



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a lovely week.

In our Monday assembly, we reflected on Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus is described as our Shepherd. We thought about how this links to last week's message—that we are called to be Jesus' presence on Earth. This means we too can be like shepherds, setting a good example and supporting one another. We also reflected on the important role our adults play in guiding us, just as a shepherd cares for their flock. Linked to this, we marked Vocations Sunday, thinking about how we are all called to different roles in life—whether as priests, teachers, parents or in other ways—each one helping to guide and care for others.

Today, we enjoyed a very special milestone as Reception Class led their first assembly. They reminded us beautifully of the wonder of the world God created for us and the importance of caring for it. We were very proud of them all.

Finally, we share some important staff news. We wish Ms Marsden all the very best as she begins her maternity leave—this is such a special time, and we look forward to hearing her happy news. We also say goodbye and thank you to Ms Hartley, our caretaker, who leaves us today to return to her vocation as a nurse. She has made a real difference to our school and will be greatly missed. We are pleased to welcome Mr Jones, who will be supporting the school in the short term.

It has also been wonderful to celebrate some of our top Dojo scorers, who were given the opportunity to visit The Fan Zone at The Crucible with Mr Richardson. The children enjoyed playing snooker and even trying out some trick shots. This was a well-deserved reward for those who consistently live out our school values of being ready, respectful and safe, as well as showing a keen interest in the sport—well done to them all.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend

God Bless

Mrs Clements

Call for Support – The Friends PTA

Our PTA, The Friends, are looking for support from our school community. We are hoping to connect with a qualified joiner (or someone with relevant carpentry experience) who would be willing to take a look at the wooden structure in the KS2 playground.

We would be grateful for help in identifying whether any maintenance or repairs are needed, and for a rough indication of any potential costs involved.

If you are able to help, or know someone who might be, please get in touch. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

School Calendar

Mon 4th May – May bank holiday (No pupils in school)

Tues 5th May – 15:30 Y1 Phonics Parent Meeting

Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May – **SATS Week**

Fri 15th May – Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

Fri 15th May – School Disco

Weds 20th – Fri 22nd May – Year 6 Residential

Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May

Half term break

Mon 1st June – Pupils return to school

Weds 3rd June – Non uniform day – bottle donation for summer Fair

Weds 3rd June – Toy & Book donations accepted for Summer Fair

Weds 10th June – Y6 Crucial Crew visit

Sunday 14th June – Summer Fair

Mon 15th June – Class Photos

Tues 16th June – Year 1 & 2 Trip to Butterfly House

Fri 19th June – Year 4 Trip to Magna

Weds 24th – Fri 26th June – Year 5 Residential

Mon 29th June 16:00 – Bookings open for Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings

Mon 29th June 14:15 – Year 3 & 6 Open Afternoon

Tues 30th June 14:15 – Year 2 & 4 Open Afternoon

Weds 1st July 14:15 – Year 1 & 5 Open Afternoon

Mon 6th July – Whole School Sports Day at EIS

Weds 8th July – Reception Class Trip to Cleethorpes

Weds 8th July 19:00 – Year 6 End of Year Show at Meadowhead School

Weds 15th July – Pre-school Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

Mon 20th July – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Tues 21st July – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Sheffield Children's Hospital Sleep Team survey

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and BrainTrain Ltd (manufacturers of Sleep Cogni) are collaborating on a survey of children's sleep in all primary schools in Sheffield. We would be very grateful for your support.

The impact of sleep disturbance on children's health is wide-ranging with sleep deprivation leading to difficulties with mood, social integration and problems with cognitive ability and learning.

The prevalence of sleep problems in childhood is thought to be rising, but although surveys have been carried out in Australia and Germany that indicate that 30-40% children have sleep problems, no data is available from school children in the UK. We will use these responses to describe the current issues with sleep in children of this age group in Sheffield.

Please use the below QR code to complete the survey.



Evo Afterschool Football Club

Bookings have opened for KS2 pupils to book onto the Evo Football Afterschool activity. This will be a great way to pupils to develop skills ahead of planned football games later in the term. Payment can be made via Parentpay for Summer term. The sessions will run on Thursday's after school starting Thursday 30th April, running for 1 hour, therefore finishing at 4:20pm. Sessions cost £4.50, therefore the 11 sessions for Summer term will total £49.50.

Myclothing.com discount code

We're pleased to share that parents and carers can enjoy 10% off school uniform at www.myclothing.com. Simply use code INTAKE26 at checkout. Valid until 31 July 2026.

Facilities Assistant job advert

Please see attached the advert & job description for upcoming role at our school.

Raffle prizes for Summer Fair

As we prepare for our summer fair, we are needing prizes for the raffle. If you or someone you know are able to donate a prize, please contact the school office or the friends directly on friends@st-tc.co.uk

Community voice survey for parents

Please see the below link survey from our governors.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9WVR-Zwo34Xsc3NbjVm7gwbXpzyAeZlm1-lny3Bi3XZEFew/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Breakfast & Afterschool club price increase from September 2026

Unfortunately, due to the ever-rising costs in staffing, food and resources we have no other option but to increase the breakfast and after school club to keep this sustainable.

The following charges will apply from September 2026.

Breakfast club £5.50

After school club £10.50

I am sure you will agree that this invaluable provision is still very competitively priced.

Thank you for your continued support.



Cakes/Sweets for birthday celebrations

We understand that parents/carers would like to send their child with a cake or sweet treats to celebrate their birthday with their class. Please can we ask that any food items sent in are shop bought in original packaging, with full ingredients list and also individually portioned for example, cupcakes, small packets of sweets etc. Going forward we will be unable to accept whole cakes that need to be cut and wrapped up to be sent home.

Toys in School

Just a reminder that toys and cards (for example Pokémon) are not allowed in school. If you feel that your child needs a fidget toy from home to support their learning, please contact Miss McKay, our SENCO to discuss this. senco@st-tc.co.uk

Uniform

White or red embroidered polo shirt

- Red embroidered school sweater (round neck) or cardigan
- Red gingham dress
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore dress
- In warm weather, black formal shorts, just above the knee, may be worn.
- Black leather fitted school shoes
- White or black socks or black tights

PE Kit

- Black shorts
- White or red embroidered round neck t-shirt
- Black jogging bottoms
- Grey embroidered hoodie
- Trainers for games

One stud earring may be worn in each ear as long as this can easily be removed by the child for PE but no other jewellery. Makeup, including nail varnish, may not be worn.

Children may wear a watch for school if they wish. Children may not have lettering, lines or other designs in their hair. We also ask that, for health and safety reasons, long hair is tied back.

Due to the weather, if children are wanting to play football/sports on the field, they must bring change of shoes.

Free School Meal Eligibility

We have seen an unprecedented rise in FSM eligibility in schools across Sheffield in the last few years.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs, not only will your child receive a FSM and free school milk but also financial support towards school trips.

With this in mind we want to make sure that our parents are aware of how to check their eligibility.

Even if you don't think you are eligible, it is worth your while to check.

<https://shorturl.at/x3ess>

Parking around school

We have been contacted multiple times recently regarding cars that are parking illegally near school. This can be dangerous and could cause an accident.

As a school we send out reminders to our parents and carers regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking. We also forward complaints to our contact at the local parking enforcement team. They will be doing spot checks and will give out fines to anyone parking illegally.

The following are examples of incorrect parking that can be reported to the enforcement team:

- parking on yellow lines, including adjacent to footways and verges
- stopping on zig zag lines by a crossing or outside a school
- using a disabled bay without a valid Blue Badge double parking
- dropped kerb access – in front of driveways

If you see a car that is causing danger to other road users or pedestrians then please use this link to report them.

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/report-incorrectly-parked-vehicle>

Summer Term PE Days

Reception	Friday AM
Year 1	Monday PM & Thursday AM
Year 2	Tuesday AM & Wednesday PM
Year 3	Thursday PM & Friday PM
Year 4	Tuesday AM & Thursday PM
Year 5	Wednesday AM & Thursday AM
Year 6	Wednesday AM & Thursday AM

AM - children come to school in their PE kit and bring their uniform to change into.

PM - children should come dressed in their uniform, with their PE kit to change into.

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **Flower**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/AGjMTw8R2BQ?si=WMiMy3klzEB5HwzR>



Mime smelling perfume

Golden Broom Winner

Each week, our caretaker chooses a class to win the Golden broom for having the tidiest cloakroom.

This half term the overall winners are

Year 6

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This week
Year 1	99.3%	100%
Year 2	100%	97.8%
Year 3	96.9%	95.8%
Year 4	98.5%	94.4%
Year 5	97.2%	95.5%
Year 6	96.9%	98.3%



**Come and look
around our amazing Pre-school!**

**We welcome Catholic children,
children of all faiths and no faith.**

**Funded places available for 3 & 4
year olds from September 2026!**



Pre-School Open event

Wednesday 6th May 2026

1:30pm

**Register on the below QR code or
email enquiries@st-tc.co.uk**



St Thomas of Canterbury School
Chancet Wood Drive
S8 7TR
0114 2745597



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

2 APR

EASTER HAT DECORATION

15 MAY

SCHOOL DISCO 6-7.30PM

14 JUN

SCHOOL FAIR

FRIENDS CASH DRAW

WIN £50 EVERY MONTH

The Friends of St Thomas raise money to support our school.



September (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October (18 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Bank Holiday	Autumn 1	Monday 1 st September 2025 to Friday 24 th October 2025	40 days
	Autumn 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025 to Friday 19 th December 2025	35 days
School Holiday	Spring 1	Monday 5 th January 2026 to Friday 13 th February 2026	30 days
	Spring 2	Monday 23 rd February 2026 to Thursday 2 nd April 2026	29 days
Staff Training	Summer 1	Monday 20 th April 2026 to Friday 22 nd May 2026	24 days
	Summer 2	Monday 1 st June 2026 to Tuesday 21 st July 2026	37 days



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2025 - 2026

We all have a statutory duty to "safeguard and promote the welfare of children", ([Working together to safeguard children, DfE 2015, page 5](#))

If you have any concerns about the health and safety of a child or young person at this education setting or feel that something may be troubling them, you should share this information with an appropriate member of staff straight away.

Some issues such as a child's appearance, hygiene, general behaviour, can be shared with any teacher or member of support staff in this setting. Do not worry about reporting small matters – we would rather that you tell us things which turn out to be small than miss a worrying situation.

However, if you think that a child, a young person or an adult who cares for them has been or might be harmed, please talk to one of the people below immediately.

You can ask any member of staff to find them and ask them to speak to you straight away about a confidential and urgent matter.

The people you can talk to are:



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Name: Mrs L Clements

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy for under 5's is:

Name: Mrs R Hanson

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:

Name: Ms D Swain

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:

Name: Mr M Richardson

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597

An allegation or disclosure involving someone working with children in a paid or unpaid capacity **must** be reported directly to the Head Teacher, Principal or Senior Manager, unless it involves them and then it should be reported directly to the Chair of the Governing Body or Management Committee.



The Safeguarding Children Team in your setting includes:

Headteacher : responsible for implementing policies & procedures, allocating resources to the safeguarding team & addressing staff safeguarding concerns.

Name: Mrs L Clements (Headteacher)

Tel no: 01142745597

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): a member of senior leadership team responsible for addressing safeguarding issues, providing advice & support and liaising with the local authority & other agencies.

Name Mrs L Clements (Headteacher)

Tel no: 01142745597

Designated Safeguarding Deputy (DSD): a teacher or support worker (not admin or finance worker) who works with and covers for the DSL role above.

Name: Ms D Swain

Tel no: 01142745597

Name: Mr M Richardson

Tel no: 01142745597

Name: Mrs R Hanson

Tel no: 01142745597

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo): provides advice, liaison & support for staff & agencies working with pupils with special education needs & disabilities and their families

Name: Miss L Mckay

Tel no: 01142745597

Learning Mentor (or equivalent): supports pupils to reach their full potential by addressing their behaviour, attendance, achievement, timekeeping, homework and some safeguarding issues

Name: Ms D Swain

Tel no: 01142745597

Looked After Children (LAC) Designated Teacher: promotes the educational achievement of 'looked after' children and young people by helping staff understand issues that affect how they learn and achieve

Name: Miss L Mckay

Tel no: 01142745597

E-Safety Coordinator: develops and maintains an e-safe culture within a setting

Name: Mr M Richardson

Tel no: 01142745597

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Lead: develops and maintains policies & staff awareness of CSE, the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board responsibilities and the Sexual Exploitation Service key priorities

Name: Mrs L Clements

Tel no: 01142745597

Your Safeguarding Children Team also links with the:

Safeguarding Governor: helps the Governing Body to have safeguarding policies & procedures in place, ensures they are followed and addresses general safeguarding issues that staff and parents raise

Name: Mrs B Popplewell

Email: b.popplewell@st-tc.co.uk

Tel no: 01142745597

Chair of Governors: addresses allegations of abuse made against the Head Teacher or deputy headteacher (and other members of staff when the Head Teacher is not available), liaises with the Local Authority; and works with the Head to ensure safe recruitment practices

Name: Mrs Molly Baxter

Email: chairofgovernors@st-tc.co.uk

Tel no: 01142745597

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ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL A CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Pre-School

Places still available for September 2025 for 3- and 4-year old's



Children benefit from access to an extensive outdoor learning environment which is zoned to reflect the areas of learning within the early year's curriculum.

St Thomas of Canterbury Pre-school is for 3 and 4-year-old children. This newly established and purposeful environment provides a stepping stone into developing sky skills that will make children confident learners in preparation for starting school. We value the importance of learning being exciting, new and innovative, creating opportunities for children that will inspire them to be lifelong learners.

Phonics and numbers are taught through adult led sessions. By the end of Pre-school, we hope children will be secure in their knowledge of numbers to 5 and their initial sounds.

For information about session times, application forms and our nursery admission policy, please visit the school website at www.st-tc.co.uk/our-nursery

Our outdoor space with a growing garden, extensive woodland, a mud kitchen, a giant sandpit with climbing equipment and a play house.



CONTACT US

Tel: 0114 2745597

Email: enquiries@st-tc.co.uk | Web: www.st-tc.co.uk

Class blog: <https://stthomasofcantpreschool.wordpress.com>

St Thomas of Canterbury School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield, S8 7TR

excellence
for all
children

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sheffield.gov.uk/schoolmatters

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for term time leave taken and irregular attendance.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued (after 19th August) for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance this will be considered the first offence, and the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Where there is 4 days of absence during a week where there is also a training day, a penalty notice may still be issued.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines can also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate.