



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 24th November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

This week has been a very busy one; busy but enjoyable! We have had parents evenings on Monday and Wednesday (wonderful to see so many of you in school), there has been a great deal of Advent preparation happening, and I can hear that the EYFS and KS1 children have begun their Nativity practices.

As we move closer to Advent and come towards the end of the Church's year, the Gospel stories shared each Sunday at Mass remind us that we all can be Jesus's presence here on Earth. In the Gospel last Sunday, we heard the story of the servants and the Talents. The children and I thought about this during our assembly on Monday. We discussed the gifts and talents that God has given us and how we need to make the most of these. We then focused on the talent we all share, the one we discuss each week, the one that allows us to be Jesus's presence for others: the ability to love. We thought about how we can share this most important talent through the way we treat others and how this talent, just like those from two of the Masters' servants, will double if others follow our example. The value of the Talents from Jesus's story was equal to around £500,000 each in today's money; what a rich school we would be if the talents our children share each day had a financial value! Well done and thank you children for making our school such a wonderful place so full of love.

This Sunday we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church's year, the feast of Christ the King. To mark this occasion, we are having a school family mass at Our Lady and St Thomas' Church at 9.15. I do hope you will be able to come along.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.
God bless
Mrs Clements

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Friday 1st December– 09:00 Y4 Class Assembly

Friday 1st December – Non-uniform day for Winter Warmer Hamper Prizes

Monday 4th December – 14:30 Supporting children with anxiety Parent Workshop

Monday 11th December- 14:00 Winter Warmer

Tuesday 12th December- Infant Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13th December – Junior Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 13th December – Nativity

Thursday 14th November – Hive Pantomime trip

Friday 15th December –13:30 Traditional Winter Warmer in Church

Friday 22nd December – School finishes at 12pm

Christmas Break – 25th December – 5th January

Monday 8th Jan – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 9th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

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

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)

Tuesday 12th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Wednesday 13th March - Parents Evening (Virtual)

Friday 17th May – School Disco

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 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

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 – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

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

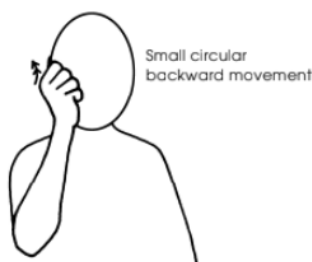
Tues 9th July – Year 6 Leaver's show

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/zoGOFaiPpSQ>



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.

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

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.

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.

Chess Sets

Mr Woodhouse is running a very popular chess club during lunch times at school. We currently have more children wanting to play, than chess sets available. If anyone has a chess set at home that they no longer use and would like to donate to school, we would be most grateful. Please bring any donations to the school office.

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.



Winter Warmer Raffle

Two festive treats in the run up to Christmas!
Hold on for deer life with a festive own clothes day and our annual Winter Warmer raffle.

WINTER WARMER How it works: Each class has a class colour which is below. On the own clothes day, 1st December, we will be collecting any gift donations in the colour of your child's class colour. If you can't think of anything in your class colour you could wrap it up in that colour! The Winter Warmer class hampers will then be raffled off to raise funds for the school. All donations welcome from chocolate coins, books, a toy, snacks, candles, drinks and everything else in-between!

To win a hamper visit Parent Pay for raffle tickets from 20th November.

Raffle tickets are £1 each.
Tickets from **20th November**
Donations **1st December**
The draw will take place on **Monday 11th December** during the Winter Warmer

Christmas own clothes day

Friday 1st December

Thank you from the
Friends of St Thomas.

NURS **RY** = **RAINBOW**
RECEPTION = **WHITE**
YEAR 1 = **GREEN**
YEAR 2 = **RED**
YEAR 3 = **PURPLE**
YEAR 4 = **BLUE**
YEAR 5 = **SILVER**
YEAR 6 = **GOLD**
HIVE = **YELLOW**

