



# St Thomas Community Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1, 2024 Issue 67 - 25/10/24



## Head Teacher's Message

We are already eight weeks into the start of a new school year, and it has gone by so quickly. It's been lovely to welcome new children to our school family and having looked at learning last week, as part of our quality assurance processes, I was really pleased to see children maintaining their achievements from July and building on their progress, since September. Everyone has worked so hard for the last two months - make sure you now enjoy your October half term.

Best wishes,

## School Council Election and Pupil Voice Groups

In September, our older children learnt about democracy and voted in a secret ballot to elect our School Council. It was lovely to see so many children wishing to be involved. Children also applied for our Pupil Voice roles and again, it was fantastic to see so many children wanting to take an active role in the life of the school. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward. Listening to our pupils is so important and it's great that some have already had the opportunity to meet with children from other schools as part of Swansea's Big Word initiative.

Our School Council will also be meeting the councillors soon, to discuss community issues. Watch this space!



## Cyber Safety with PC Fincher

Year 4, 5 and 6 have all had an important message from PC Chris Fincher about how to be safe online. PC Fincher discussed important topics including cyber bullying, how to stay safe online and also trusted sites. Year 3 also had a session discussing how to use apps safely. Thank you, PC Fincher for this valuable message.



## Italian Lessons - Years 2 - 6



As part of an Italian Cultural Programme, Years 2 - 6 will have the opportunity to practise the Italian language this academic year. We are so grateful to have these weekly sessions provided for free and it is wonderful to hear the children exploring a new language!

## Year 6 Coding Workshop



Recently, Technocamps have been in to support our Year 6 children with their coding skills. The children coded micro:bits to identify different boxing moves linked to their learning on 'The Fight' with Theatr Na Nog.

## Year 4 - Jersey Park Visit

Year 4 enjoyed their autumnal activities during their visit to Jersey park!



## Year 6 - Kilvey Hill Visit

We are so lucky to have Kilvey Hill on our doorstep! As part of their outdoor learning, Year 6 recently explored Kilvey Hill searching for insects, building shelters, roasting marshmallows and photographing their finds. Well done to them for making it to the top!



## The Sharing Table

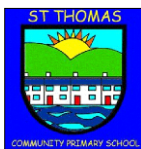
We have been lucky to be able to access the charity, 'The Sharing Table' - an organisation who works with a number of schools and families across Swansea, to cook simple recipes that can be shared as a family. It's also giving some of our families a chance to try out our new community kitchen!



**We support children's rights and the UNCRC**

**Get regular updates on the Dojo app.**





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## Let's Share - Parent/Guardian Welcome Sessions

It was great to have so many parents and carers come in for our Welcome Sessions at the start of the year. We look forward to welcoming you into school more during the course of the year.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Macmillan Coffee morning. We were able to raise £175 for this important charity.

## St Thomas Savers - School Bank

Please remember we run a School Bank for Year 3 to Year 6 children. 'St Thomas Savers' is in partnership with Celtic Credit Union and its purpose is to promote the habit of saving from a young age. It only launched last January but has been a real success with over 50 savers - if you want your child to join, please speak to Mrs Nicholas or Mr Phelps. Bank runs on a Wednesday this year.

## Shwmae Day

As a school we celebrated Shwmae Day; a day to encourage everyone to give Welsh a go! We are a multilingual school family, and we greatly value the different cultures and languages that are celebrated across our school, including Welsh. Da iawn, pawb!

## Attendance Target for the Year - 93%

Attendance so far this year - 93%

We made great progress in attendance last year, increasing by 2% to 90.8%. This year we want to build on that even further, to give children the best chance to progress. Please help us to teach your children by sending them into school regularly.

Have a lovely half term and we will see you back in school on...

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

## Theatr Na Nog Performance

Year 6 children attended the Dylan Thomas Theatre to watch 'The Fight' by Theatr Na Nog.



The children also participated brilliantly in a Victorian and a discovery workshop at both museums.

## Fluoride varnishing



Nursery to Year 2 received Fluoride Varnishing, to help them protect their teeth. The dental nurses were extremely complimentary about our pupils. Please support this initiative by ensuring your children's teeth are brushed twice daily.

## Reading Buddies



Please remember that you have access to this fantastic resource at home, to support your child's reading. Not only does it give access to a wide range of books matched to your child's ability, but it also helps develop comprehension skills. Even better - it is free for parents and guardians to access. Give it a go!

## Important Dates

**Thursday 28th November**, 3.30 - 5.30 - Winter Fayre

**Thursday 5th December**, 1.30pm - Rec - Year 2 - Christmas Concert

**Friday 6th December**, 1.30pm - Rec - Year 2 - Christmas Concert

**Wednesday 11th December**, 6pm - Years 3 - 6 - Christmas Concert

**Thursday 12th December** - Christmas Jumper Day - children can wear Christmas jumpers if they wish

**Friday 13th December**, 1.30pm - Years 3 - 6 - Christmas Concert

**Monday 16th December**, 9.30am - Christmas Community Celebration

**Tuesday 17th December**, 9.45 & 1.15 - Nursery Christmas Sing Song

**Wednesday 18th December** - Christmas Dinner

**Thursday, 19th December** - Choir to sing in Swansea Market - tbc

**Thursday 19th December** - Last day of term - Children can dress up if they wish

**Monday 6th January, 2025** - INSET Day

**Tuesday 7th January, 2025** - Children return to school.

