



# St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a good half term.

In the Gospel on Sunday, we heard Jesus being asked which was the most important commandment. Rules are very important. Whether at school, at work, or play, there are rules that we are expected to follow. The person that asked Jesus which was the most important rule was trying to catch him out, but they weren't able to. This is what Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,' this is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Jesus was saying that if we could keep these first two commandments, we would not have any trouble keeping the others. It isn't easy to keep the commandments and we need God's help to do so each and every day. In school, we have our core values of ready, respectful and safe to help keep us on the right track.

Today, Y5 had their class assembly and they reminded us that in addition to the 10 commandments, Jesus gave us his new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. They showed us that, even though we are all different, we all bring different gifts and talents that, when put together, make the world a happier place. Well done Y5. It was a wonderful assembly and shared such an important message.

A few pleas from me:

- You will no doubt have noticed that the playgrounds are getting muddy again. We have plans in place to try to address some of the most muddy areas as soon as we can. I would be grateful if you could send your child to school with a pair of slippers to help us protect the carpets. Thank you.
- I have noticed some Halloween treats have made their way into school this week. Please remember that children are not allowed sweets and crisps as a snack in school as we are a healthy school. Mrs Davison is helping us to achieve the Healthy Schools mark.
- If you haven't already done so, please give permission for your child's image to appear on the class blogs. We use these blogs as our way of sharing the great things that are happening in the classrooms and in school in general and it is such a shame if your child isn't able to appear in any class or group photos.

Thanks very much for your support.

Have a good weekend.

God bless

Mrs Clements

## 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

**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

## *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.

**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.

**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.



**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/>

**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.

**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.

**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/8QEED4Ecb6Y11KFJ7>

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.

**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>

**Water bottles and healthy snacks**

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle and that it is filled with water, children should not be bringing juice or any other drink other than water. Also, only healthy snacks are allowed at break time, sweets and crisps are not allowed.

**Makaton Sign of the Week**

This week’s sign is **Mouse**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/US-2BSwjbvw>



Show tension with clawed hands. Use one or both hands as relevant

**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.

**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.