

St Thomas Primary School



Believe

Achieve

Aim
High

Summer Term End 2025

This has certainly been a very busy term and we still have more to come! It was lovely to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings which were held on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April. Our Daffodil Tea was again a great success and thanks must go to Mrs Dawson for helping the children prepare the entertainment. Her musical skills are very much appreciated at St Thomas', which she provides voluntarily. Thanks also go to our Parent Council who helped to set up and serve the teas/coffee. A fundraising Chocolate Tombola was held and £105 was raised for Parent Council funds. Thank you for supporting the event.

Sports and transition activities have also featured a lot this term. P3/4 pupils enjoyed lunchtime golf sessions with Active Schools volunteer Hannah. P4-7 also continue to enjoy Rugby Taster session with Jasmine (also through Active Schools). Also coming up is a Badminton Taster session for all classes. Tuesday after school Junior Jog sessions have also started. Thank you to Amanda at Active Schools and all her volunteers for making these opportunities possible. Our own Sports' Day was also a huge success. The weather was brilliant and it was good to see so many families enjoying the picnic prior to the sports. We must again thank our Parent Council for providing some much needed refreshments on the day.

P6 pupils attended a Science Fair hosted by Keith Grammar School Science department. They were joined by other P6s from Keith ASG Primary Schools and enjoyed a variety of experiments including erupting volcanoes, tea bag experiment and made sparklers.

Scottish Opera again this year hosted a workshop/performance for P6-7 pupils on Monday 26th May in Keith Primary School. This was a fun and interactive experience where the story of Tam O Shanter was told through song. Parents were invited to the performance and P4/5 pupils also enjoyed watching the rehearsals.

You will have noticed from the email sent and the sponsor forms circulating that our annual Sponsored Walk is due to take place on Wednesday 4th June. Format is the same as last year and classes will be finishing off with a picnic at the Cuthil Park. Fingers crossed the fine weather will continue.

We look forward to the school transition day on Tuesday 10th June where our new P1s will join us for the morning and the rest of the school will move up into their new year groups for that day only. P7 pupils will be enjoying their transition to secondary school on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th June. P7s have also enjoyed some enhanced transition with some extra visits to Keith Grammar School whilst our new P1s have been enjoying spending time in their new class for short periods. On Friday 20th June there will be a Leavers' Mass in the church which will start at 9.30am. All are welcome to attend.

THE WHOLE SCHOOL ENJOYED A TRIP TO ABERDEEN SCIENCE CENTRE



Further trips are planned to Keith & Dufftown Railway for P1-4 pupils and Grampian Transport Museum for P4-7 pupils. Emails have been sent for this.

This year we have also been lucky enough to book a visit from Keith Festival Performers on Friday 13th June. This is always a success and pupils really enjoy listening to and taking part in traditional music/song.

As we near the end of term, our Prizegiving (which includes a Leavers' Assembly) will be held on Thursday 26th June at 10am in the school hall. All welcome to attend. Please enter by the pupil entrance.

P1-4

P1-4 have had a brilliant final term of the year. Although we have been busy completing our daily literacy and numeracy activities, we have also had time for some fun. The trip to the Science Centre was a huge hit. We loved taking part in the volcanoes experiment, seeing how some chemical reactions can explode. Children were also very engaged in all of the exhibits the centre has to offer – some provided a real challenge for our learners! P1-4 also enjoyed our sports day – we were so lucky to have such great weather! Although the term is coming to a close, we still have time for one last outing to the Keith and Dufftown Railway, we are looking forward to learning about the old steam train!

Mrs Ironside

P4-7

We have had an exceptionally busy, but very successful Term 4 so far! They thoroughly enjoyed the outing to The Aberdeen Science Centre and have written a recount of the event. They were fully engaged in experimenting with all the different learning areas at the Science Centre and learnt a lot about inheritance and genes in their workshop. They loved working in groups to design a baby Reebop – using playdough, googly eyes, and coloured pipe cleaners. In their groups, they had to take genes from the “mom” and “dad” and “design” their own mini Reebop. We are doing a lot on work on Fractions, percentages and decimals in Maths whilst continuing with Times Tables, Mental Math and Sum Dog challenges. This term in English, our focus is developing our writing skills using our “tools for learning”. We have so far written an imaginative “Journey Story”, a recount piece from V.E. Day (after a visit to The Memorial), an invitation and soon we begin an “interview with an alien” – which will have us all giggling – for sure! In P.E. we are focusing on fitness and playing games like Rounders, encouraging maximum participation, team work and leadership. As part of developing our school value of Faith, we are learning about “God’s armour” and The Fruits of the spirit” and what that looks like in every day life. *Mrs Magee*

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club which runs from 8.20-8.50am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Healthy breakfast options are provided including toast, cereals fruit and yoghurt. There is no charge. Parents can initially register their child for breakfast club at the school office, they can then attend as they wish and there is no obligation to attend every time.

