



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 8th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,
I hope you all enjoyed the half term holiday.

The Gospel on Sunday set the tone beautifully for our return to school. When Jesus was asked which was the most important commandment, he answered that this was to love God and that the second was to love your neighbour. These are the foundations of our whole St Thomas of Canterbury community. For our children, we use our school values of ready, respectful and safe to support them in understanding and then following these commandments.

This is a special half term in school. We have the mix of Advent services and liturgies as well as rehearsals for our Nativity and the Winter Warmer.

Our week started with the election of our new Pupil Parliament. These children have been chosen by their peers to represent them and share their thoughts and opinions about our school as well as working together to further improve our community. Well done and thank you to all of the children who put themselves forward. We are pleased to welcome Hope, Quinten, Jaxine, Ailbe, Emezue, Magda, Astrid, Verity, Matthew, Phoebe, Edie and Sophia to our new Pupil Parliament. I look forward to working with you.

Have a lovely 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 11th Nov – 4pm Spring 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open

Thurs 21st Nov – 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Tues 26th Nov – 15:30 – 17:45 Parents Evening

Thurs 28th Nov – Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop

Fri 29th Nov - Own clothes day for Winter Warmer raffle prizes

Fri 29th Nov – 09:00 Year 4 Class Assembly

Thurs 5th Dec – Pupil Flu Vaccinations

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

Weds 5th – Mon 10th March – Book Fair

Thurs 6th Mar – World Book Day

Tues 11th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

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

Fri 16th Dec – School Disco

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

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>

SEN Parent & Carer coffee morning

On Wednesday 4th December 9am-10am there will be a coffee morning for parents and carers of children with special educational needs/disabilities. We will be welcoming Sarah from the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum who will be sharing with us the work that the Forum does.

If you haven't heard of the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum please do have a look at their website; www.parentcarerforum.org.uk

They are an independent group of parents and carers of children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities. Their main aim is to ensure the needs of children are met. They bring together parent carers from across Sheffield to provide mutual support, exchange information, and influence policy and practice. We will also have some time to consider our school's SEND Information Report which can be found on our school website. It would be great to hear any ideas that you may have about the Report.

Please let Mrs Heaton know on k.heaton@st-tc.co.uk if you intend to attend the coffee morning.

Friends of St Thomas PTA Meeting

The friends of St Thomas PTA will be hosting their next meeting on

Wednesday 13th November at 7:45pm at school. We welcome new members and we will also be appointing new committee members, if anyone is interested.

Whole School Attendance

Our attendance last week was 95.5%

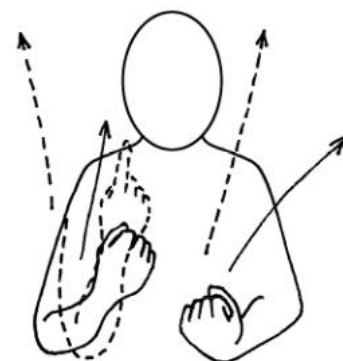
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Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

https://youtu.be/l_EC9n9q8R0



First Holy Communion

If your child is in Y3 or above and is ready to make their First Holy Communion in 2025, please scan the QR code below or follow the link and complete the form.

The catechists will then be in touch to provide details of and dates for the First Holy Communion programme.

Please complete the form by 24th November 2024

<https://forms.gle/xP9rnnffDayBYbXt8>

Free boxing taster sessions

Join us for free boxing taster sessions designed for children and young people! Whether you're new to the sport or just want to give it a go, this is the perfect opportunity to experience boxing in a fun and safe environment.

Sessions

EIS Sheffield: 12th November at 4:00pm - 4:30pm, 4:45pm - 5:15pm, 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Concord Sports Centre: 14th November at 4:00pm - 4:30pm, 4:45pm - 5:15pm, 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Each session is limited to 18 spaces, so don't miss out! Book your spot below:

<https://shorturl.at/Cl6Q2>



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2023 - 2024

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

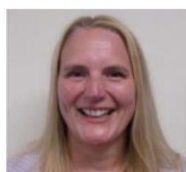
If you have any concerns about the health and safety of a child or young person at this education setting or feel that something may be troubling them, you should share this information with an appropriate member of staff straight away.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.