

**St Thomas CE (VC)
Primary School
Newsletter
17th May 2024**

Diary Dates:

- **Sponsored Wacky Olympics Wednesday May 22nd**
- **May Half Term: Monday 27th -31st May**
- **Tuesday 4th June – Y4 Trip to Manchester Museum**

**Head
Teacher's
Message**



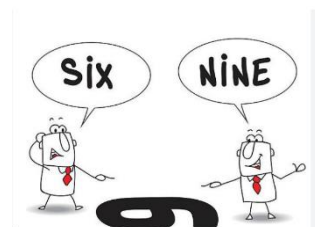
As you will see below, we have talked this week about perception and viewpoints. We used this example: What colours do you see, how would you describe the picture? If any of you can see red you may be surprised that there are actually no red pixels on this picture (see close up), but our mind tells us otherwise - because we are so familiar with the product and the shading around it!



It has been a good discussion point for us all, especially when supporting children through friendship clashes. A child may be adamant that something happened in a certain way but there is always another side to the story. A parent shared a great mantra with me last week: **trust but verify!** If a pupil shares a problem with us, we start with the premise of trust and truth and then we explore to verify, to ensure we are being kind and fair to all.

Often no one is lying but no one is right!

If your child raises a concern with you, we of course expect you to advocate for your child (who wouldn't?!) but it's always good to pause and consider all sides!



**Collective
Worship**

This week we continued our theme of Love and looked at the importance of understanding different getting view points and perceptions.



FOST

Our sponsored Wacky Olympics event will take place in school during Wednesday 22nd May. Please send children in a wacky outfit that is suitable for schoolwork for the rest of the day or PE kit. Sponsorship forms with information have been given out. Children who collect sponsors will receive a certificate, medal and a prize when money is collected. We will be collecting sponsorship money up until Friday 7th June in a named envelope. Thank you for your continued support.

S.O.S



Thanks to all families who have helped with this. I'll leave it on for one more week!!

Please can I ask that pupils STOP bringing backpacks to school. Packed lunches need to be in small lunch bags. We are not trying to be spoilsports but we just don't have the storage capacity for larger bags on shelves or in the classrooms. ***This is not a new policy and has been explained in previous parent information.***



Reception



This week we have introduced our new mini project 'Shadows and Reflections'. We have been exploring how shadows are formed and how they can change. We have worked in groups to draw around our different shadows and explored which materials show our reflections and which don't. We have also been finding out about opaque and transparent materials in our environment.

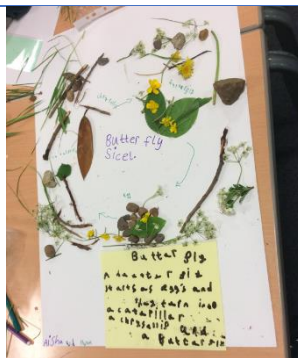


Year 1

Year 1 have been outside learning all about parts of a plant and its function. They created their own flower using natural resources and had a fabulous time in the process.



Year 2



Year 2 have been looking at life cycles in science this week. First, they looked at the life cycle of the stick insect then they looked at the life cycle of a chicken, butterfly and a frog. Next the children created their own life cycle from the natural objects they collected from outside. They all worked very hard in their pairs and produced some fantastic life cycles.

Year 3

In Year 3 we took our learning outside and showed our understanding of Roman civilisation but making our own human diagram (on the steps!) AND using our knowledge to play games.

Year 4



In Year 4 this week we learnt about Howard Carter's search for Tutankhamun's tomb and the wonderful treasures they found as the seal of the tomb was broken. As part of our lesson, we became archaeologists and searched inside Tutankhamun's tomb for artefacts. We considered what was in there, what they were made of and why they were thought of as important enough to be placed in the tomb.

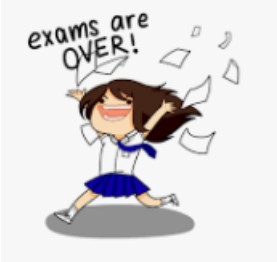
Year 5

Sieving and filtering



Another messy Science investigation! Both classes are loving this half-term's Science lessons; "Properties and changes of Materials" as they have worked sensibly and methodically through various investigations as we gain a better understanding of how different materials can be separated.

Year 6



Our Year 6 did us proud this week with their mature attitude towards their national tests. Now we move on to transition lessons and completing the curriculum for the year. The high schools are all arranging visits and we are looking forward to supporting them on to their next step in education.

Attendance

We continue to monitor attendance and identify persistent absentees (less than 90%). We are keenly aware that there may be genuine and compelling reasons for pupil absence and the monitoring involves working with families to remove barriers and support pupils in their school attendance.

Attendance Matters