Parents Portal & Groupcall

We would like to encourage parents to register for Groupcall Xpressions app as this compliments the existing email and text communications via Groupcall. The app can easily be downloaded to iOS/Android mobile phone/tablet through the usual channels.

We are encouraging parents to register for the Parents Portal. Some parents already use this and find it useful for reporting absences, accessing ipay (for school meals), viewing the school calendar etc. Once all parents have registered we aim to invite online booking for parents’ evenings and use the permission slip facility. Check out the link below which has useful guides to help with registration:

<https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/request/ParentsPortalLink>

ATTENDANCE

Habits of good regular attendance are important for your child’s educational development, social skills and future positive pathways. However, we do understand that absence due to illness is unavoidable and should this be long

term we will aim to support parents/carers in any way we can. In line with Moray Council guidelines absences will be monitored and we will contact parents/carers if absences rates are causing concern.

Please be aware that if your child has vomited/had diarrhoea they should not attend school and should remain absent for 48 hours since their last bout of vomiting/diarrhoea. This is particularly important to minimise the spread and to keep the school open.

Please be reminded of our general health and safety guidelines:

- Children should not come to school too early but should aim to arrive as close to the bell as possible.
- Mornings tend to be busy for staff, so if you wish to speak to a teacher, 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. Details regarding how you can advise the school of your child's absence are available here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/public/stthomaspskeith/uploads/sites/5613/2025/03/12112153/Reporting-A-Pupil-Absence.pdf>

- **ROAD SAFETY MARKINGS AT THE SCHOOL GATE**

Please be reminded that you should not be stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the car park gate, particularly at dropping off and picking up times. We understand that stopping or parking on Chapel Street can be challenging and that you want your child to get out of the car as near to the school as possible, however there is a very important reason for these lines and that is to protect children who are coming round the corner and also children crossing the road to school. Due to their size they may not always be visible to a driver. Safety of children is a top priority and your help with this is appreciated.

It was raised that our "no stopping" policeman signs have not been used much recently, however these should not be the only reason to adhere to the road safety markings. We will try to put these out when we can but in the meantime please be considerate of the safety of children.

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, eg. '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.
- We do encourage pupils to change into a PE kit for PE lessons. Boys and girls are offered separate changing areas. For pupils who do not have a PE kit from home, we offer a new PE kit (shorts and t-shirt) for them to wear and keep at school. Please send your child to school with suitable footwear for PE, it is not easy to do PE in heavy boots, slippers or wellies.
- 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.

Useful links:

[Talking about the cost of the school day](#)

[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](#)

To support the Cost of the School Day, the school has a bank of recycled and new sweatshirts/cardigans/jackets/trousers/pinafores/polo shirts. These are free to anyone and can either be collected or sent home with your child on request. Parents are welcome to come into school to view or can phone the school with their requests.

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

Change of clothes – we have a small stock of clothes that are used when pupils' own clothes have gotten wet/muddy. Please remember to return these items to school for use or alternatively you can include a spare set of clothes in your child's bag if you think that it may be required.

School Website

Please check out our website, see the link below.

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

School Uniform Suppliers

Our online uniform suppliers are www.myclothing.com

We also have a range of good quality recycled school clothing in our School Clothes Bank (see information above)

Parent Council

Date of next meeting - AGM

Thursday 25th September 6.30pm

Childcare to be confirmed.

Minutes from last meeting are available on the school website.

Canteen

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

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file147882.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

Dates for your Diary

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| Monday 2nd June | Occasional Day Holiday – school closed |
| Wednesday 4th June | Sponsored Walk |
| Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th June | P7 Transition Days at KGS |
| Tuesday 10th June | Whole school transition |
| Friday 20th June | P7 Leavers Mass 9.30am in the church |
| Wednesday 25th June | P4-7 Trip to Grampian Transport Museum |
| Thursday 26th June | Prize giving (including Leaver's Assembly) 10am in school hall |
| Friday 27th June | End of Term |
| Monday 18th August & Tuesday 19th August | In-services days. School staff only. |
| Wednesday 20th August | Autumn Term Starts |
| Monday 22nd September | School photographer – individual/family photos/class photos/whole school Photo |
| Thursday 25th September | Parent Council AGM 6.30pm. Childcare to be confirmed |

A full list of school holidays can be found at <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file123291.pdf>

