

St Thomas Primary School



Summer Term 2026

As we start the last term of the session (which is always a busy one), we can reflect on the activities from last term.

On Saturday 7th March we had a very successful visit to the Burns Federation Competition in Aberdeen. Mrs Raikes and Mrs Dawson travelled with them on the bus (which was funded by the Banffshire Educational Trust). They certainly represented themselves well and were delighted with the results:



P6 and P7 pupils also took part in the annual Scottish Opera Workshop and Performance at Keith Primary School. Once again this was a very enjoyable experience for them and a great way to interact/perform with other pupils in the Keith ASG School area.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Dawson for all her hard work in preparing the pupils for the Burns music competitions and Scottish Opera performance. Her voluntary contribution to the school's musical experience is hugely appreciated.

Primary 5-7 pupils are also having the opportunity to take part in Drumfun workshops in school on Friday 15th, 29th May and Friday 5th and 12th June and is funded by the Youth Music Initiative.

A motivational and fitness workshop for the whole school will also be delivered by Andy McKechnie from Jammin Fitness on Friday 22nd May. This workshop is being funded by PEF.

For World Book Day, pupils enjoyed having a 'mystery reader' during the morning, who was revealed as Mrs Hendry. Thank you very much to her for supporting the school.

Our P5-7 pupils took part in Stations of the Cross with parishioners in the morning and they represented the school with great respect. It is lovely to hear parishioners commenting on their reverence and willingness to participate. All the school and nursery pupils decorated boiled eggs. There were some very creative characters and designs and the winners and runners up in each class had an Easter egg prize. A carousel of Spring-themed crafts and activities was enjoyed by school and nursery pupils in the afternoon and everyone went home with a wee choccy treat. Many thanks to Parent Council for supporting this and for providing the prizes.

We started off this term with Parents' Evenings on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st April. There was a good turnout and despite the adaptation due to staff absence we were able to continue with the majority of appointments as planned.

Extended transition activities have commenced at secondary schools, ensuring that confidence is built prior to the transition days in June. P7 parents have also been issued with details of how to apply for their child's Young Scot Card which is used for cashless catering in secondary schools in addition to free bus travel. If you have not already applied for this, please ensure that you do so as soon as possible. You will find a full list of transition activities in the Diary Dates section at the end of this email.

Details have been to parents of new P1 pupils starting in August of our planned transition days and new P1 Parents' Information Meeting. If you have not received a letter, please contact us.

We look forward to some planned outdoor activities for the whole school with the Dorenell Rangers. These will take place in the school grounds and Cuthil Park.

P5 and P6 pupils have their Outdoor Moray adventure days this week, funded by PEF.

A road safety magic show is also planned for P1-4 pupils on Thursday 7th May.

Our Breakfast Club continues on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Pupils' attendance is encouraged so that we can continue to offer this next session. Please note the last week of term (week commencing Monday 29th June) there will be no Breakfast Club.

As advised the office hours have changed this session. There will be no administrator cover on Mondays weekly and staff present will monitor the reception. You are encouraged to sign up for the Parent Portal to report absences (see link below in the attendance section. Please also remember to advise absences promptly. Thank you for your understanding.

Handbook

An updated copy of our Handbook is available on the school website or you can request a paper copy from the school office:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/public/stthomaspskeith/uploads/sites/5613/2026/01/28130139/Handbook-2026.pdf>

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

Since the last newsletter, repairs to the boundary wall has been undertaken and normal access to the school has been resumed.

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

Isabella Gordon Commemoration

Keith Schools (Keith Primary, St Thomas Primary, Keith Grammar and Newmill Primary) are taking part in a series of commemoration events to celebrate the life of the famous Keith born Marine Biologist, Dr Isabella Gordon. A Japanese blossom tree will be planted in each school, with a plaque, which will be unveiled by the Japanese Ambassador and this will be followed by a concert here at St Thomas Primary on Monday 18th May at 2pm. Parents/carers/grandparents are welcome to attend.

Parent Council

As advised the Parent Council now have an email address parentcouncilstthomas@gmail.com

The Parent Council are hosting a fundraising Chocolate Tombola during the Strawberry Tea on Wednesday 27th May.

Donations for this will be gratefully received in school from Monday 18th May.

Diary Dates

Thursday	7 th May	Road Safety Magic Show for P1-4 pupils	P1-4
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	See details below
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 – To be Confirmed	9.30am
Friday	15 th May	Drumfun Workshops	P4-7
Monday	18 th May	Isabella Gordon Commemorative Event	2pm (see details above)
Monday	18 th May	Collections for Chocolate Tombola at Strawberry Tea	Hand into school
Monday	18 th May	Isabella Gordon Commemoration	Details to follow
Tuesday	19 th May	Back up day for Family Picnic & Sports Day	
Friday	22 nd May	Jammin Fitness Workshop	Whole School (am)
Monday	25 th May	Whole school trip to Dolphin Centre at Spey Bay	Details to follow
Tuesday	26 th May	May Procession of Flowers in Church	To be Confirmed
Wednesday	27 th May	Strawberry Tea	Details to follow – note this is instead of Daffodil Tea on 25 th March
Friday	29 th May	Drumfun Workshops	P4-7
Tuesday	2 nd June	Sponsored Walk/Scavenger Hunt in Cuthil Park	Details to follow
Wednesday	3 rd June	New P1 Parents' Information Meeting	2.30-3pm in school hall
Friday	5 th June	Drumfun Workshops	P4-7
Thursday	11 th June	Whole school visit to Gordon Castle Walled Gardens to view our decorated scarecrows for the competition	Details to follow

Diary Dates (Continued)

Friday	12 th June	Drumfun Workshops	P4-7 (morning)
Friday	12 th June	TMSA Performers	Whole school - afternoon
Tuesday-Thursday	23 rd , 24 th and 25 th June	P7 Induction Days at Keith Grammar School	Details will be sent from Keith Grammar
Tuesday	23 rd June	Whole school moving up day	
Tuesday	30 th June	Leaver's Assembly and Prize Giving	2.15pm (date changed from 1 st July)
Tuesday	30 th June	Leaver's Assembly and Prize Giving	2.15pm (date changed from 1 st July)
Thursday	2 nd July	Leavers' Mass in Church	9.30m (date changed from 26 th June)
Thursday	2 nd July	End of Term	School will finish at the usual time of 3.15pm
Wednesday	19 th August	Autumn Term Commences	



- Family picnic starting around 12.30pm on the field- tea /coffee and juice available provided by Parent Council.
- Please bring something to sit on.
- Sports stations starting at 1.15pm to 1.45pm
- 15 min break for ice lollies (Parent Council will provide)
- 2-3pm running races on the field

