

# St Thomas Primary School



## Summer Term 2024

We started off this term with Parents' Evenings which had been re-arranged from March. These were well attended and it was good to see so many of you.

You will have seen from the volume of emails sent out recently, that the last term of the session is going to be a busy one. There are trips planned for both classes. P1-3 will be visiting Transport Museum in Alford and P4-7 will be visiting Landmark. The whole school are also fortunate to be visiting Bomakelloch farm as part of the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative and we are thankful to the NFU for financing the cost of the bus.

In addition to the trips planned, rehearsals are well under way for the Daffodil Tea, which will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Dawson, who comes into school as a volunteer Musical Director to practice with the children weekly. We hope to see you there and we have also extended an invitation to residents from Glenisla and Westonview Care homes to join us.

Our final Generation Science workshop was enjoyed by the P4-7 class on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April where pupils learned about types of energies.



P6 pupils also visited Keith Grammar School on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May for a Science Fair. They were joined by other Keith ASG schools.

Plans for new P1 transition activities/visits are under way and an email will be sent to parents of these pupils in the next few days. Dates for all upcoming transition activities (including P7 activities) are included in the diary dates section at the end of this newsletter.

Our Primary 1, 2, 3 and 4 pupils are again enjoying Active School Junior Jog sessions, weekly on a Tuesday after school. The last session for this term will be Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to our Active Schools Co-ordinator Amanda Walker for organising this and also thanks to our volunteers Hannah and Mrs Innes for running the club in their own free time. Active Schools are also organising badminton taster sessions to all pupils on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May which will take place during the school day.

Our annual Bikeability week was enjoyed and helped improve bike skills for all pupils. Thanks go to Outfit Moray for providing this activity free of charge.

We look forward to our annual fundraising Sponsored Walk on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. This is great time to enjoy the outdoors and come together at the end of the walk for a picnic. An email with further details has been sent out and a sponsor form was sent home in your child's school bag.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 8.30am-10am (in the Church hall), Active Schools will be providing a "Kit for All – take or donate" morning. Parents/carers will be able to go along and source recycled sportswear as well as being able to donate unwanted sports clothes. Further details from Active Schools will be sent out. We will also have the schools clothes bank there.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May parents/carers/grandparents are welcome to come to an "Online Safety Session" where you those attending be able to watch a presentation that will give advice on how to keep your child safe online. This will be held in room 4 from 12-1pm. All welcome to attend.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for taking the time to engage with us. At this time of year there is always a high volume of emails and we understand that this can be frustrating. Some of these emails, however, provide important information regarding school trips etc. Your timely responses to these are appreciated so that packed lunches etc can be organised.

For a list of upcoming activities, please refer to the Diary Dates section at the end of this newsletter.

### Safety

Please also be reminded of the following health and safety reminders, in particular the highlighted ones:

- **Children should not come to school too early but should aim to arrive as close to the bell as possible.** Children will be met in the playground by a member of staff and shown where to line up.
- In the morning if you wish to speak to a teacher or Mrs Byrne please call to make an appointment or you can pass on a message via the office.
- If your child is unable to attend school you should contact the school advising them of the reason for absence on each and every day your child is absent from school. Please note that if your child has been vomiting or has had diarrhoea they should not attend school and should remain absent for 48 hours since their last bout of vomiting/diarrhoea.
- **For safety reasons, it is really important that the yellow zig zag lines on the road outside the school are kept clear. PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF YOUR CHILD/PARK ON THESE LINES. ALSO NO TURNING AT THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE NEW NO TURNING/PARKING SIGNS AT THE ENTRANCE.**

## Cost of the School Day

Talking about money can be challenging. When struggling with costs, you may feel unable to talk about money, however, it could mean that you are missing out on help available and it may also be affecting how young people feel at school. At St Thomas', we want every family to know that support is available to reduce the cost of the school day and we are here to help families maximise income.

We are an inclusive school, where everyone belongs and can take part in everything we offer, without any barriers. We believe we offer high-quality experiences for all children and we then offer additional experiences or materials for those that require them, ensuring equity of opportunity. There are lots of ways we break down the barriers associated with poverty and here are just a few:

- Building a culture of dignity and respect, where we all care for each other and give support when it is needed.
- Having a thoughtful approach to how donations are given, erg. 'chuck it in a bucket' with no obligation to donate.
- Carefully considering how to take part in special days such as World Book Day with minimal costs to families.
- Providing recycled school clothing free of charge to anyone that requires it.
- Never charging for materials or experiences that take place during the school day.
- Having a 'No Child Left Behind Approach' for residential trips, funded (partly or in full, depending on circumstances) by our enterprise projects, local grants and support from the Parent Council.
- Working with the Parent Council to provide low-cost or free social events.
- Asking for donations from the Parent Council. They have previously funded a whole-school set of class novels, buses for school trips and play equipment and so on.

See Useful links overleaf:

Useful links:

[Child Poverty Action Group](#)

[Moray Council Website- Need Help with Money](#)

[Benefits Services](#)

[Help with Council Tax](#)

[Benefits Services- Help with Rent](#)

[Citizens Advice Scotland](#)

[Moray Food Bank Plus](#)

[MFR Cash for Kids](#)

[Scottish Child Payment](#)

## School Website

Please check out our website, see the link below. Our twitter feeds into our website so even if you don't have twitter you can keep up to date with what's going on in school

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/stthomaspskeith/>

## School Uniform Suppliers

Our online uniform suppliers are [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

### School Clothes Bank

To support the Cost of the School Day, the school has a bank of recycled sweatshirts/cardigans/jackets. These are free to anyone and you can email the school requesting items [admin.stthomas@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.stthomas@moray-edunet.gov.uk) Parents are also welcome to come into school to view the items.

All donations of good condition school uniform items are gratefully received. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Parent Council

The Parent Council have been awarded £1000 from Tesco tokens scheme to purchase a "Buddy Bench". Thank you to all who supported this.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm. All welcome to attend.

### Canteen

Canteen menu can be accessed here from the school website under parent information:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/public/stthomaspskeith/uploads/sites/5613/2024/03/25131701/234078-Primary-Menus-2024-compressed.pdf>

The Catering Department have a number of vacancies for Relief Catering Assistants. Please visit:

[https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/moray-council/jobs?parent\\_cat=2090](https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/moray-council/jobs?parent_cat=2090)

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Council Meeting	6.30pm in school hall
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	P1-3 Visit to Grampian Transport Museum	Bus leaves 9.30am <b>Packed lunch required</b> Casual clothes and school sweatshirt
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Daffodil Tea	Church Hall 1.30-3.15pm <b>Early lunch</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	In-service	School Closed to Pupils
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	In-service	School Closed to Pupils
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	P1 Parents Info Meeting	2-3pm Information emailed along with transition dates for new P1 pupils
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Badminton Taster Session for whole school	Within school
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Active Schools Rugby Festival	P4-7 Details to be confirmed – email will be sent out
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Active Schools Kit for All 'take or donate' (also School Clothes Bank)	Church Hall 8.30am – 10am Further details to follow
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Online Safety Session for Parents	Room 4 12-1pm

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Sponsored Walk followed by Picnic at Cuthil Park	Leave School 10am Email has been sent out <b>Packed lunches required</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Farm visit to Bomakelloch Farm	Bus leaves 9.15am. School clothes, wellies, waterproof jacket
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Transition Activities	<b>1.30pm-2.30pm</b> Details have been emailed
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	P4-7 Trip to Landmark	Leave school 9am <b>Packed lunch required</b> School sweatshirt and casual clothes
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Transition Days at KGG	Canteen information for these days have been sent out to P7 parents
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Transition (including new P1s)	Information to new P1 parents has been emailed.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Keith TMSA Performers	<b>1.30pm onwards</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Transition Activities	<b>1.30pm-2.30pm</b> Details have been emailed
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Transition Activities	<b>1.30pm-2.30pm</b> Details have been emailed
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers' Mass in St Thomas Church	<b>9.30am</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Sports' Day	<b>Potted Sports 10m</b> <b>(break from 10.30am-11am)</b> <b>(Early lunch 12-1pm)</b> <b>Races 1.30pm-3.15pm</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Transition Activities	1.30pm-2.30pm Details have been emailed
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers' Ceremony in School Hall	<b>1.30pm (early lunch 12-1pm)</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Awards Ceremony in School Hall	<b>9.30-10.30am</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Come As You Please Day	<b>END OF TERM</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	In-service days	<b>School staff only</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Autumn Term Commences	

The Loft Rural Transition dates for P7 pupils are; 24<sup>th</sup> May, 31<sup>st</sup> May, June 7<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> (5.30-6.30pm)