



THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

17/12/25

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a wonderfully busy and successful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements, experiences and opportunities that have made the start of this academic year such a positive one. The children have made an excellent start, showing curiosity, resilience and kindness in all they do, and we could not be more proud of them.

We have already enjoyed tremendous success in our charity work. Our **Rudolf Run for St Clare's Hospice** was a joyous community event, and thanks to your generosity we raised **nearly £2,000**. Equally inspiring was our support for the **PACT charity**, for which our school community raised an impressive **£1,400**. These achievements reflect the compassion and commitment that define our school.

We were also thrilled to receive the **Platinum OPAL Play Award**, recognising our play offer as one of the best in the country. This achievement is testament to the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our children, and your ongoing support.

Our fabulous **PTA** has once again been instrumental in enhancing our school experience. From organising events to leading fundraising initiatives, they have given their time so generously. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their tireless work—it truly makes a difference.

Sport has been another area of huge pride this term. Our pupils have attended a **plethora of sporting events**, consistently placing at the top of the leaderboards. We have also achieved the **KS1 Active Mark** and have submitted our application for the **EYFS Active Mark**, demonstrating our continued commitment to physical activity and wellbeing.

We launched this year's **Junior Duke Awards** with great excitement, supported by a fantastic assembly from our ambassadors at **Leyton Orient**. The children are already embracing the challenges with enthusiasm.

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As part of our commitment to pupil wellbeing and safety, we supported **Anti-Bullying Week** and delivered additional learning on online safety, working with the **Breck Foundation** to provide children with vital knowledge and awareness.

Our programme of inviting parents into school has begun warmly, with **Reception and Year 1 families joining their children for lunch**. It has been wonderful to welcome so many of you into school and to see the joy it brings to the children.

Enrichment remains at the heart of our curriculum, and this term our children have already enjoyed an incredible range of experiences. The School Council visited the **Houses of Parliament**, gaining a real insight into democracy in action, while other year groups took part in fascinating **Viking workshops** and lively **African drumming sessions**. We welcomed special visitors such as **Rabbi Yanky** and **The Pearly Queen**, who brought learning to life in unique and memorable ways. Some classes experienced the magic of live performance through visits to the **Royal Opera House** and an opera production. We also marked **Remembrance Day** with respect and reflection, joined the **Multi Schools Council**, and saw several pupils begin their **Bikeability** training.

This term also marks the launch of our new **Pupil Eco Council**, led by Mrs Lovell and Mrs Holland. In line with our commitment to the *Let's Go Zero* initiative, our Eco Council will be working hard to champion climate action across the school. We are delighted to share that, as part of this ongoing effort, we expect to have **solar panels installed by the end of the year**, a significant step in reducing our carbon footprint and modelling environmental responsibility for our pupils.

We also enjoyed a fabulous **Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**, where staff and children came together to share a delicious roast dinner. The hall was filled with festive cheer as everyone sang along to Christmas music, making it a truly joyful celebration of the season.

As a school, we remain firmly committed to supporting a **Smartphone-Free Childhood**. Increasing evidence shows that excessive screen time and early access to smartphones are contributing to the mental health crisis many children in this country are facing. As responsible adults, it is time for all of us to take action. We ask parents to consider alternative options if they wish their child to have access to a device for safety—**trackers and non-smart mobile phones** can provide the necessary reassurance without exposing children to the pressures, risks and complexities of smartphone use. By working together, we can help protect children's wellbeing and ensure they enjoy a safe, healthy and balanced childhood.

As we celebrate all that has been achieved this term, we also take a moment to say a fond and heartfelt farewell to **Brenda Andrews**, who has been a cherished member of our Nursery team for an incredible **18 years**. Brenda has contributed so much to our school community, nurturing our youngest children with warmth, skill and dedication. Although we are very sad to see her go, we wish her every happiness as she leaves to care for her lovely new grandchild. She will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike.

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We were delighted to see so many families attending the children's wonderful **Christmas performances**—thank you for your warmth, encouragement and enthusiastic support. We are also very grateful for your generous contributions to the Christmas raffle and all fundraising efforts this term. It is this additional support that enables us to offer such a rich and memorable school experience for your children.

Thank you once again for your partnership, kindness and ongoing support. I wish you all a peaceful, joyful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Teresa Phillips and the TWS Team

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