



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 12th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good Christmas.

The children have made a great start back at school and I have seen some fantastic learning taking place. I've had the privilege of working with our Y6 children this week, something I thoroughly enjoyed, and was delighted to see the enthusiasm they have for learning. I have seen this same enthusiasm throughout the school.

I ask that you keep one of our families in your thoughts and prayers. Their 15-month-old son died suddenly and unexpectedly on New Year's Day. As a parent myself, I cannot begin to imagine how devastating this must be. I know God will be with them in their grief.

God bless
Mrs Clements

In assemblies this week, children have been reminded about expectations around uniform and I ask that you reinforce this message at home. More information about our uniform policy can be found on our website here: <https://www.st-tc.co.uk/parent/school-uniform> Please note that black leggings may be worn for PE but not as part of regular uniform.

I have asked staff to be vigilant about enforcing this policy and to send a reminder letter home, should this be necessary, starting from next week.

We recognise that some families may need support with this. Please speak to me in confidence if you require help. There also continues to be a number of preloved items of clothing available from the school office.

Many thanks for your support

Safeguarding

Please remember that the children remain in your care until we bring them in to school at 8.45 and return to your care at the end of the day. Please ensure your child is supervised before the whistle goes at start of the day and after handover. Neither children nor adults should be walking through or on the grass at the side of the car park. Many thanks for your support.

We have made aware of incidents of pupils and parents spitting on the playground, please can we remind you not to do this as it is health and safety issue.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Mon 15th Jan – Spring 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

Tuesday 16th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 23rd Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Friday 26th Jan – 09:00 Y3 Class Assembly

Tuesday 30th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 6th Feb – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Spring Half term – 12th – 16th February

Monday 19th February – INSET Day – No Pupils in School

Tuesday 20th February – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 20th February – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 27th February – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Weds 28th Feb – Mon 4th March – Book Fair

Friday 1st March – 09:00 Y2 Class Assembly

Tuesday 5th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

4th – 8th March – Open Afternoons

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Monday 11th March – Parents Evening (In Person)

Monday 11th March – Summer 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

Tuesday 12th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Wednesday 13th March – Parents Evening (Virtual)

Friday 17th May – School Disco

Tuesday 19th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Friday 22nd March – 09:00 Y1 Class Assembly

Easter Break – 29th March – 12th April

Monday 15th April – Pupils return to school

Wednesday 24th April – Class Photos

Monday 29th April – Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

Friday 3rd May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Monday 12th May – SATS WEEK

Summer Half term – 27th – 31st May

A Prayer from our Class Teachers

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.

Friday 7th June – Whole School Sports Day

Weds 19th – Fri 21st June – Year 6 Residential

24th – 27th June – Open Afternoons

Mon 1st July – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

Mon 1st July – Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

Weds 3rd – Fri 5th July – Year 5 Residential

Tues 9th July – Year 6 Leaver's show

Fri 19th July – Last day of Term

Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

We have been advised by UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) to inform you that we have several cases of Diarrhoea and vomiting (gastroenteritis) in school. If you think that your child may have developed this infection, please keep them off school until they are 48-hour symptom free. Please inform school immediately of any cases.

Please see the link below for further information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

We have also got one confirmed case and two possible cases of Scarlet Fever.

What is it?

Scarlet Fever is an infection due to a germ called Streptococcus.

What are the symptoms

Scarlet Fever often starts with a sore throat, high fever, swollen neck glands and tonsillitis. A skin rash develops on the body, and the face is often flushed. The tongue may be smooth and bright red.

If you think that your child may have any of the above symptoms, please:

Contact school

Contact your GP, informing them that there are cases in school

Refrain from school until two days after the start of antibiotics

Please also see this link for further information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Free school meal eligibility

We have seen an unprecedented rise in FSM eligibility in schools across Sheffield. 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.

In order to claim FSMs a parent/carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income related Employment Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit as long as you have a yearly household income of

less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit

- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Please see more information on the attached letter.

Pre-loved uniform

We have had a large number of pre-loved uniform donations over the last month. Please can we remind you that we ask for only uniform donations, a few coats have been donated which we are grateful for, however our focus is pre-loved uniform. With this in mind, we have a selection of uniform and coats in the school office which has been organised and are free to take

Money raised from Christmas Card Purchases & Winter Warmer

The Friends of St Thomas raised a brilliant £ **326.09** from the sale of Christmas Cards this year. The Winter Warmer also raised an incredible £**706**. Thank you to everyone that supported our Winter Warmer and those who ordered cards and/or mugs.

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **Thank you**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/Krw6xAFgyCc>



Thank You

PE Days

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

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.

Online Safety Update

It's impossible for most parents to keep up with all of the apps and services children use online, so ParentZone has compiled a handy primer to introduce you to some of the most popular ones. It has very useful information about the features of each app and how you can keep safe, including parental controls.

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/morearticles/the-6-apps-and-services-that-every-parent-should-know-about>