

January 14th 2022 School Newsletter



Justin Stone - Head Teacher

Dan Jenkins - Deputy Head

Phone

01392 276854

E-mail

admin@st-thomas.devon.sch.uk

150 Years!

In 1870, education was made compulsory and in St Thomas a School Board was set up as the people felt there needed to be more schools in the area. Two schools were built at the end of Union Street; one of them a girl's senior school the other was an infant school. The first day at St Thomas Infant School was the **15th January 1872, 150 years ago!** In 1973 the school was called St Thomas First School and in November 2004 it became St Thomas Primary School- the school that we all know and love today. It is exciting to be celebrating 150 years and so we have planned a number of events throughout the year. We are going to be working with Theatre Alibi to collect memories from people who have attended the school. We have commissioned an artist who will be working with the children to create a new mosaic for the school to mark the occasion. In June we will have a celebration to share the memories we have collected and to share the art work. If you have memories or photos to share it would be great if these were e-mailed to admin@st-thomas.devon.sch.uk.

Dates

- ◆ 15/1/2022 - Primary admissions for Sept 2022 must be submitted.
- ◆ 20/1/2022 - Census Day
- ◆ 28/1/22 - Theatre Alibi
- ◆ 21-25/2/2022 - Half term
- ◆ 8/4/2022 - Last day of term

David Pugh

It is with sadness to inform the school community that just before Christmas David Pugh, the previous head teacher, died. I know many people within the community will still remember David who was so influential in many people's lives and saw the school through its transformation from an infant school to a primary school. He was passionate about St Thomas and always kept in touch to find out how the school and its community was getting on. I know he would have loved to have been involved in our 150th year celebrations. Our thoughts and best wishes go to the family at this time.

Reading

Reading is such an important skill and as the children move through the school it becomes vital for other learning. Those children that read well often make the best progress in other subjects. Over the last year we have introduced Read Write Inc for the beginning readers and Accelerated Reader for the older children to encourage them to read more. Whilst we are seeing an improvement in the children's reading it is important that it is part of their daily routine. Whilst time is given in the school day it is essential that the children practice their reading at home. It would be fantastic if this was most days.

Census

On Thursday 20th January it is the second of the school census days. The Department for Education use the census information to set the school's funding. One area that really helps us is around school dinners. If your child is entitled to a free school meal or universal free school meal (children in Reception, Years 1 and 2) can have a school dinner on that day. The kitchen has changed the menu to fish fingers and chips or vegetarian stir fry on that day.

Winter

Reception are studying winter for the start of this term. There is always great excitement when there is ice around!

