



# St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe how quickly this half term has gone! The first half term of the year is always one where teachers and children get to know each other. It can be an anxious time for some at the start of September but, by the end of October, the initial worries have gone and the class families are very much in place. It is a privilege popping into classes each day and watching these strong foundations being built. I hope that the open afternoons have given you a glimpse of the good work which has been achieved as a result of this relational base.

On Monday, I launched this year's Pupil Parliament. The children were very excited and many expressed an interest in representing their class. I have asked those children in Y2-Y6 who would like to stand for election to prepare a manifesto to share with their class. I have explained to them that this manifesto should set out things they feel they would bring to the role of class rep but must not contain any promises (e.g. we will still need to set homework no matter what the Parliament decides!). Please ask your child (Y2-Y6) if they are interested and, if they are, please talk to them about their manifesto. The children have been asked to share these with their classmates in the first week back and our elections will be held on Monday 6th November. I will keep you posted!

On Thursday, I accompanied our Y5 class to St Marie's Cathedral for our first ever St Clare's Trust mass. This was a wonderful opportunity to get together as a newly formed Trust family and share the Eucharist together. The readings and prayers centered around light as St Clare is always depicted carrying her light, the light of Christ. Today, we thought about how we let our lights shine as we celebrated our children's achievements and how they have lived out our core values of ready, respectful and safe with our first Fun Friday of the year. Well done to Josh S, Edie, Zuzanna, Noemi, Rufus, Isaac, Scarlett and Eiora who were our first stand out children of the year. We are all very proud of you. I would like to add that all of our children have made a great start to the year and we are proud of them too!

I hope you have a good half term.  
God bless and thank you.  
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 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Pupils return to school
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Y5 Class Assembly
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**- Flu Vaccinations
- 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
- 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

### *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.

**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)

**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.

### Orienteering Opportunity

As part of our membership of the Sheffield Federation for School Sports, we are pleased to be able to offer free entry to Y3 and above children to the South Yorkshire Orienteering Club Schools League Saturday Series. Please see the attached flyer for details.

### Storage unit plea

As you will have seen, we now have an area in the office dedicated to the Pre-loved uniform. We would like to improve this area by swapping the plastic boxes for a cube storage unit. If anyone has a spare unit, similar to the image, that they are no longer using and would be happy to donate to school, we would be very appreciative.



### Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy takes place during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady & St. Thomas church, Meadowhead, every Sunday during term time. This is a chance for children to hear and explore the day's gospel in a way which is meaningful to them. All children and their adults, from babies up to the age of preparing for First Holy Communion, are warmly invited to join together in the church hall for their own celebration of the Liturgy of the Word before re-joining the rest of the congregation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please join us 😊 (it doesn't matter if you're late!)

Children's Liturgy will take place every Sunday during term time, with a break on Sunday 22nd October for half term, recommencing Sunday 29th October.

### Toys in school

We are noticing that children are beginning to bring toys in from home, please remember that these are not allowed in school. Thank you for your support with this, any which do come in will be collectable from the school office at the end of the day.

### Food Bank Donations & Fundraising

We would like to thank everyone for their food bank or cash donations on Friday. We raised over £100 for CAFOD and donated a large amount of food to Grace Food Bank. The volunteers were overwhelmed with number of donations we received and are very thankful. We will continue to have a donation box in the school office for any food donations if anyone

### 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)

### Headlice

We have been made aware of multiple cases of Headlice in KS2. Please can we ask that you check your child's hair regularly. Please see the NHS website for more guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

### Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/X-GgCk7TyI4>



### Parent Governor

The deadline for Parent Governor applications has been extended, please see in the attachments more information. The deadline is still listed as 29<sup>th</sup> September on the document, please disregard this.

### Scooter & Bike safety

It is great to see so many children choosing active travel to school but, for safety reasons, children must not ride scooters and bikes on the playgrounds or school paths. There have been multiple collisions of children walking and children on scooters, these could lead to serious incidents, so we ask that you please explain the importance of riding sensibility.

## 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.