

St Thomas Primary School



Summer Term End 2024

What a term this has been, lots happening in and out of school! Our P1-3 visited Grampian Transport Museum on Tuesday 14th May and on Monday 10th June the P4-7 class visited Landmark Forest Adventure Park. The weather did not dampen their spirits and a good time was had by all. Both of these trips were paid for from the sponsored walk funds raised last session. The whole school visited Bomakelloch Farm on Tuesday 4th June. This was organised in conjunction with the Royal Northern Countryside Initiative. Thanks also go to Mr Billy Stewart and family for hosting the event and to the NFU for covering the costs of the bus.



Bomakelloch Farm Visit –
We most enjoyed seeing the cows on the farm and petting the collie dogs...Glen was our favourite. We also learned how farmers sample sheep poo for worms and how they measure out their medicine.



Grampian Transport Museum Trip –

On the Day we went to the transport museum, we were learning about different types of transport. We found out about horse drawn transport, bicycles and cars and how they transported people and things, long ago. We went in a very posh bus! Here is a list of some of our favourite things we saw. The Orange car was my favourite!



Landmark Visit –

This was a blast despite the rain. The water slides were a favourite and we challenged ourselves with the high Ropeworx and climbing wall. We also loved the Bamboseium!



We were lucky to have good weather for the sponsored walk on Friday 31st May which was followed by a picnic at the Cuthil Park. The amount raised was £1078.90, which is a tremendous amount. Thank you to all who supported the event. Pupils will decide how to spend the funds raised.

What a lovely time was had at our Daffodil Tea. The children were such a credit to St Thomas' and parents/carers/residents and staff from Glensila and Westonview Care homes were well entertained. Thank you for your support and donations. A huge thank you, to Mrs Dawson for organising the entertainment and to staff for supporting the event.

P7 pupils returned from their secondary school transition days full of enthusiasm from their time at their chosen secondary school. The transition day for the whole school was on Wednesday 19th June where our new P1 pupils joined us for the day. P7 pupils also enjoyed some fun activities on the day.

Performers from Keith TMSA festival entertained us on Friday 10th June. This was such a lovely interactive and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to the committee of the TMSA folk festival for organising this.

Staffing

As you will be aware we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Field as she retires at the end of term. Her last day will be Thursday 27th June. Interviews were held for the post and we would like to welcome Mrs Leigh-Anne Magee to the school. Mrs Magee will take up post in P4-7 at the start of the new term. Also, Mrs Mitchell will be moving on to pastures new with a new career out with education. I am sure you will join us to wish her all the best in her new venture and thank her for all her years of dedication to St Thomas'.

A letter was sent out to Parents/Carers on Wednesday 18th June and this outlined arrangements for filling the head teacher post when Mrs Byrne retires in October. It is proposed that a paired headship (with St Peters Primary) be advertised in August.

Online Safety Session

Mrs McCann organised an Online Safety Session for parents/carers and this took place on Wednesday 29th May. Unfortunately only one parent managed to attend. This is busy time of the year, however the information is applicable to any child that has online access. If you would like to view the Powerpoint presentation/attend a further online meeting, please email mcpc@moray.gov.uk

We look forward to our Awards ceremony. Please check out the diary dates below for further information. All are welcome to attend!

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/stthomaspkeith/>

School Uniform Suppliers

Our online uniform suppliers are 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.stthomasp@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". A total of 17670 blue tokens were donated. Thank you to all who donated tokens.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be the AGM which is being held on Monday 16th September at 6.30pm. All welcome to attend.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 26th June	Awards Ceremony in School Hall	9.30-10.30am
Friday 28th June	Come As You Please Day	END OF TERM
Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th August	In-service days	School staff only
Wednesday 14th August	Autumn Term Commences	

Have a safe and happy summer.

If you have a child protection concern and cannot make contact with Education, please contact Social Work directly on 01343 554370 or if it is outwith working hours call Out of Hours Social Work Team on 03457 565656. If you cannot make contact with Social Work, please call Police Scotland on 101. If it is an emergency call 999 immediately.