

St Thomas' Primary School



End of Autumn Term

It is heartening to see how the children have settled well into their learning, given the challenges that the pandemic has presented. All staff have worked hard to ensure a safe, happy and nurturing environment for your child. In addition to this we have been busy working on further developing teacher's knowledge and understanding in reading, writing, numeracy and health and wellbeing following our visit from HMIE, earlier this year. It definitely has been a busy time but I'm grateful for your continued support with your child's learning at home. Remember there are various ways in which you can support our community and being part of our Parent Council is one of them. The AGM will be held online on 28th October 2020 @ 7 pm. The link for this will be shared nearer the time. In the meantime, if you wish to speak to a member of the Parent Council the list of current parent Office Bearers are as follows:

Mrs Sarah Webster (Acting Chairperson)
Mrs Elaine Gray (Treasurer)
Mrs Susan Singer/Ms Catherine Sinnott (Secretaries)

Alternatively you can email the school and this will be passed on to the Parent Council
admin.stthomasp@moray-edunet.gov.uk
Mrs Byrne, Head Teacher

Staffing

Ms Karen Rolfe has recently been successful at interview for the position of McCrone teacher here at St Thomas' and I'm sure you will join with us in welcoming her to St Thomas'.

Class News

P1-2

What a fantastic start to a new school year. The P1 children have come to school and are developing a positive learning attitude and friendships with others in the school and class.

The P2 children have settled right back into the swing and are always willing to give everything a go.

This term we have been developing our resilience and curiosity, concentration and perseverance alongside cooperation. The children are starting to understand what it means to be a learner and what they have to do to improve.

In literacy we have been developing our phonics, hand writing and storytelling skills. The children have created great stories about the Three Pigs and the Wolf using the talk 4 writing model. These last few weeks we have been looking at senses and rhyming poetry.

In maths and numeracy we have been developing counting skills and positional language. In P2 we have been learning to count forward and backward from any given number to 50 and how to use doubling, halving and number sentences.

As it is autumn and the nights are getting darker we have focused on teaching the children how to cross the road safely. We have also been looking at the changing colours around us and creating autumn art work.

Please can we remind you that the children in P1 and P2 have access to the outdoors every day including water and messy play so need a set of wellington boots and a coat? Please make sure they are named.

After the holidays we will be doing PE but the children will only need trainers or PE shoes for this.

All our home learning is accessed on Microsoft Teams (via Glow) so please get in contact with school if you are still having problems accessing it.

Finally, we are encouraging healthy choices at break time so we request that only water is in their water bottles and the children have a healthy snack? Please keep sweets as a treat for home.

Any problems just email the school and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Mrs Field

P3-5

What a brilliant start P3/4/5 have had to the new school year! The children are so enthusiastic and have approached every task with positivity! I am looking forward to supporting your child this year and helping them to achieve their goals. Some of our literacy learning this term has been based on our class novel, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. We have been completing writing activities using our novel, focusing on description and characterisation. During these last few weeks, we have also been focusing on poetry, in particular, nonsense and humorous poems. In maths and numeracy, we are using the Big Maths programme. This includes daily mental maths practice (CLIC sessions) and weekly 'Beat That!' challenges. You could continue to help at home by searching for numbers in everyday life and practising times tables. Our interdisciplinary learning focus has been The Learning Jungle, which teaches us about the learning powers of; being curious, concentrating, being resilient, co-operating and self-improvement. As part of health and wellbeing, we have focussed on understanding our wellbeing using the wellbeing indicators, of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included (SHANARRI). If you have any questions or concerns please email the school admin.stthomasp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Miss Ferguson

P6-7

It has been a busy start to the year in Primary 6/7 and I have really enjoyed getting to know the class. I am very pleased with the way they have settled back into school life and embraced the challenges we have faced in these extraordinary times. We have focused on developing our thinking skills and growth mindset this term using our learning powers of curiosity, concentration, resilience, co-operation and continuous self-improvement. In literacy we have been working on narrative writing looking at planning, setting and plot. Next term we will be developing characters in our writing and putting all of these skills together to create longer stories. Our focus until the end of term is on Poetry and we will be investigating different forms and features of poetry as well as learning some poems. We will continue to work on mastering our times tables in Numeracy, and started the term by consolidating our knowledge of place value. We are now learning about time and had great fun creating human sundials and water clocks. Asking your child to tell the time at home or when you are out using a variety of clocks, or asking them to calculate time differences will reinforce this learning. Thank you for your continued support. *Mrs Gault*

Developing a Reading Culture

Staff have participated in training on how to develop a reading culture within the school and how to promote the enjoyment of reading. Each class has designated times within the week for ERIC time (Everyone Reading in Class). Please encourage your child to continue to read at home.

Children's Leadership Roles

A number of pupils have taken up leadership roles in various groups within the school:

Young Leaders of Learning Oonagh, Xaviar, Rowan, Harley, Louis, Zac, Caiden and Riley.

Sports Council Andrew, Noah, Rowan and Jakub L

Eco Group Tobi, Remy, Scarlett, Kenzie, Ethan, Owen, Kell and Kinley

Pupil Council Hollie, Olivia, Louisa, Kayden, Elena, Louis and Roman

House Captains

St Margaret's

Jakub G

Kinley (Vice)

St John's

Jakub L

Rowan (Vice)

St Columba's

Zac

Roman (Vice)

St Andrew's

Aiden

Kell (Vice)

School Lunches

A new menu with a hot selection was introduced on 21st September. This can be found on the information section of the school app. On-line payment of school meals is encouraged and if you have not already done so please contact the school for information and your unique pupil reference number to be able to do so.

Parent Portal

Last week all parents were emailed with details of the new Parent Portal system being introduced. Please register for this as soon as possible. If you are having problems registering please contact the school. Parent Portal can be used for the following:

- report your child's absence
- view the school calendar
- view your child's class timetable (for pupils in secondary school)
- view your child's attendance
- complete permission slips and consent forms
- update your own as well as your child's details at any time
- access Parent Zone, an information area
- access online school payments (iPayImpact)

We aim to use the system fully (for things such as parents' evening booking and permission slips for trips etc) once there has been a significant uptake from parents. Register at www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal

And finally.....

Many thanks to all parents, carers for their continued support at this time. Please be reminded of the following:

- Children should not come to school too early but should aim to arrive as close to the bell as possible.
- Continue to observe the government's social distancing guidelines when dropping off or picking up their child from school.
- Please keep the entrances to the school clear so that children can access the school.
- Parents should be mindful that no access to school building is permitted and requests to speak to the head teacher should be made by phone call.
- If your child is unable to attend school you should contact the school advising them of a reason or absence on each and every day your child is absent from school.
- As we move in to the winter season we are also mindful that it is normal for colds and flu symptoms to be prevalent and so I remind everyone of the particular Covid-19 Symptoms as per NHS guidance which can be accessed [here](#).

We wish all pupils and parents a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you after the holidays. If we have any Covid updates from the Scottish Government during that period we will inform you, if appropriate, via the school app/text message/email.

Take care and stay safe everyone 😊

