Newsletter

Monday 4th February	Music lessons: Ukulele and Brass Class 2 Ukulele lesson Class 3 Brass lesson After School: **Choir**
Tuesday 5th February	Music lessons: Keyboard and Woodwind After School: **Football, Photography Club**
Wednesday 6th February	Music lessons: Violin
Thursday 7th February	Music lessons: Guitar Mini –Stars Athletics event for year 3 and 4 children Music Festival – Guitars and Ukulele After School: **Football and Beatlets**
Friday 8th February	Swimming lessons start for class 4 and year 4 children in class 3

⭐ Stars of the Week ⭐

Lyla Thomas, Harrison Gannon, Riley Farrington, Grace Ashurst, Oliver Thewlis, Freya Green, Amelia Bollard-Wilkes, Freddie Petrillo, Natalie Ogden, Charlie Wild (6), Emme-Lou Thompson

Attendance Trophy

This week's winners are Class 5 with 95% attendance.

Class 1– 92.9%

Class 2 – 91.8%

Class 3 – 94.2%

Class 4 – 93.7%

Average class attendance this week is **93.5%**

Attendance is a collective responsibility. Parents have a statutory duty to ensure that their children are attending school regularly.

Adverse Weather

On Wednesday 27th January, 39 children were absent from school. Many parents phoned in to say their children were sick – yet their children were seen sledging, playing in the streets with the snow (photographs and comments were posted on Facebook and spotted by staff) and even seen having a lovely breakfast at a local retail park. Of the 39 children absent on Wednesday, only one remained absent on Thursday and only 5 were ill on Tuesday.

Some parents made the decision to keep their children off because they didn't know whether school was open or closed. If I take the decision to close the school, parents will be notified by a spider message, an emergency message posted on the school website and a post on the 'Discuss Newhey and Milnrow' Facebook page. The only time school will close in adverse weather is if there are not enough staff to cover the classes and the local main roads are closed. All the school staff, that were expected in school on Wednesday made it to work and most were on time.

All absences on Wednesday will be recorded as unauthorised – unless there is proof of illness (previous to and post Wednesday absence, medication, doctor's note etc).

Health and Wellbeing

Head lice

There are a number of children in school with head lice. It is important that all long hair is tied up and all children have their hair checked and treatment applied if necessary over the weekend. The best method to eradicate this problem is to use the' wet combing method' on a weekly basis. The only way to get rid of head lice is for everyone to take responsibility for their children by checking regularly and treating accordingly. School can only inform parents. If parents choose to ignore our messages, there is not a lot we can do.

Music Festival

The music festival events start this week for our school. The children who take part always show an amazing amount of confidence, courage and resilience. The music festival gives the children the opportunity to play in a large space and to an unknown audience as part of a competition. I would like to wish all of the children involved good luck.

Safeguarding

Useful information for supporting families with keeping children safe can be found at www.nspcc.org. This website contains a variety of support materials and advice on a wide range of topics including leaving your child at home alone, drugs and alcohol concerns, online behaviours, talking about difficult subjects and many more.

If you have any concerns please speak to Mrs Williams (safeguarding lead) or Miss Hobbs (deputy safeguarding lead).

From the Office

Swimming

Letters have been sent out to all children in class 4 and the year 4 children in class 3. These need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Lessons start on Friday 8th February and will continue until July.

Winmarleigh Hall

All payments must be received by 28th February. If you are struggling to make the payments, please contact the office staff as soon as possible.

Music Lessons

Reminders have been sent out about this half terms music lesson payments. The money needs to be in school as soon as possible. Children receiving brass lessons should take off the cost of two lessons from their bill, due to Ben's illness.

Clothing

At this time of year there a lots of extra items of clothing around school. Whilst staff work hard to ensure that the right items of clothing go to the correct child, there is not always the time in the school day to ensure a 100% success rate.   You can help by teaching you child put their clothing in their own bag and by labelling all items with their name.

