

St Thomas Primary School



Determination

Respect

Faith

Autumn Term End 2026

It was great to see so many of you at the Open Event on Tuesday 29th September. The response was fantastic and this was such a positive experience for your children to share their learning with you. Our next event like this, will be on Thursday 4th February. So if you missed this one, please be sure to come along to the next.

You will have seen the "Contexts of Learning" posters that were emailed out. These illustrate the four distinct areas that make up children's planned learning experiences and how each class have embraced this over this term. As part of shared learning experiences, we will be aiming to send these out to you regularly.

An Outfit Moray trip is being planned for P5 and P6 pupils on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November. Building personal development and self-confidence, this trip will also help prepare for transition to senior educational stages. Look out for further details which will be sent in the next few weeks.

Our free Breakfast Club continues to run from 8.20 -8.45am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. So that we can inform how the service can be optimised, we will be sending out an online survey for all parents to complete. The survey will be anonymous and it would be appreciated if all parents take the time to complete this. Thank you!

You will be aware from the email sent that Mrs Ironside has scheduled visits to the P1-4 class for a dog therapy volunteer in training. This is through the organisation Canine and Able. As part of this, a comprehensive risk assessment, vet checks as well as a temperament check have been completed on the canine involved. All vaccinations as well as flea, worming and tic checks are routinely carried out. The dog involved is called Simba. There are two handlers who attend with Simba and a PVG check has also been undertaken by their organisation. The visits last no longer than 1 hour in duration and the risk assessment has been shared with all staff as well as the handlers so they can ensure protocols are followed. Mrs Ironside and her class are looking forward to working with Simba. We plan to extend the visits to the P5-7 class too.

Please remember that if your child is unable to attend school you should make contact with the school advising the reason for absence on each and every day your child is absent from school. If we have not heard from you and cannot immediately make contact with you, then we will contact the person(s) you have named as your family emergency contact. Please be aware that guidelines indicate that failure to make contact with you or any of your emergency contacts will result in us alerting Police Scotland.

We have been asked to share details with you about a Poppy Book launch at Keith Library on the 15th of October where John Harrington, Deputy Lieutenant, will be representing the Lord Lieutenant Andrew Simpson. You are cordially invited and they have advised there will be a small gift to all who attend. Whilst not represented in the book, some of our St Thomas RC poppy artwork will be on display at the event. A coffee morning to further promote the book is on the 17th October at the North Kirk Hall 10am to 12pm. All proceeds to go to at least five Armed Forces charities. At both events the Poppy Book will be on sale at £9.00 or two for £15.00.

Please see the updated list of diary dates at the end of the newsletter.

Parents Portal

We are aiming to have all parents registered 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>

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:

<https://www.moray.gov.uk/media/paefvo3e/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

See the link below for a full list of holiday dates:

<https://www.moray.gov.uk/learning-and-education/schools/school-term-dates-and-holidays/>

Friday 9 th October	End of Autumn Term	Usual finish time
Thursday the 15 th October	Keith Library Poppy Book Launch	Wall hanging of St Thomas RC Poppies.
Tuesday 3 rd – Friday 6 th November	Bikeability	Details to follow
Wednesday 11 th – Thursday 12 th November	Outfit Moray Trip for P5/6 pupils	Details to follow
Friday 13 th November until Friday 4 th December	STAR sessions (Sports, Technology, Arts and Recreation) organised through Active Schools for P5-7 pupils	Details to follow
Wednesday 9 th December	Canteen Christmas Lunch	Nursery & School
Monday 14 th December	Nativity in Church	TBC
Tuesday 15 th December	P5-7 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Wednesday 16 th December	P1-4 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Tuesday 22 nd December	End of Winter Term	Usual finish time
Thursday 4 th February	Sharing Our Learning	3-4pm