



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas preparations in school have very much begun. The classrooms are filled with children practising their carols for next week's Winter Warmer and our youngest children are busily rehearsing for our Nativity the week after. Most importantly, the staff and children are gathering together each day for a short Advent service - Mr Richardson is even taking requests for Advent Hymns!

This coming Sunday, the second Sunday of Advent, represents peace. There is so much going on in the world at the moment that praying for peace can almost feel futile but, as a school, we will be thinking about how we can bring peace to one another and to ourselves with the choices that we make. Part of that peace is found through reconciliation, this is a key part of our behaviour policy. Our updated policy, which is on the school website, begins by reminding us of this.

Thank you very much for your generous donations for the Friend's Christmas boxes. We will be drawing this raffle during the Winter Warmer on Monday.

Have a good weekend everyone.
God bless
Mrs Clements

Safeguarding Reminder

Please remind children that it is not safe to walk through the car park or the grassy areas at the side of the parking spaces. Please do not walk through the car pack gates. These are automatic gates and close after a car has entered or left the car park.

Lateness

We have noticed a larger amount of children arriving late to school in the morning. Please remember that gates close at 08:45 and any children arriving late than this will receive a late mark in the register.

Autumn Term PE Days

Reception	Friday AM
Year 1	Monday PM & Friday AM
Year 2	Monday PM & Thursday AM
Year 3	Tuesday AM & Thursday PM
Year 4	Tuesday AM & Thursday PM
Year 5	Tuesday PM & Thursday AM
Year 6	Monday AM & Thursday AM

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.

School Calendar

Mon 9th Dec – 14:00 Winter Warmer Performance

Tues 10th Dec – Infant Christmas Dinner

Weds 11th Dec – Junior Christmas Dinner

Fri 13th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 13th Dec – 14:00 Traditional Winter Warmer in Church

Mon 16th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 2 Parents

Tues 17th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 1 Parents

Tues 17th Dec – The Hive Pantomime Trip

Weds 18th Dec – 09:15 Pre-school Christmas Performance

Weds 18th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Reception parents

Fri 20th Dec – School Finishes at 12pm

Mon 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

Christmas Break

Mon 6th Jan – Pupils return to school

Tues 7th Jan – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

Tues 14th Jan – Year 4 Swimming Lesson

Tues 21st Jan – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

Fri 24th Jan – 09:00 Year 3 Class Assembly

Tues 28th Jan – Year 4&6 Swimming Lesson

Tues 4th Feb – Year 4 &6 Swimming Lesson

Fri 7th Feb – School Disco

Tues 11th Feb – Year 5 &6 Swimming Lesson

Tues 11th Feb – Internet Safety day

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

February Half Term

Mon 24th Feb - Inset Day (No pupils in school)

Tues 25th Feb – Pupils return to school

Tues 25th Feb - Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Fri 28th Feb – 09:00 Year 2 Class Assembly

Tues 4th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Thurs 6th Mar – World Book Day

Fri 7th Mar – Book Fair

Tues 11th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Tues 13th Mar - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Tues 18th Mar - 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Tues 18th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Fri 21st Mar – 09:00 Year 1 Class Assembly

Monday 31st – Friday 11th April

Easter Holidays

Mon 14th April – Pupils return to school

Thurs 17th April – Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Fri 18th April – Good Friday (No pupils in school)

Mon 21st April – Easter Monday (No pupils in school)

Fri 2nd May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Mon 5th May – Mayday Bank Holiday (No pupils in school)

Fri 9th May - Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

Mon 12th – Thurs 15th May – **SATS Week**

Fri 16th May – School Disco

Weds 21st – Fri 23rd May – **Year 6 Residential**

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

Spring Bank Half Term

Mon 2nd June – Pupils return to school

Mon 16th June – Class Photos

Weds 18th – Fri 20th June – Year 5 Residential

Mon 23rd June - 14:15 Y3 & Y6 Open Afternoon

Tues 24th June – 14:15 Y2 & Y4 Open Afternoon

Weds 25th June - 14:15 Y1 & Y5 Open Afternoon

Weds 16th July – Pre-School Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

Fri 18th July – Whole School Sports day at EIS

Tues 22nd July – Last day of School Year

Tues 22nd July – 14:30 Year 6 Leaver's Assembly

Weds 23rd July – Inset Day (No pupils in school)

Free School Meal Eligibility

We have seen an unprecedented rise in FSM eligibility in schools across Sheffield in the last few years.

As the school will receive additional funding based on the number of children who receive FSMs, not only will your child receive a FSM and free school milk but also financial support towards school trips in the future

With this in mind we want to make sure that our parents are aware of how to check their eligibility.

Even if you don't think you are eligible, it is worth your while to check.

You can check your eligibility online by following this link:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/utilities/form/schools-and-childcare/free-school-meals-start>

Parking around school

We have been contacted multiple times recently regarding cars that are parking illegally near school. This can be dangerous and could cause an accident.

