

December 4th 2020 School Newsletter



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Dates

- ◆ 11/12/20 - PTA Christmas Raffle
- ◆ 17/12/20 - Christmas dinner
- ◆ 18/12/20 - Break the rules day
- ◆ 18/12/20 - Last day of term
- ◆ 5/1/2021 - Term starts

Free School Meal Vouchers

I am sure you are aware from the news that food vouchers are being issued over Christmas for those children entitled to Free School Meals. You should receive a letter by the **8th December** from Devon County Council with how to claim your voucher.

Governor's Corner

A Message from the Chair:

Hello everyone! This is a quick note to introduce myself, and to give you an update on behalf of the school governors. I'm Chris Edwards and I became the Chair of Governors for St Thomas earlier this year.

So far this term, we governors have been focussing on the school's top priorities, which of course included the safe reintroduction of all pupils following the spring lockdown and the summer break. We have also reviewed and approved the school development plan, and are supporting the school in its efforts to close the gap in reading, writing, and maths against national expectations.

We also wanted to increase the number of governors and the breadth of skills on the governing board, and I am thrilled to say that we have done both of these things by adding three fantastic new governors to the team. On behalf of us all, we are delighted to serve the school and are here to help.

COVID 19

As we pick our way through the winter bugs and colds I would like to thank everyone for their sensible approach to keeping children off if they are poorly and contacting the school immediately. The key symptoms of COVID 19 remain the same:

- High temperature
- A new persistent cough
- Loss of taste

Should anyone in your family bubble have **any** of these symptoms the whole family **must** self-isolate. Contact NHS 111 or <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> if you would like further advice. The person in the family displaying the symptoms will need have a COVID test. If it is negative the family can return to normal activities if it is a positive test the family group will need to self-isolate. It is important that the school is kept informed as quickly as possible at each stage so we can take the appropriate actions here to keep the community safe and healthy. During school office hours (8am-4pm) a phone call is the best method. Out of school hours I can be messaged on Class Dojo and e-mails are checked regularly - admin@st-thomas.devon.sch.uk. If you are unsure please contact the school as we will be able to talk you through what to do next.

Christmas Cards

As requested previously a decision was made across the Trust schools that we would not do Christmas Cards this year. In the guidance for schools it asks to try and limit, as much as possible, the number items transferring between home and school. It therefore didn't seem sensible to have a situation with hundreds of items transferring between home, school and other households. Apologies if this causes any disappointment.

Reminders

There are a couple of dates that you may not want to miss. These are:

- Christmas dinners **must** be ordered by **Friday 11th December**.
- FOSS Christmas Raffle - Ticket orders must be in school by **Thursday 10th December**.



Year 5 learning about air resistance as part of their science work on forces!