



# St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been good to return to some normality this week following the icy weather!

In the Gospel on Sunday we heard how, through his Baptism, Jesus revealed that he was God's beloved Son. We saw how, through baptism, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and are invited into God's family. In assembly, the children thought about how The Holy Spirit guides us to live like Jesus through following his example of loving one another as he loved us.

I would like to pay tribute to Mrs Margaret Wearing, a member of our St Thomas' family who passed away on 28th December aged 90. Mrs Wearing was a teacher at our school between 1972 and 1990 and was my Y1 and Y2 teacher. I was thrilled to meet her again in July 2023 when she joined us for our special retirement assembly for Mrs Wileman. Thank you Mrs Wearing for all you did for our community.

Last week, we interviewed for a new caretaker. We had some very strong applications which we managed to whittle down and I am pleased to say that Jen Hartley was appointed and will be starting with us on 3rd February. Jen, who is a qualified nurse, has been working in the grounds maintenance team at Whitley Hall. She is very much looking forward to joining our St Thomas' family and I know she will be made to feel welcome.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless.

Mrs Clements

## Lateness

Please remember that gates close at 08:45 and any children arriving late than this will receive a late mark in the register.

## Changes in collection reminder

We would like to remind you, if there is a change in the adult collecting your child, please make sure you make either your child's teacher or the school office aware.

## PE Days

Children who have PE before lunch should come to school wearing the correct PE kit, with their correct school uniform (including school shoes) to change into, and vice versa for children who have PE after lunch.

## School Calendar

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Jan** – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan** – 09:00 Year 3 Class Assembly

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Year 4 &6 Swimming Lesson

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Non uniform day for Children's Mental Health Week

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** – School Disco

**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Year 5 &6 Swimming Lesson

**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Internet Safety day

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**February Half Term**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Inset Day (No pupils in school)

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Pupils return to school

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Year 5 Swimming Lesson

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – 09:00 Year 2 Class Assembly

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** – World Book Day

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar** – SEN Parent Coffee Morning

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Book Fair

**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Mar** - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Mar** - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Mar** – 09:00 Year 1 Class Assembly

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter Holidays**

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return to school

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Egg Decorating Competition

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> April** – Good Friday (No pupils in school)

**Mon 21<sup>st</sup> April** – Easter Monday (No pupils in school)

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Mayday Bank Holiday (No pupils in school)

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> May**- Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> May** – **SATS Week**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 1 & 2 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> May** – School Disco

**Weds 21<sup>st</sup> – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – **Year 6 Residential**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Spring Bank Half Term**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Pupils return to school

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Jun** – Summer Fair

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> June** – Class Photos

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 5 Residential

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June**- 14:15 Y3 & Y6 Open Afternoon

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> June** – 14:15 Y2 & Y4 Open Afternoon

**Weds 25<sup>th</sup> June** - 14:15 Y1 & Y5 Open Afternoon

**Weds 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Pre-School Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July** – Whole School Sports day at EIS

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – Last day of School Year

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – 14:30 Year 6 Leaver’s Assembly

**Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – Inset Day (No pupils in school)

### 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 in the future

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.**

You can check your eligibility online by following this link:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/form/schools-and-childcare/free-school-meals-start>

### Non-uniform day for Children’s Mental Health Week

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, children are invited to wear own clothes that reflect their personality. For example, if they have a loud personality, they could wear something loud, if they play a lot of football, a football shirt etc. This is in support of Children’s Mental Health Week. More information for parents can be found on the attached poster.

### 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

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.

### PE Kit

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

### Makaton Sign of the Week

This week’s sign is **Shop**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/oXOnGoJhf0w>



### Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	98.9%	93.3%
Year 2	98.9%	96.9%
Year 3	94.4%	92.5%
Year 4	96.5%	99%
Year 5	98.6%	97%
Year 6	95.1%	93%

### Spring Term PE Days

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



**SCHOOL**

**6-7.30PM**

**FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY**

**DISCO**

**£6 TICKET FEE VIA PARENTPAY - ONLINE ONLY**

**NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GATE**

**£6 INCLUDES ENTRANCE AND £3 WORTH OF VOUCHERS.**

**DEADLINE TO BUY ONLINE WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY**

**PARENTS AND CARERS MUST STAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN, MINIMUM 1 ADULT TO 5 CHILDREN. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ADMIT ANY CHILDREN OR BABIES INCLUDING OLDER OR YOUNGER SIBLINGS WHO DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND SCHOOL. OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



7  
FEB

SCHOOL DISCO  
6-7.30PM



17  
APR



EASTER EGG  
COMPETITION

16  
MAY

SCHOOL DISCO  
6-7.30PM



8  
JUN



SUMMER FAIR  
2-5PM



MONTHLY

FRIENDS CASH DRAW  
WIN £50 A MONTH



*Friends of St Thomas*

*All of these events raise money to support our school. Please get in touch if you would like to help and volunteer and help at any of the above dates.*



## 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.

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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](http://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](mailto:enquiries@st-tc.co.uk) | Web: [www.st-tc.co.uk](http://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

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## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.