



St Michael with St Thomas CofE Primary School

Newsletter – Thursday 26th October 2023

Christian Value this half term: Perseverance

The bible teaches us:

“Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you’re in trouble and devote yourselves to prayer,”

Romans 12:12

Half Term 1 complete!

It is hard to believe that we have already come to the end of the first half term! Whilst it doesn't seem like long since we started the year back in September, we have already done so much – from trips, pupil leadership projects and Ofsted celebrations, to amazing work in lessons, sports successes and even scarecrow making! We hope that you all have a lovely half term break and come back well rested for the second half of the Autumn term which promises to be even busier than the first, with Local History week, anti-bullying week, inter-faith week, Children in Need, our annual Enterprise Fair and of course, the start of the Christmas celebrations! Please keep an eye each week on the 'Looking Ahead' section of the newsletter for all of the up-coming dates and events during this busy half term. We will look forward to seeing everyone on **Monday 6th November** for the start of the new half term.

Autumn Disco

We finished the half term with our annual Autumn disco which was a great night. It was lovely to see the children dressed up in their party gear and dancing with their friends. Even the staff enjoyed showing off their moves to their favourite songs! It was a lovely way to finish the half term.

Athletics Team

This week our Y5 and Y6 pupils took part in the Halton School Games Athletics event, competing against other Halton schools in field and track events. The team were amazing and the organisers commented on the fantastic behaviour of all of the children who attended.

Talking to Children About Conflict

With the awful events that are dominating the news in Gaza and Israel at the moment, lots of children have questions and worries about what they are seeing and hearing. This can be a difficult topic to discuss with young children, but using their understanding of children's rights that they have from our Rights Respecting work in school can give support in these conversations. Please use the link below to access guidance produced by Unicef to support parents with these types of conversations:

https://www.unicef.org/parenting/how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war?utm_source=Unicef_UK&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=email_rrsa_campaign%20name

Foodbank Advent Calendar Donations

This week, our Community Crusaders visited the Widnes Foodbank and had a tour of the warehouse with Vicky the coordinator. We were all blown away by the amount of food and hard work that goes into running the foodbank for our community by the team of amazing volunteers. The Community Crusaders team will be sharing the photos and information with the school in an assembly after half term, but they have asked me to share in the newsletter that the foodbank is currently accepting donations of advent calendar to ensure that all children have the opportunity to count down to the festive season. If you are able to donate an advent calendar, you can take them straight to the warehouse or drop them in at school and we will take them up. The closing date for the advent calendars to ensure that they can be processed and shared in packs before the start of December is **10th November**.

Please remember, especially as we reach what is a busy and expensive time of year, that school is a referral agent for the foodbank if this is something that you would like to access. The process is quick and discrete so please reach out if you feel this would help you or someone you know.

Y6 Walking Home

A reminder for all families of Y6 pupils who walk home – from when we return in November, Y6 pupils will not be allowed to walk home after clubs due to the clocks going back and the nights drawing in. This will remain the case until Easter. Pupils can still walk home if leaving school at the usual time of 3.15pm, providing school has received the written consent.

Parent Drop In Afternoons

Next half term, we will be starting our weekly Parent Drop In afternoons, which will take place every Tuesday at 1.45pm. There will be a different focus each week, with a range of services attending to offer advice and support eg the school nurse, PCSOs, Health Improvement Team. Miss Brimble will also be available during these sessions to discuss any other areas of support that you may need for your child or your family. You do not need to book onto the sessions, just drop in to any that you feel will be of benefit to you.

See the poster attached for details of each week.

Looking Ahead:

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

- Mon 6th Nov - School reopens for Autumn 2
- w/b 6th Nov – Whole School WW2 and Local History Week (*more info to follow*)
- w/b 13th Nov – Anti-Bullying Week (*more info to follow*)
- Mon 13th Nov – Odd socks day
- Thurs 16th Nov – Whole school Eucharist – parents welcome - 9.30am
- Fri 17th Nov – Children in Need
- Mon 20th Nov – World Children’s Day
- Weds 29th Nov – Y5 Family Worship @School 9am
- *Please note, these dates are subject to change - please ensure you check them each week for any amendments or additions.*

Headteacher’s Award for In School Learning		
Reception	Emmie	For trying hard to join in all lessons but especially maths
Year 1	Jacob	For trying his hardest in maths and geography
Year 2	Lexi	For fantastic settling in for her first half term
Year 3	Erin	For persevering and working hard in maths!
Year 4	Henry	For super contributions during our reading lesson!
Year 5	Sophie	For showing determination even with her broken arm
Year 6	Abi	For showing wonderful motivation & enthusiasm for learning


Lunchtime Awards	
Reception	Freddie
Year 1	Lula
Year 2	Ronnie
Year 3	Jacob
Year 4	Arthur
Year 5	Niall
Year 6	Logan

Attendance Matters!

Whole school attendance: 96.7%

Well done to our class attendance winners who will get an extra break time this week!


Class Attendance winner: Y5 with 100%

S Stay in groups. 


C Costumes should be well fitting and flame resistant.

A Always test Halloween makeup.

R Remember to look both ways when crossing.

E Examine all treats before eating. 

S Stay on the pavement when possible.

A Avoid dark houses. 

F Flashing lights and brackets for visibility.

E Enjoy yourselves but take care.

Bonfire



Safety



- Keep safe around fire
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby if you are setting off fireworks in your garden.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors. Fire works
- Stand well back from





Widnes Wonders WI presents our...

CHRISTMAS MARKET & CRAFT FAIR

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

11AM-3PM

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
DUNDALK ROAD, WIDNES,
WA8 8DF

FREE ENTRY

*Café with hot food, drinks and cakes

*HUGE raffle with amazing prizes!

*Entertainment throughout the day with local artists

*30+ STALLS

Festive Floral Pieces

Dog Accessories

Christmas Gifts

Skincare and Beauty

Books and DVDs

Dog Bakery

Hair Braiding and Accessories

Wellbeing and Hollistics

Homemade Crafts

COME ALONG TO
OUR GROTTO AND
VISIT SANTA! Gifts
for every child!



Jewellery

Sweet Stall

Home Décor and Fragrance



Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

"Faith can move mountains," Matthew 17:20

New for this year!

We are pleased to launch our:

Parent Drop-in Sessions

Get support on how to manage challenging behaviours, bedtime, routines, teeth brushing, boundaries around technology and much more!

The drop-in sessions will focus on a different area each week - you can come to all of them if you wish, or just to those you feel will benefit you.

Tuesday afternoons @ 1:45pm

Refreshments will be available

Autumn Term dates :

7th Nov – Meet the school nurse and Young Carers and Carers society

14th Nov - Health Improvement Team (Physical activity and sugar)

21st Nov - Healthy Technology (tips on how to keep children safe online)

05th Dec - PCSO Stephen Marnick (behaviours in the community) and School Nurse

16th Jan – Health Improvement Team (Sleep and Screens)

06th Feb – School Nurse support (toileting troubles)

27th Feb - Health Improvement Team (Fussy eating and snacks)

5th March - School Nurse support (puberty and growing up)



The aim of the sessions is:

- To get support for the challenges you are facing as a parent / carer
- Signposting to other external specialist services
- Feel the 'I'm not alone in this' effect

For advice and support 24/7, please see our school website <https://www.smwst.co.uk/parents-information/support-for-parents/> where you will find lots of links to services.

Remember we are here to help and support you, call 01514244234 or email Stmichaelwithstthomas@three-saints.org.uk or come and see us on the door.