



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 13th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Winter Warmer this week. I hope you enjoyed the children's singing as much as I did - truly wonderful.

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday, a day when we celebrate Jesus being among us. The candle for this week is pink and represents joy. It is sometimes referred to as Mary's candle as we reflect on the joy she must have felt at knowing she was carrying God's son. The Gospel tells us how John the Baptist began Jesus's mission of 'love one another as I have loved you' as he instructed people to share, especially with those who are more needy. In our assembly in the coming week, we will think about how we can prepare for Jesus's coming by showing God's love to others. Our school mission statement also asks us to do this so we can be 'beacons of the Catholic faith'.

Over the last few weeks, we have looked for ways to further improve things over lunchtimes so that these unstructured times, which can be tricky for some children, enable us to be respectful, safe and beacons of God's love. We have asked the children to sit together as a class family in the dinner hall and, just as they would do at home, leave the table as a family once everyone has finished eating. Despite some initial teething problems, this has worked extremely well and resulted in a truly wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship during the Christmas meals shared this week. We will be continuing with this new system into the new year.

Thank you children for your beautiful entries for the Star of Bethlehem art competition and well done to Rufus in Y3 who had the winning entry. The competition was judged by Mr Davies, the CEO of our Trust.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Nativity performances next week - it really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! :-)

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless
Mrs Clements



Christmas Jumper Donation

If you have forgotten or been unable to send in the £1 suggested donation for the Christmas Jumper Day, we have added a payment item on Parentpay, to allow you to make the donation online.

Playtime on KS2 field

Due to the weather, from January if children are wanting to play football on the field with Evo, they must bring change of shoes. Alternate sports will be available on the Astroturf on Thursdays & Fridays.

School Calendar

Mon 16th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 2 Parents

Tues 17th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 1 Parents

Tues 17th Dec – The Hive Pantomime Trip

Weds 18th Dec – 09:15 Pre-school Christmas Performance

Weds 18th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Reception parents



Fri 20th Dec –
School Finishes at 12pm



Mon 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

Christmas Break

Mon 6th Jan – Pupils return to school

Tues 7th Jan – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

Tues 14th Jan – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

Tues 21st Jan – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

Fri 24th Jan – 09:00 Year 3 Class Assembly

Tues 28th Jan – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

Tues 4th Feb – Year 4 &6 Swimming Lesson

Fri 7th Feb – School Disco

Tues 11th Feb – Year 5 &6 Swimming Lesson

Tues 11th Feb – Internet Safety day

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

February Half Term

Mon 24th Feb - Inset Day (No pupils in school)

Tues 25th Feb – Pupils return to school

Tues 25th Feb - Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Fri 28th Feb – 09:00 Year 2 Class Assembly

Tues 4th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Thurs 6th Mar – World Book Day

Fri 7th Mar – Book Fair

Tues 11th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Tues 13th Mar - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Tues 18th Mar - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Tues 18th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Fri 21st Mar – 09:00 Year 1 Class Assembly

Monday 31st – Friday 11th April

Easter Holidays

Mon 14th April – Pupils return to school

Thurs 17th April – Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Fri 18th April – Good Friday (No pupils in school)

Mon 21st April – Easter Monday (No pupils in school)

Fri 2nd May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Mon 5th May – Mayday Bank Holiday (No pupils in school)

Fri 9th May- Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

Mon 12th – Thurs 15th May – SATS Week

Fri 16th May – School Disco

Weds 21st – Fri 23rd May – Year 6 Residential

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

Spring Bank Half Term

Mon 2nd June – Pupils return to school

Mon 16th June – Class Photos

Weds 18th – Fri 20th June – Year 5 Residential

Mon 23rd June- 14:15 Y3 & Y6 Open Afternoon

Tues 24th June – 14:15 Y2 & Y4 Open Afternoon

Weds 25th June - 14:15 Y1 & Y5 Open Afternoon

Weds 16th July – Pre-School Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

Fri 18th July – Whole School Sports day at EIS

Tues 22nd July – Last day of School Year

Tues 22nd July – 14:30 Year 6 Leaver's Assembly

Weds 23rd July – Inset Day (No pupils in school)

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are something that the DFE, our LEA and our school take very seriously as persistent absence and lateness can impact both on a child's academic performance and their mental health. With this in mind, It has been suggested that I clarify the criteria around children being classified as late as there has been some misunderstanding around which gates will be closed at 8.45. The school day for KS1 and KS2 begins at 8.45 when the whistle is blown and the children gather together as a key stage to say and sign their morning prayer. As this is the formal start of the school day, the KS1/Reception gate and the KS2 side gate are closed at 8.45. The main gate is closed at 8.55 to allow children who start their day in The Hive (our IR) access to school as they often enter through the office. Any child who arrives after 8.45 but before the main gate is shut at 8.55 will be classed as late for registration. Entry to school after 8.55 but before 9.30 is classed as late after registration has closed. Any latecomers after 9.30 are classed as having an unauthorised absence. This is inline with the LEA and National guidance.

Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025: Saturday 28th December, 12.30pm

The rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year will take place on Saturday 28th December, at which Bishop Ralph will preside. The celebration will start at the Sheffield Anglican Cathedral at 12.30pm, from which there will be a procession to St Marie's Cathedral for the opening Mass. All from across the Diocese are encouraged to come and celebrate the beginning of this special year, in which all are invited "to an intense experience of the love of God" and "a lively experience of grace and hope" (Francis, Spes non confundit, 6)

Food Bank Donations

Just a reminder that we still accepting donations for the Grace Food Bank. Please can any donations be brought in by Wednesday 18th December.

Job Adverts

We currently have 2 vacancies at school, for a caretaker and a cleaner. Please see the attached job adverts. If you need any further information, please contact the school office.

Sheffield United Christmas Camps

Christmas is creeping up on us really quickly, with this in mind our Christmas Camp bookings are now LIVE!

Book on using the venue link below:

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-lu-westfield-christmas-camp.html>

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-lu-graves-christmas-camp.html>

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-lu-thorncliffe-christmas-camp.html>

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-handsworth-christmas-camp.html>

We will also be running our girls only camp across both days.

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-girls-only-lu-westfield-christmas-camp.html>

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/24-25-girls-only-lugraves-christmas-camp.html>

Spring Term PE Days

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

***Swimming lessons will replace PE lessons on applicable days (see school calendar for dates).**

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	87	92.6
Year 2	85.8	97.3
Year 3	89.6	91.4
Year 4	95.5	96.6
Year 5	85.3	95
Year 6	92	92.7

developing
lifelong
learners



30 hour
places available
(subject to eligibility)
plus a wrap around
service

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



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2024 - 2025

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.