



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the Gospel on Sunday, we heard the Parable of the Dishonest Steward who squandered his employer's property. This Gospel message, that we need to show that we look after the smaller things so that we can then be trusted with bigger and more important things, is reflected in our core values of Ready, Respectful and Safe. By understanding and living out these basic values, our children are showing that they understand the simple responsibilities that they have day-to-day for their own learning and safety and that of others. It is through doing this that the children are recognised and praised and will then be trusted with bigger (and sometimes coveted!) responsibilities such as being book, pencil or even skipping rope monitor, and then, in turn, develop the key values needed for adult life.

Today, was a special day as we have had our first school mass of the year. The children behaved beautifully, showing that they are ready, respectful and safe. Very well done children. I am so proud of you all.

The school planner will early next week. I am pleased to say that class assemblies will be returning this year. I have included the dates of the KS2 ones in the list of upcoming dates as these fall in this first half of the year.

We have our first parents' evenings soon too and I am sure you will hear lots of good things about how your children have settled in.

Looking towards the summer term, we have arranged to hold the open afternoons again this year. These will be in the week beginning 19th June and will run until 4pm. The individual dates can be found on the planner.

I look forward to seeing you in school for these.

God bless.

Mrs Clements

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Autumn Term 2022

Sun 2nd Oct – Family Mass 9.15am

Tues 4th and Wed 5th Oct – Y1-Y6 Parents Evening (letter sent separately)

Thurs 13th Oct – Individual Photos

Friday 14th Oct – 9.00 Y5 Class Assembly

Thurs 20th Oct – Friends' Event: 6 – 7.30 School Disco

Half term 24th-30th October

Mon 31st Oct – Inset Day (No children in school)

Sun 6th Nov – Family Mass 9.15am for the school's 50th anniversary

Friday 28th Nov – 9.00 Y6 Class Assembly

Friday 9th Dec – 9.15 and 2.00 EYFS and KS1 Nativities

Mon 12th Dec – 2.00 Winter Warmer

Thurs 22nd Dec – Break up for Christmas: School Finishes at 12pm

Spring Term 2023

Mon 9th Jan – Return to School

Fri 20th Jan – 9.00 Y4 Class Assembly

Fri 10th Feb – 9.00 Y3 Class Assembly

Half term 13th – 17th February

Mon 20th Feb - Inset Day (No children in school)

A reflection from Year 5

Year 5 have been thinking about Queen Elizabeth II and the example she set for us. We thought about the way she took care of others and we want to be guided by her example.

Dear God

Thank you for the example of Queen Elizabeth II. You gave her a mission and she succeeded.

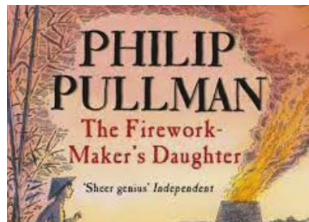
Please take care of Queen Elizabeth in heaven with her beloved husband, Prince Philip.

Amen.



Book Corner

Mr Richardson recommends
*The Firework makers
Daughter* by Philip Pullman.
This is an exciting
adventure full of hilarious
characters rooted in the
history of some of the
cultures of Asia.



Family Masses and 50th Anniversary Celebration

This year, we are delighted to be bringing back Family Masses. These are celebrated at Our Lady & St Thomas Church and are an opportunity for children to take part more actively in Mass. **The first of the school year will be celebrated at 9.15 Mass on 2nd October and we are looking for volunteers to welcome families into church, do the readings and bidding prayers, help with the offertory, and be part of the music. If you would like to take part, please email Mr Richardson: m.richardson@st-tc.co.uk**

There will be a Family Mass every half term, so we hope everyone who would like to be part will get a chance.

The second Family Mass of the year is doubling as our belated 50th Anniversary Celebration. We are inviting current and former pupils, families, staff and governors to join us at 9.15 Mass on 6th November and then to come to school for an open event with refreshments. Please help us to spread the word about this event and get a wonderful turnout. If anyone has any pictures of the school from their time here, please share them with us on the day, or by dropping them into school beforehand.

Our Lady & St Thomas Table Tennis Tournament

A friendly table tennis tournament for children and adults will take place in the church hall at 1pm on 24th September 2022. There will be fun, food and prizes, all in support of Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. Entry is free for those not participating in the tournament and entries to the tournament cost £5 for adults and £3 for children.

FAO parents/carers of children on the mainstream SEND register and those in The Hive

Miss Needham (Teacher and Senco of The Hive) and Mrs Heaton (mainstream Senco) would like to invite you an informal coffee meeting on TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER at 2:30pm here at school. The meeting is a joint one for all parents/carers of children on the SEND Register, both those with a mainstream place and those with an IR place in The Hive. It will be an opportunity to get together and perhaps consider if you would like us to provide future opportunities to meet. Perhaps you would like to consider if you would like meetings to have a particular SEND focus?

Please contact either Mrs Heaton (k.heaton@st-tc.co.uk) or Miss Needham (e.needham@st-tc.co.uk) to confirm your attendance on the 18th October.

A message from Eat Smart Sheffield - Newsletter for Parents/Carers

Eat Smart Sheffield is a school-based programme focussing on food and nutrition. They support families to help encourage children and young people to develop healthy lifestyle habits so they can grow, thrive and live life to the full. They are here to help and have pulled together some top tips for healthy eating throughout the day which we hope you will find useful...

Please click this link to access the newsletter. [Eat Smart Sheffield Newsletter - for Parents/Carers \(office.com\)](https://www.eat-smart-sheffield.org.uk/newsletter-for-parents-carers)

Online Safety Update

To start the school year, we are introducing 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 3: Get creative.

Minecraft fans could create a structure from their history learning or recreate an environment from geography. Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) gives children opportunities to code games and animations, and the Scratch Jr app for Apple devices gives a great introduction to creative block coding.

And of course, YouTube is full of helpful tutorials and fun projects. Just this weekend I was learning how to start a compost heap!



Paying our Respects to The Queen

We would like to say a big thank you to one of our Y5 children who went to London on Saturday to pay her respects, and those of our school, to The Queen.



Safeguarding Our Children

Please can we remind parents and carers to encourage their children to use the footpaths around school when entering or leaving the school site. Please do not to use the school car park as a walk way or entrance/exit as vehicles can be arriving or leaving at any time. Thank you

Reading Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to come and read with our children. If you are able to help us, please let Miss Schofield or Miss Garner in the office know.

Please note that, as part of our safeguarding commitment to our children, we will now need to carry out a DBS check on all regular volunteers. Thank you.



The first Friends' event of the year was held on Wednesday night: parents V staff football match. The event was very well attended and there was a great atmosphere. Congratulations to the parent who won the match 5-4. I think the staff are keen for a rematch!

The next event is the disco on Thursday 20th October 6-7.30. Please see the attached poster for details.

I would like to thank the volunteers who are part of The Friends of St Thomas. You do an amazing job of arranging things for our wonderful school and are helping raise funds for our children.

The Friends are always looking for new members. If you are able to help, please contact the school office who will pass on your details.

