



# St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It's feeling very autumnal, if not more like winter now, especially waiting by the gate. That said, the kind greetings and wishes certainly keep me warm and it remains my favourite part of my day. Thank you.

In the Gospel on Sunday, we heard Jesus remind us that we need to be ready for his return. This is a tricky thing to understand and so, in assembly on Monday, the children and I thought about what this means for us. We remembered that to be ready meant living out our core values, something we are already very good at! I was worried because I don't always do this though; sometimes, I make mistakes. The children reminded me that it's ok to make mistakes and that it's what we do after that makes the difference - we can't put them right. I was really proud of the children's responses and ideas. They had clearly thought about the way our faith shapes our school and our lives.

Next week we have our Parents Evenings. I know that the teachers are ready to share with you how your children are doing in all aspects of school life. There is a lot to celebrate so far this year.

Have a good weekend.

God bless

Mrs Clements

## 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.

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November** – Parents Evening (In Person)

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – Parents Evening (Virtual)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Y4 Class Assembly

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** – Non-uniform day for Winter Warmer Hamper Prizes

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – 14:30 Supporting children with anxiety Parent Workshop

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - 14:00 Winter Warmer

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Infant Christmas Dinner

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Junior Christmas Dinner

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Nativity

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** –13:30 Traditional Winter Warmer in Church

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – School finishes at 12pm

## Christmas Break – 25<sup>th</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Pupils return to school

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 5 Swimming lesson

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 5 Swimming lesson

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan** – Year 5 Swimming lesson

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Y3 Class Assembly

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 5 Swimming lesson

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Year 5 Swimming lesson

## Spring Half term – 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – INSET Day – No Pupils in School

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Pupils return to school

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 6 Swimming lesson

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 6 Swimming lesson

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – Y2 Class Assembly

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 Swimming lesson

**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Open Afternoons

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March** - Parents Evening (In Person)

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 Swimming lesson

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - Parents Evening (Virtual)

## *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 17<sup>th</sup> May** – School Disco

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 Swimming lesson

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Y1 Class Assembly

**Easter Break – 29<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Pupils return to school

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** – Class Photos

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Reception Class Assembly

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May** -SATS WEEK

**Summer Half term – 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June** – Whole School Sports Day

**Weds 19<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June** – Year 6 Residential

**24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June** – Open Afternoons

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 5 Residential

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 6 Leaver's show

### Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

### Medication

We will no longer be able to administer non-prescribed medication. Any medication required during the school day must be in its original packaging with prescription label. Medication request forms are available from the school office. More information can be found in our policy here: [http://www.st-tc.co.uk/images/First\\_aid\\_policy\\_2023.pdf](http://www.st-tc.co.uk/images/First_aid_policy_2023.pdf)

### Reading Volunteers

We are looking for fabulous reading volunteers available to read with children in the afternoons.

The ideal volunteer would be able to commit to one afternoon a week (1pm to 3pm) to read with our Key Stage 1 children.

For more information, please contact the school office on 0114 274 5597.

### First Holy Communion

For those making their First Holy Communion in 2024, please find a link below to the electronic form to complete by 24th November 2023.

<https://forms.gle/V658FdGyvKz18Na68>

### Dress up clothes for EYFS

Our Reception and Pre-school class need dress up outfits, we have a number of princess dresses, however if anyone has any alternative dress up costumes, for example doctors, firemen, builders etc., we would be very grateful.

### Class Blogs

We are thrilled to see that a lot of our parents are viewing our class blogs. The links to the class blogs can be found on our website: <http://www.st-tc.co.uk/> If you would like to give consent for your child to be on their class blog and have not already done so, please complete the linked google form:

<https://forms.gle/8QEEB4Ecb6Y11KFJ7>

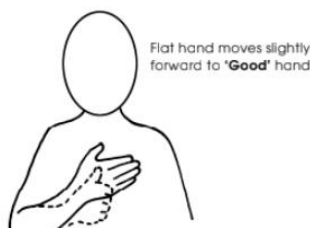
Blog consent is now part of our new starter paperwork, therefore children starting from September 2023 have already confirmed If they give consent or not, therefore you do not need to complete the google form.

### Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/zoGOFaiPpSQ>



### Food Bank Christmas Donations

Grace food bank have been in contact to confirm they will be collecting any Christmas Food and Gift Donations from school on 27<sup>th</sup> November ready to be distributed to the families in need. Please see the below Christmas Wishlist:

- Christmas biscuits
- Christmas cakes or packs of Christmas chocolate mini rolls, etc
- Chocolates/sweets - anything that looks festive!
- Selection boxes
- Chocolate coins, etc.
- Pringles, cheddars or similar crisps In a cardboard tube (more robust for packing and transporting) (other brands are available!!)
- Bottles of fizzy grape juice or similar
- Tins of salmon
- Tins of ham
- Sachets of instant custard or tins/cartons of custard
- SMALL boxes of crackers/biscuits for cheese
- Christmas puddings
- Boxes of mince pies –preferably without lots of brandy. Mince Pies do come with a shorter shelf life so please check before you buy!

Their weekly donation wish list can be found here: <https://www.gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/>

### Online Safety Update

To start the school year, we are revisiting the digital 5 a day – easy to follow, practical steps for children and parents to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

This week, try looking at number 4: Give to others. As well as being charitable, we can be giving in how we talk to people online. A 'like' and a kind comment letting people know that you appreciate what they have made is encouraging to others. Just be sure to stay safe and not give away personal information.

It is very important that if other people behave badly online, we report it to someone we trust keep our online community safe and respectful.