The following are examples of incorrect parking that can be reported to the enforcement team:

parking on yellow lines, including adjacent to footways and verges

stopping on zig zag lines by a crossing or outside a school

using a disabled bay without a valid Blue Badge

double parking

dropped kerb access – in front of driveways

If you see a car that is causing danger to other road users or pedestrians then please use this link to report them.

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/report-incorrectly-parked-vehicle>

Whole School Attendance

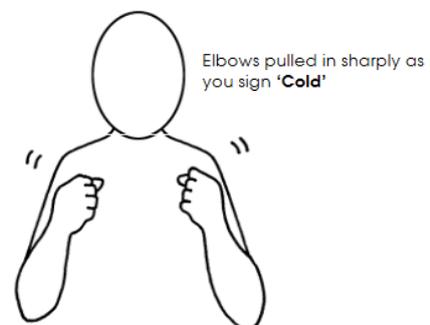
Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	92.2	87
Year 2	91.9	85.8
Year 3	91.8	89.6
Year 4	85.5	95.5
Year 5	92.3	85.3
Year 6	92.7	92

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/eXAxmCY5eRM>



Job Adverts

We currently have 2 vacancies at school, for a caretaker and a cleaner. Please see the attached job adverts. If you need any further information, please contact the school office.

Star of Bethlehem Arts and Crafts Competition

The winner will be announced on Wednesday 11th December, please see the attached poster for more information.

Winter Warmer Tickets

Tickets for the Winter Warmer performance on Monday 9th December have now been sent home with children. Please remember that we can only admit adults that have a ticket.

We have now sold tickets for all the seats available and therefore will be unable to admit any additional adults on the day.

We would like to remind you that there is also the Winter Warmer Performance at Church on Friday 13th December starting at 2pm. You do not need tickets for this event and it is open for all adults to attend.

developing
lifelong
learners



30 hour
places available
(subject to eligibility)
plus a wrap around
service

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL A CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Pre-School

Places still available for September 2025 for 3- and 4-year old's



Children benefit from access to an extensive outdoor learning environment which is zoned to reflect the areas of learning within the early year's curriculum.

St Thomas of Canterbury Pre-school is for 3 and 4-year-old children. This newly established and purposeful environment provides a stepping stone into developing sky skills that will make children confident learners in preparation for starting school. We value the importance of learning being exciting, new and innovative, creating opportunities for children that will inspire them to be lifelong learners.

Phonics and numbers are taught through adult led sessions. By the end of Pre-school, we hope children will be secure in their knowledge of numbers to 5 and their initial sounds.

For information about session times, application forms and our nursery admission policy, please visit the school website at www.st-tc.co.uk/our-nursery

Our outdoor space with a growing garden, extensive woodland, a mud kitchen, a giant sandpit with climbing equipment and a play house.



CONTACT US

Tel: 0114 2745597

Email: enquiries@st-tc.co.uk | Web: www.st-tc.co.uk

Class blog: <https://stthomasofcantpreschool.wordpress.com>

St Thomas of Canterbury School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Chancet Wood Drive, Sheffield, S8 7TR

excellence
for all
children



Winter Warmer Raffle

How it works: Each class has a class colour which is below. On the own clothes day, 29th November, 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.

Don't forget you can buy raffle tickets for friends and family!

Raffle tickets are £1 each

Donations 29th November

The draw will take place on 9th December during the Winter Warmer

Christmas own clothes day

Friday 29th November

Winter Warmer

Monday 9th December

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

Thank you from the
Friends of St Thomas.





A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2024 - 2025

We all have a statutory duty to **"safeguard and promote the welfare of children"**, ([*Working together to safeguard children, DfE 2015, page 5*](#))

If you have any concerns about the health and safety of a child or young person at this education setting or feel that something may be troubling them, you should share this information with an appropriate member of staff straight away.

Some issues such as a child's appearance, hygiene, general behaviour, can be shared with any teacher or member of support staff in this setting. Do not worry about reporting small matters – we would rather that you tell us things which turn out to be small than miss a worrying situation.

However, if you think that a child, a young person or an adult who cares for them has been or might be harmed, please talk to one of the people below immediately.

You can ask any member of staff to find them and ask them to speak to you straight away about a confidential and urgent matter.

The people you can talk to are:



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Name: Mrs L Clements

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy for under 5's is:

Name: Mrs R Hanson

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:

Name: Ms D Swain

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy is:

Name: Mr M Richardson

Their office is located next to the school office.

Their tel. no / mobile no is 01142745597

An allegation or disclosure involving someone working with children in a paid or unpaid capacity **must** be reported directly to the Head Teacher, Principal or Senior Manager, unless it involves them and then it should be reported directly to the Chair of the Governing Body or Management Committee.

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for term time leave taken and irregular attendance.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued (after 19th August) for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance this will be considered the first offence, and the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Where there is 4 days of absence during a week where there is also a training day, a penalty notice may still be issued.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines can also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate.