

St Thomas Primary School



Spring Term End 2026

As we near the end of Spring Term, there are lots of things to look forward to. Mrs Dawson has been busy preparing pupils for the annual Burns Federation Competition which will be held at Portlethen Academy on Saturday 7th March. Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils have also been rehearsing for the Scottish Opera performance which is due to take place on Wednesday 11th March at Keith Primary School. Details have been sent and parents/grandparents are welcome to attend (doors open at Keith Primary at 1.50pm).

Also taking place, have been lunchtime transition sessions held at Keith Grammar School for P7 pupils. There is also the opportunity for them to join the Friday evening sessions held at The Loft. These are both great ways for them to meet other P7 pupils moving up to Keith Grammar School in August. We will also be sending out details regarding transition sessions for new P1 pupils.

Please see the "Dates for your Diary" section at the end of the newsletter. Note that this may be subject to change and further dates will be added. We will keep you informed.



On 27th February we held our Burns Celebration Day. We were lucky enough to have our very own piper this year. We enjoyed a wee ceilidh dance as well as the delicious haggis, neeps and tatties, many thanks to our brilliant lunch ladies.

On 18th February, we joined St Thomas parishioners at Ash Wednesday Mass. Staff received a number of comments about how respectful our pupils were and how well they had joined in with hymns and prayers. It is always nice to hear good things about our pupils!



There has been a drop in attendance at Breakfast Club, which currently is provided on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It would be great to see more pupils attending so that we can keep it going.

We would like to welcome back our student teacher, Mia Cameron to St Thomas', who will be undertaking her placement here with Primary 1-4 class.

Attendance

Please can parents/carers be reminded that if your child is absent, you must report the absence promptly (and on each and every day your child is absent) either by the following methods:

- Parents Portal www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal
- School Telephone or Email Telephone: 01542 882256/01542 886841
- e-mail: admin.stthomasp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

The Parents Portal gives you flexibility to report the absence the night before or early in the morning. We would like to encourage you to register for the Parents Portal (if you have not already done so):

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

If an absence is unreported the following are the guidelines:

If we cannot immediately make contact with you or a partner, then we will contact the person you have named as your family emergency contact. FAILURE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU OR ANY OF YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACTS WILL RESULT IN US ALERTING POLICE SCOTLAND.

Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Access to the school

As you will be aware from the message sent, access to the school is currently via the school car park, due to maintenance work required to the wall bordering the pupil pathway. This will be undertaken soon but in the

meantime, please take care when entering and exiting the car park on foot and also be aware of the following message regarding road safety markings at the school gate. Do not use the car park for dropping off/picking up.

- **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. Please do not drive into the school staff carpark to drop children off. The safety of our children is a top priority and your help with this is appreciated.

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)

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 you Diary

Thursday	5 th March	World Book Day	Come to school wearing clothes you like to read in.
Friday	6 th March	P7 Transition Activities at Loft Youth Project	5.30-6.30pm
Saturday	7 th March	Burns Federation Competitions	Details sent to parents of pupils taking part
Wednesday	11 th March	Scottish Opera Workshop and Performance at Keith Primary School	P5, P6 and P7 pupils Details have been emailed to parents
Wednesday	11 th March	Parent Council Meeting	6pm in School Hall
Friday	13 th March	P7 Transition Activities at Loft Youth Project	5.30-6.30pm
Friday	20 th March	P7 Transition Activities at Loft Youth Project	5.30-6.30pm
Thursday	26 th March	Easter Egg Competition	Details to follow
Friday	27 th March	P7 Transition Activities at Loft Youth Project	5.30-6.30pm
Monday-Friday	30 th March – 10 th April	Spring Holiday	School closed
Monday	13 th April	Summer Term commences	
Monday & Tuesday	20 th & 21 st April	Parents' Evenings	Email sent – please ensure you reply by 10 th March. 3.30-5.20pm
Wednesday	22 nd April	Netball Taster Session for P4-7 Girls	1.30-2.30pm
Wednesday	29 th April	Outdoor Learning with Dorenell Rangers – funded by EDF energy (1 of 3 sessions)	P1-6 Activity
Tuesday - Wednesday	5 th – 6 th May	Outdoor Trip for P5-6 pupils	Details to follow
Thursday	7 th May	May Procession of Flowers in Church	2pm
Friday	8 th May	Outdoor Learning with Dorenell Rangers – funded by EDF energy (2 of 3 sessions)	P1-6 Activity
Tuesday	12 th May	Family Picnic & Sports Day	Details to follow
Wednesday	13 th May	Outdoor Learning with Dorenell Rangers – funded by EDF energy (3 of 3 sessions)	P1-6 Activity
Thursday	14 th May	Ascension Day Mass in Church	9.30am
Tuesday	2 nd June	Sponsored Walk/Scavenger Hunt in Cuthil Park	Details to follow
Friday	26 th June	Leavers' Mass in Church	9.30am
Wednesday	1 st July	Leaver's Assembly and Prize Giving	2pm
Thursday	2 nd July	End of Term	