Musical instruments

There are lots of musical instruments left in school from week to week which do not get taken home. Practice at home helps children to develop their proficiency with their instrument.
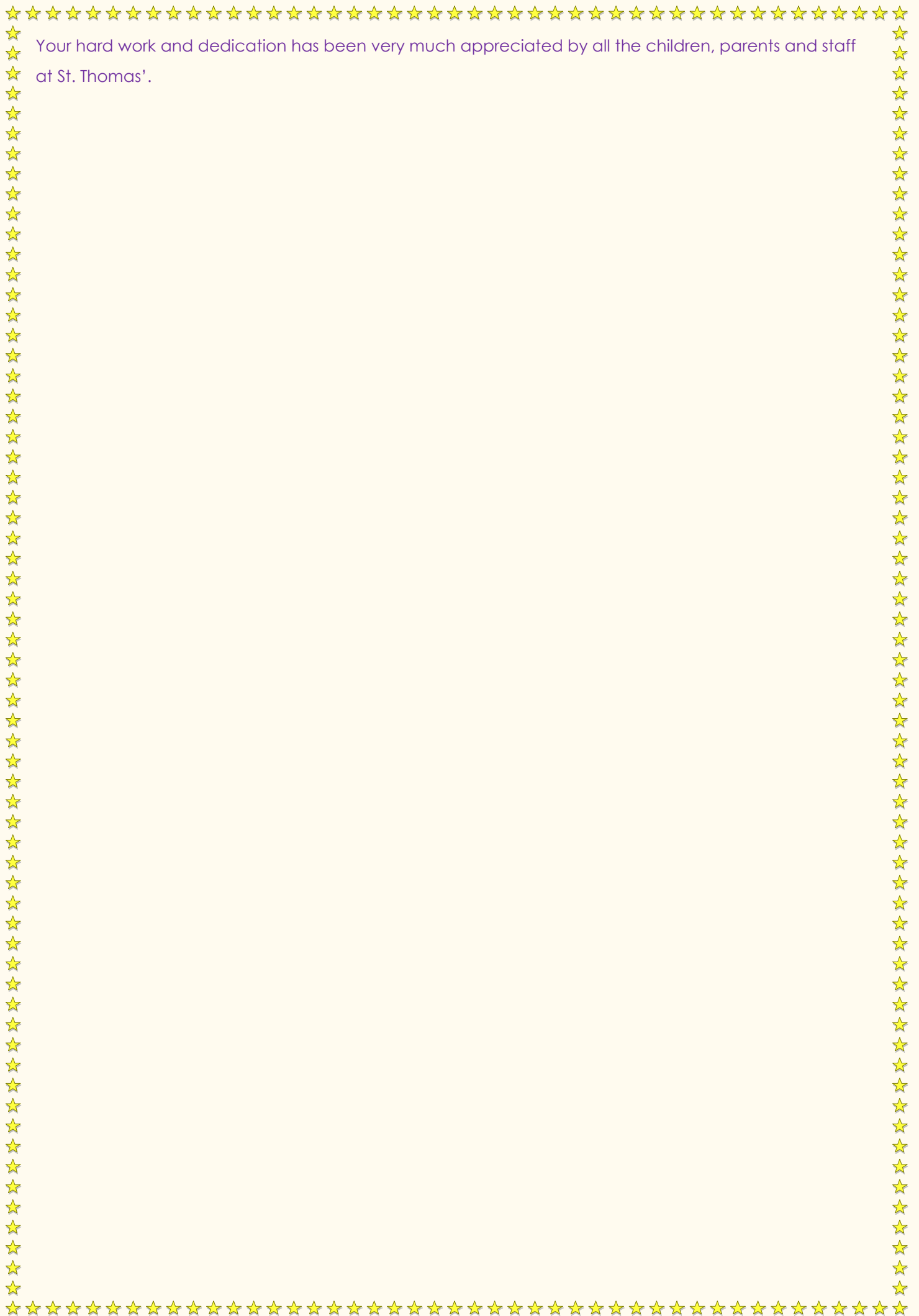
Faith

This half term we are focusing on **'Respect'**. We will be looking at how the Bible teaches us to be respectful of ourselves and of others. This week we focused on respecting differences and that we should treat everyone equally irrespective of race, gender, faith, disability and sexual orientation.

FROST

The Annual General Meeting is being held in school on Wednesday 13th February from 3.30pm. At this meeting, a new committee will be elected. Every parent is automatically a member of FROST (Parents' Association) and can therefore volunteer to be on the committee and vote in the election. School staff will operate a crèche, so that your children can be looked after whilst you attend the meeting. The meeting will be informal. There will be an opportunity to find out about the work of FROST, followed by the election of committee members. It is possible to be on the committee without a designated role. The more parents that get involved and commit their time, the better FROST can be.

I would like thank the outgoing Chair of FROST, Mrs Reynolds, for all of the time and effort she has put into keeping FROST going and organising the events that have taken place over the past five years.

Your hard work and dedication has been very much appreciated by all the children, parents and staff at St. Thomas'.