



# St Thomas of Canterbury School

## Newsletter

Week ending Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the Gospel on Sunday we heard how two of the disciples asked Jesus how they could be considered great enough to sit by his side when they were in heaven. Jesus explained to them that they had misunderstood what being great was all about. They had not realised that it is through serving others that real greatness is achieved. Our children serve others daily in a variety of ways: litter picking, being buddies to younger children, supporting Grace Food Bank and as Sports or Liturgy Leaders. I have been thrilled by the number of children who have decided to stand for Pupil Parliament - each one offering their services as a leader of pupil voice for the class by attending meetings and working for the greater good. Thank you children.

We have been celebrating Black History Month in school. Each class have thought about the huge part black people have made in to the world including in art, literature and science. We would like to share our work with parents at a special assembly on Tuesday 12th November at 2.30. Please use this link to book a place.

<https://forms.gle/DNeWdBTzjCYfHYDB6>

Have a lovely half term every one.

God bless

Mrs Clements

### Safeguarding Reminder

Please remind children that it is not safe to walk through the car park or the grassy areas at the side of the parking spaces. Please do not walk through the car park gates. These are automatic gates and close after a car has entered or left the car park.

### Lateness

We have noticed a larger amount of children arriving late to school in the morning. Please remember that gates close at 08:45 and any children arriving late than this will receive a late mark in the register.

### Autumn 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.

### School Calendar

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Inset day (No pupils in school)

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov - Half Term**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Pupils return to school

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 15:15 Reception Parents Phonics Workshop

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 09:00 Year 5 Class Assembly

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 4pm Spring 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Own clothes day for Winter Warmer raffle prizes

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov** – 09:00 Year 4 Class Assembly

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Pupil Flu Vaccinations

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 14:00 Winter Warmer Performance

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Infant Christmas Dinner

**Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Junior Christmas Dinner

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 14:00 Traditional Winter Warmer in Church

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 2 Parents

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 1 Parents

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – The Hive Pantomime Trip

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 09:15 Pre-school Christmas Performance

**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Reception parents

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** – School Finishes at 12pm

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

### Christmas Break

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Pupils return to school

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

**Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

**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** – 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

**Weds 5<sup>th</sup> – Mon 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Book Fair

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

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

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

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

**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)

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

**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

**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)

### Alter Servers

We would like to recruit some new Altar Servers to join our current servers. It's open to anyone who has made their first Holy Communion. If you would like to become a server then please email [ktgrady@gmail.com](mailto:ktgrady@gmail.com) . Practice sessions will be arranged in a few weeks time.

### Head lice

We have recently had a number of parents reporting that their children have had head lice, please could you regularly check your child’s hair. Please see the below link for more guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

### Admissions Policy 2026-27 consultation

We are consulting on our admissions arrangements for pupils applying for places in the year beginning September 2026. A copy of our draft arrangements and details about how you can share your views or questions can be found on our website at

<http://www.st-tc.co.uk/admissions/proposed-admissions-policy-3>

### Safeguarding Reminders

Please line up against the fences when waiting to enter school, ensuring there is enough room for other pedestrians to get by safely on the footpath. Thank you.

We have several children with severe allergies and so are a nut free school. Please check the ingredients of food that children are bringing in to ensure they do not contain nuts. If we are unsure whether or not a food does contain nuts, to ensure the safety of all of our children, we will need to err on the side of caution and ask for an alternative. Thank you

### First Holy Communion

If your child is in Y3 or above and is ready to make their First Holy Communion in 2025, please scan the QR code below or follow the link and complete the form.

The catechists will then be in touch to provide details of and dates for the First Holy Communion programme.

Please complete the form by 24th November 2024

<https://forms.gle/xP9rnnffDayBYbXt8>

### Whole School Attendance

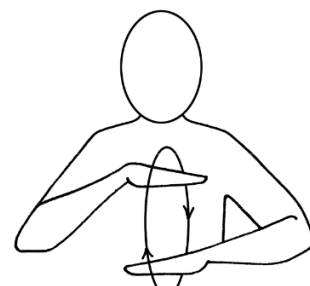
Our attendance last week was 98 %

Our attendance this week is 95.5%

### Makaton Sign of the Week

This week’s sign is **Patient / to be Calm.**  
Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/6zUZaeMM8rg>



### 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.**



## A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

**Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2023 - 2024**

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

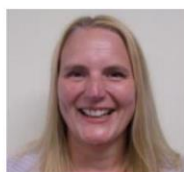
If you have any concerns about the health and safety of a child or young person at this education setting or feel that something may be troubling them, you should share this information with an appropriate member of staff straight away.

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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## 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.