



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 19th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

What a cold week! A few of you have commented on how brave (or crazy!) we are to still wait at the gate each day - it remains my favourite part of the day despite the weather.

In the first reading and the Gospel on Sunday, we heard two stories of how people answered God's call and how others supported them in doing this. When, in the first reading, God called out to Samuel, his father told him to answer 'here I am'. The Gospel tells us that Jesus found his first disciples while they were with John the Baptist. John said to the men 'Behold, the Lamb of God' and, on hearing this, they chose to follow Jesus. Jesus's response, 'Come and see,' is as relevant to us today as it was to those disciples. As a Catholic school, we too have said 'here I am'. We do our very best to live out Jesus's commandment of 'Love one another as I have loved you' and as a result see the amazing community we are in. I know this community gathered together this week for one of our families as they placed their son in the care of God. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

This coming week, we have our annual road safety lessons from Sheffield Local Authority. Keep an eye on the blogs to see what the children get up to! Please can you support our message of road safety by not parking on the double yellow lines or zig zags around school. Thank you.

Have a good weekend everyone

God bless

Mrs Clements

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

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

Friday 7th June – Whole School Sports Day

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

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.

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

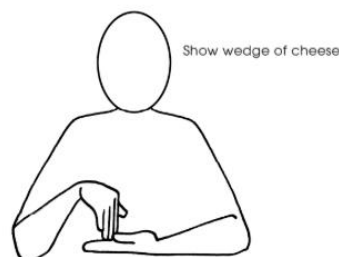
Fri 19th July – Last day of Term

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/5LjmQZQ8DNA>



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.

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

Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

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.

School uniform

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.

Online Safety Update

Safer Internet Day is coming up on 6th February 2024 and a key theme this year will be how the Internet affects our emotions and can persuade us and influence our actions. In addition to education packs that we will introduce with the children, the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced free advice for parents and carers giving advice about some of the most common questions or concerns that parents and carers might have when it comes to thinking about managing influence or navigating change online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2024-free-advice-for-parents-and-carers>