

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



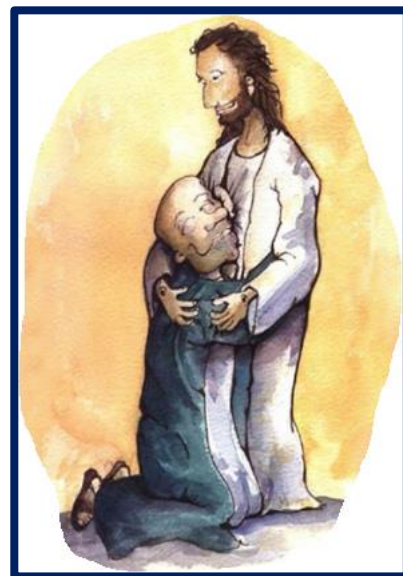
Friday 2nd May 2025

Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This week, our school community gathered for a special Eastertide assembly focused on faith, belief, and the joy of the resurrection. The children explored the story of Thomas' encounter with the risen Jesus, as told in John 20:19-31. Through drama and reflection, they learned about the importance of believing without seeing – a powerful message for all of us.



We were reminded that Jesus' resurrection brings renewed hope, joy, and peace. The children were encouraged to think about how they can carry that message into their daily lives and share it with others at school, at home, and in the wider community.

The message was clear: even in times of doubt or uncertainty, faith gives us strength and purpose.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of new life and the hope Your resurrection brings. Help us to believe in You even when we cannot see You. Fill our hearts with Your peace and joy and help us to share that love with those around us. Amen.

★ Stars of the Week ★

Well done to all of our Stars this week for putting so much effort into their work!

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| Nursery | Logen | For trying really hard in his Nursery tasks this week |
| Reception | Griffin | For writing a great sentence about Dinosaurs in English |
| Year 1 | Kavayah | For trying really hard to improve her writing |
| Year 2 | Demi | For always being a kind and thoughtful member of the class |
| Year 3 | Edith | For amazing Maths work all week |
| Year 4 | Oliver | For settling into Year 4 so confidently and bringing a positive attitude every day |
| Year 5 | Gurki | For making a super flipbook in our computing unit : stop-motion animation |
| Year 6 | Max | For a great piece of writing on climate change |



Merit Assemblies

It was a pleasure to see children proudly sharing their awards, certificates and trophies in today's Merit Assembly. From this half term onwards, children are encouraged to bring any achievements they'd like to share and we'll also be celebrating birthdays. If your child receives a Star of the Week certificate, you'll be notified on Thursday and invited to attend the Friday assembly to celebrate with us.



Dojo winners of the week – Year 3!

PTA

Thank you to those who contacted school to show your interest in attending the next PTA meeting. This will be on Friday 9th May at 3.30pm please do come along if you are able to make it.

We would like parents to join the PTA as previous members' children are leaving school this time. Please contact the office (admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk) and they will pass your details on. A PTA meeting will be arranged next week.

Stay and Pray

Parents are invited into class for quiet reflection and prayer with their child from 8.45am - 9am on the following days :

Y5 & Y6 – Tuesday 6th May

Y3 & Y4 – Wednesday 7th May

Y1 & Y2 – Thursday 8th May

Reception and Nursery – Friday 9th May

Year 2 – Formby Beach

Year 2 enjoyed a geography fieldtrip to Formby Beach where they completed sketch maps of the coast and collected data through questionnaires with the public. They then had lots of fun playing in the sand dunes and the weather was wonderful too!



Taking Holidays during Term Time

Please remember that taking your child out of school without the school's authorisation may result in the school requesting the Local Authority to issue a fixed penalty notice to each parent/carer for each child. The penalties are shown below. Please be aware that only a few days of absence can impact significantly on a child's attendance percentage and consequently the child's education and learning.

| Penalties for unauthorised absence | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Timeline | One child | Two children |
| Paid within 21 days | £80 per parent | £80 per child = £160 per parent |
| After 21 days and before 28 days | £160 per parent | £160 per child = £320 per parent |
| After 28 days | You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance | You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance |

Universal Free School Meals and Income Related Free School Meals

Do you know the difference?! You could be missing out on your entitlements.

All children in Reception class, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal under current Government policy; this is known as Universal Free School Meals. However, some children will be entitled to Income Related Free School Meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit shown below.

If this is the case, please apply for this even if your child is in Key Stage 1 as the school can then claim additional funding for resources, known as Pupil Premium, which can be able used to help your child with school trip and uniform costs. The financial benefit of Pupil Premium will remain with your child throughout their school years. This also applies to children in our Nursery.

Phone 0300123 5012 for further information and help or apply online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

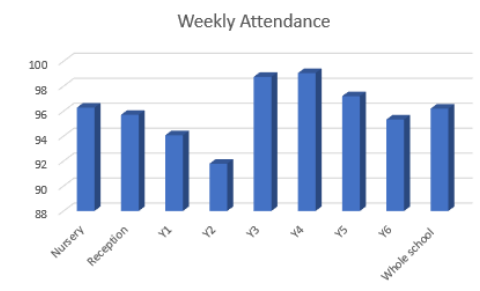
Income related free school meals (IRFSM)

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net annual earnings less than £16,190
- This is also applicable to nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

Attendance

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Nursery | 96.28% |
| Reception | 95.71% |
| Y1 | 94.44% |
| Y2 | 91.79% |
| Y3 | 98.75% |
| Y4 | 99.05% |
| Y5 | 92.20% |
| Y6 | 95.33% |
| Whole school | 96.20% |



Key Dates

No school on Bank Holiday - back on Tuesday 6th May
Y5 Forest School – Friday 9th May

Parent Lunches :

Y2 - Wednesday 7th May

Y1 - Friday 9th May

Reception and Nursery - Friday 16th May (change of date due to SATs)

Thank you as always for your continuous support and communication with the school. Please do contact the school if you would like to discuss anything concerning your child's education and/or welfare.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful long weekend,

Mr G Merrick
Deputy Headteacher

