the children and staff! Everyone enjoyed tucking into hot dogs, drinks and tasty snacks while dancing and having fun with their friends. A huge thank you to Daniel for volunteering his time once again to DJ our discos – he always helps make these events extra special and enjoyable for everyone. We'd also like to say a big thank you to all the staff who helped organise and support the event. Your hard work helped make it such a wonderful success, and we're already looking forward to the next one! 🎉🕺

Lantern Walk

On Friday 6th November, we will be celebrating our annual Lantern Walk—one of our favourite events of the year! The children will be making beautiful lanterns in school, which they will take home and then bring back for the walk. Each child will be given a tea light to place in their lantern on the evening. We will meet at 6:30 PM in the school car park, and we hope to see lots of you there for this magical event. The evening will include readings and songs from our fantastic choir, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. It promises to be a wonderful evening for the whole school community—don't miss it!



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share this week's Acorn and Oak Class newsletter with you. Here is a look at what we have been up to...

Dates for your Diary

10th November

Our school trip to SENSIS!

What we have been learning about this week...

Our English story is...

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

We have been looking at how the characters feel at different parts in the story!

We even had a go at making our own porridge!



Maths

We have been looking at representing numbers and lots of different ways and representations.



Tapestry

We have set up Tapestry and this will be live from after half term.

This will be a great tool to share pictures of our learning and what we are up to during the day.





Lunchtime Award

Alfie

for trying new foods this week!

Head Teacher's Award

Ruth

for her positivity all day every day. We are super impressed!

St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

LEARN ♡ ACHIEVE ♡ LOVE ♡ BELIEVE

Attendance SPOTLIGHT

Every day counts!

Why is good attendance important?

Being in school every day gives children the best chance to learn, make progress and reach their full potential. Good attendance helps children to build confidence, friendships and important life skills for the future.



Moments Matter

Every lesson, every experience and every moment in school matters. Children build knowledge step by step, so even a few days missed can make a big difference.

Being in school regularly helps them to keep up, feel confident and be part of our school family.



What does the research tell us?

Even small amounts of missed school time can have a big impact.

100%	95%	90%	85%
0 days missed	9 days missed each year	19 days missed each year	29 days missed each year
Best chance of success	Nearly 2 weeks of learning missed	Almost 4 weeks of learning missed	Nearly 6 weeks of learning missed

The impact of low attendance

Regular absence can make it harder for children to:

- Keep up with learning
- Develop and maintain friendships
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Achieve their full potential
- Be prepared for the next stage of their education

Our school attendance expectations

We expect all children to have an attendance of **at least 96%**. This gives them the best chance to succeed and make the most of all that school offers.

Our target is at least 96% attendance for every child.



How you can help

- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- Try to make medical appointments outside of school hours where possible.
- Let us know as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent and the reason for the absence.
- Support your child to be organised and ready for school.
- Talk to us if you are finding attendance difficult – we are here to help.

Working together

Good attendance is a shared responsibility. By working together, we can remove barriers, provide support and make sure every child has the opportunity to flourish.

Every school day brings new opportunities – let's make them count!

LEARN | ACHIEVE | LOVE | BELIEVE

A haven of inclusivity

– SIAMS 2026 –

Planned Trips

We are always looking for volunteers to join us on our school trips. If you are available and would like to come along, please contact the school office to register your interest.

Trip Date(s)	Trip Name	Groups	Sign-up deadline
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Acorn & Oak Sensis	Acorn & Oak	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y6 Ancient Egypt Trip	Year Y6	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 10 Nov 2026	Y5 Ancient Greeks and Romans Trip	Year Y5	23 Oct 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	Rec & Y1 Breakfast with Santa	Year R and Year Y1	04 Dec 2026
Mon, 14 Dec 2026	KS1 Panto and Party Food	Year R, Year Y1, Year Y2 and Y3 Trips	23 Oct 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Y2 & Y3 Breakfast with Santa	Year Y2 and Y3 Trips	04 Dec 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	Acorn & Oak Breakfast with Santa	Acorn and Oak	04 Dec 2026
Tue, 15 Dec 2026	KS2 Panto and Party Food	Year Y4, Year Y5 and Year Y6	23 Oct 2026
Mon, 07 Jun 2027 - Tue, 08 Jun 2027	Y5 Pettypool	Year Y5	Deposit by 20th Oct 2026
Thu, 24 Jun 2027 -Fri, 25 Jun 2027	Y6 London Residential Trip	Year Y6	1st Instalment due 31st Oct 2026

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

- Issac in Y6 for persevering with his joined handwriting and producing some beautiful work – Miss Case 😊
- Bonnie Y3 for being a kind and caring friend – Mrs Hughes
- All of Reception for blowing us away with their worship – Mrs Hughes & Miss Green 😊
- Iviarna and Caitlyn for asking how my day has been – Miss Middleton 💜
- Zoe for super phonics – Miss McMullen
- Mary-Rose, Evelyn, Kirstie, Evie and Emily (Y5) for always being so kind! Miss McMullen 🌼
-
- 💜

Parent Dates

Looking Ahead:

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

- 2nd Nov – Inset Day
- 3rd Nov – Inset Day
- 4th Nov – School Reopens
- 6th Nov – Lantern Walk
- 10th Nov – Y5 Museum Trip
- 10th Nov – Y6 Museum Trip
- 10th Nov – Acorn and Oak Sensis Trip
- 18th Nov – Y4 Family Worship 9:00am in school
- 20th Nov – Inset Day

Our Amazing Children
BEYOND SCHOOL

Different Passions Brighter Futures

Same Brilliant Children

This page celebrates the fantastic achievements of our children outside of school. Whether it's sports, arts, music, volunteering, clubs, hobbies or any other interests, we're so proud of you!

Lola-Rae

We are incredibly excited to be visiting the Brindley Theatre for this year's pantomime! This year's trip is going to be extra special, as we are looking forward to seeing one of our former Year 6 pupils, Lola-Rae, who left us last year and is now dancing in the pantomime. Even more excitingly, she will be performing on the very day that our KS2 children visit! We can't wait to look out for her on stage and cheer her on as she shines in the spotlight. Lola-Rae is also very excited to know that her old teachers will be there to watch her perform, making this a truly special experience for everyone involved. What a wonderful way to celebrate her talents and see how she is continuing to shine beyond our school!

Be Proud Be You Belong

Big Achievements Happen Everywhere

Living Our Values

Our Christian Value for this half term is:

Perseverance

"We keep trying and never give up"



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 15: Children have the right to meet friends and join groups as long as this doesn't stop others enjoying their rights*

What does this mean?

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

Article of the WEEK



Ready, Respectful, Safe!

Headteacher Award Winners

Rec – Josie for being a superstar during phonics

Y1 – Frankie for always being a superstar

Y2 – Hallie for working extremely hard on her handwriting

Y3 – Lola for showing great focus in completing all her work with a super attitude 😊

Y4 – Jacob for showing tremendous progress in writing 😊

Y5 – Freya for working hard in all learning 😊

Y6 – Nathaniel for always being kind, considerate and caring 😊



Lunchtime Superstars

Rec – Roman

Y1 – Billy

Y2 – Eleanor

Y3 – Bobbie-Leigh

Y4 – Iviarna

Y5 – Evie

Y6 – Bobby

Attendance Counts!

#momentsmatter

Whole School Attendance – this yea

96.5%

Whole school attendance – this week:

93.6%

Class attendance winner:

98.6% - Y2

Class Attendance:

Rec – 86%

Y1 – 92.1%

Y2 – 98.6%

Y3 – 90.1%

Y4 – 97.3%

Y5 – 91%

Y6 – 96.9%

Important reminder regarding reporting absences.

