



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a good half term.

As you will know, we are now in the season of Lent. At this time, we are called to come back to God through prayer, fasting and charity. This is how we will be doing this in school:

Prayer

We continue to share God's word together in our weekly assemblies and daily class Celebrations of the Word. In Holy Week, Y5 will put on our traditional Passion Play at 2pm on Thursday 28th March.

Our KS2 classes will be leading Stations of the Cross Fridays at 2pm in church. Please join us!

1st March - Y6

8th March - Y4

15th March - Y5

22nd March - Y3

Fasting

On Friday 1st March we encourage children and adults to eat a simple meal or go without something that they do not need, and donate any money saved to CAFOD through our JustGiving page.

We remember the words of Pope Francis, who teaches us different ways to fast:

Fast from hurting words... and say kind words.

Fast from sadness...and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger...and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism...and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries...and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints...and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures...and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness...and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness...and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges...and be reconciled.

Fast from words...and be silent so you can listen.

Charity

Our global efforts will be for CAFOD and we will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2024. Our Liturgy Leaders are organising the event and will send through details of their plans! More details of the appeal are available at walk.cafod.org.uk

Our CAFOD JustGiving page is <http://www.justgiving.com/page/st-thomas-cafod2024>

We will focus our local efforts on the Good Shepherd appeal, supporting the counselling services provided by Caritas, which helps throughout the Diocese, including in our school! We will join the Diocese in a 3-day Caritas focus on 'Everyday Miracles' and each class will hold an event to raise money for this worthy cause.

Have a good weekend everyone.

God bless

Mrs Clements

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

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

24th – 27th June – Open Afternoons

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

Thurs 11th July – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

Fri 19th July – Last day of Term

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.

Whole School Attendance

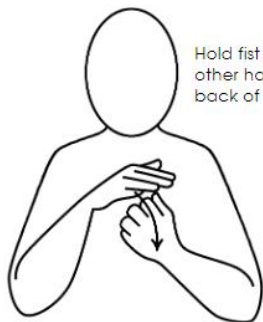
Our attendance for last week was 96.2%
Our attendance this week was 98.3%

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

https://youtu.be/T_jLoRvu6Wo



Hold fist against chest -
other hand strokes
back of fist twice

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.

Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

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.

Contacting teachers via Email

We have noticed an increasing number of parents/carers are emailing teachers directly. Please can we remind everyone that if you are wanting to contact your child's class teacher, please email enquiries@st-tc.co.uk and the message will be passed on to the class teacher. We ask that you do not email teachers directly to ensure that messages are read in a timely manner. Teachers do not always have time to read their emails in a morning or during the school day and important messages may be missed. This is also for the wellbeing of our teachers as some emails are received outside of school hours.

Lunchtime Supervisor Job Advert

We are currently advertising for a Lunchtime Supervisor role, if you, or someone you know would be interested, please see the attached Job advert. If you would like to know any more information, please speak to the school office.

Use of adult toilets near school office

Due to new safeguarding guidance, we will no longer be able to allow parents to use the adult toilets near the school office. If you are needing to use the toilet, we invite you to use the adult toilets in Pre-school. If you buzz at the Pre-school gate, staff will be able to let you in at the beginning and end of the school day

Save the date.....ADHD workshop Wed 28th February 2:15pm

Would you like to learn more about ADHD and ways to support your child? If so, please email our Senco Kate Heaton (k.heaton@st-tc.co.uk) to book a place on the ADHD workshop. It will be delivered by a very experienced ADHD nurse and is open to any parent/carer. It will be particularly relevant to parents of children with a diagnosis of ADHD or who are awaiting an assessment, but is open to anyone with an interest.

Online Safety Update

Online Safety Update

Online gaming is very popular with children and adults alike and players can play live with people across the world through a range of devices. In-game chat is a feature that many parents worry about, and which can cause anxiety and danger to children.

It is always helpful to discuss with your child how to stay safe online. Set boundaries about what information they can and can't share and what to do if they come across something inappropriate such as bad language. They should know that they can come and talk to you if they feel others are being mean or making them feel uncomfortable online.

Here are some useful resources about in-game chat and specific games.

Think U Know - article about in-game chat - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat/>

Ask About Games - searchable advice for parents/carers and children about games - <https://www.askaboutgames.com/>