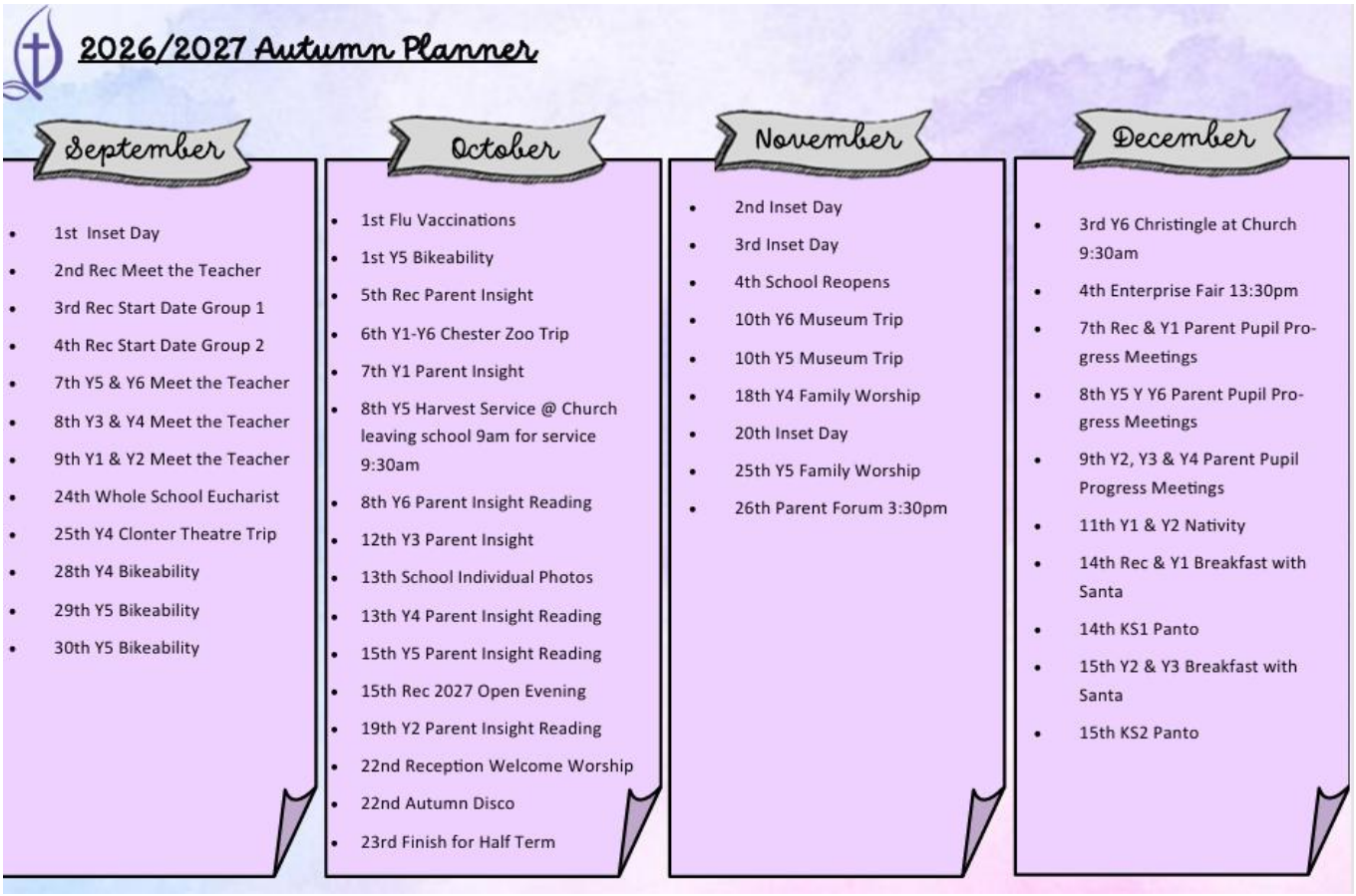
Please be reminded that you need to notify school before 9am with the reason for absence for this to be recorded appropriately.

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

Parent Dates



Menu Next Week

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	Meat Balls with Mash Potato *** Macaroni Cheese	All Day Breakfast	Creamy Chicken Pie with Mash Potato Vegetarian Sausage	Chicken Korma with 50/50 rice Naan Bread Quorn Korma	Pizza Vegetarian Burger Chips
Accompaniments	Cauliflower & Broccoli *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Beans *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Green Beans & Cabbage *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Sweetcorn *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar	Peas & Baked Beans *** Tuna Pasta Salad Bar
Desserts	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day	Dessert of the Day
Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling	Jacket Potato & Todays choice of filling

Please note – The catering staff will make every effort to follow the menu as set out above, however there may be occasions when food served may differ from the menu and if this is to happen, we will make you aware of the change at the earliest convenience.

Parent / Carer Training Programme 2026 - 2027

Shine Therapy Services has been commissioned by Halton Borough Council to deliver a training programme specifically for the parents / carers of children and young people resident within the Borough.

The programme aims to empower parents / carers with knowledge that can be applied practically in the care and support of children and young people.

The training sessions to be delivered are set out in the table below. Please see Eventbrite for full details and to book tickets. No admittance without Eventbrite ticket.

23/09/2026	Toileting and Developing Continence
05/10/2026	Blank Levels
17/10/2026	Introduction to Sensory Processing Differences and Challenges + Introduction to Sensory Lifestyles
21/10/2026	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)
25/11/2026	Intensive Interaction
16/01/2027	Restrictive Eating and Mealtime Challenges
26/01/2027	Play
10/02/2027	Toileting and Developing Continence
02/03/2027	Talking Mats + Social Stories + Comic Strip Conversations
16/03/2027	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)

eventbrite


LANTERN WALK
Let's bless our Community with Light & Peace!
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 6.30PM
Walk will begin at St Michael with St Thomas School, Spinney Avenue, Broadway, Hall Avenue, Ditchfield Rd and ending with a short service in Church which local school children will lead.
FREE hotdogs & Refreshments available!

Halton Libraries Half Term Events

Upcoming Half Term programme at the library with your families.

We have a range of free activities taking place throughout the week, designed to encourage creativity, imagination, and reading for pleasure. Activities include:

• Creative family activities with crafts and hands-on challenges
• An exciting theatre workshop, where children can explore storytelling, movement and performance
• A creative writing session for older children, helping them develop confidence in expressing their ideas and creating their own stories
• A Fidget Trade-Off Event, where children can bring along a fidget toy, they no longer use and swap it for a different one, promoting sharing, sustainability and social interaction



Our half term offer provides a welcoming space for families to spend time together, try something new, and enjoy engaging library activities during the school holidays.


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MONDAY – FRIDAY
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FOR THE WEEK (5 DAYS)
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PER DAY
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