



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week! I think all the rain that didn't fall during the spring and summer fell over these last few days! I am pleased to report though that we did not have any surprise leaks this time and that the building work continued uninterrupted meaning we are still on track for October half term. I am sorry for the disruption this is causing and am very grateful for your support and understanding. It will be worth it!

Our Gospel on Sunday was a very powerful one. We were reminded that God's love for us is so strong that he gave us his only son even though he knew the pain and sacrifice that Jesus was going to endure while on Earth. Jesus left us with the commandment of 'Love one another as I have loved you' and we continue to use our values as a guide to do this. Through our school values of ready, respectful and safe, we are able to talk about how all of our words and actions, or sometimes lack of them, have consequences and that each should only be done with love: love for your friends and peers, love for your family, love for the school staff and with love for yourself. This can be tricky sometimes but we have God's gift of Jesus as an example.

I have good news! Mr Woodhouse's son, George William, was born in the early hours of the morning. They are all doing well. Mrs Bruce will be covering in Y2 for the next two weeks while Mr Woodhouse is on paternity leave.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your support in providing indoor black slippers and healthy snacks for breaktime. We are already seeing the benefits of these in school.

Have a lovely weekend
God bless
Mrs Clements



Sickness & Diarrhoea

We would like to remind parents, if your child has had any sickness or diarrhoea, they will need to be absent from school until 48 hours after their last bout of illness. For example, if your child is sick on a Monday evening, they will be able to return to school on Thursday. This is to safeguard staff and child to stop the possible spread of infection in school.

School Calendar

Weds 24th Sept 18:00 – Year 6 Parents End of Key Stage Tests Information Evening

Fri 26th Sept 09:00 - Reception Welcome Assembly (Parents/carers invited to attend)

Mon 29th Sept 14:15 – Year 3 & 6 Open Afternoon

Tues 30th Sept 14:15 – Year 2 & 4 Open Afternoon

30th Sept – 3rd Oct – Book Fair

Weds 1st Oct 14:15 – Year 1 & 5 Open Afternoon

Thurs 2nd Oct 15:30 - Reception Parents Phonics Meeting

Sun 5th Oct 09:15 – Family Mass at Our Lady St Thomas

Weds 8th Oct – Individual & Sibling photos

Fri 17th Oct 09:00 – Year 6 Class Assembly

Fri 17th Oct – School Disco

Tues 21st Oct 16:30 – Reception 2026 Prospective Parent open afternoon

Weds 22nd Oct 13:30 – Reception 2026 Prospective Parent open afternoon

Thurs 23rd Oct 15:15-15:45 - Y1 Parents Phonics Meeting

Mon 27th – Friday 31st October

Half Term break

Mon 3rd Nov – Pupils return to school

Mon 10th Nov 16:00 – Bookings open for Spring 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings

Fri 14th Nov 09:00 – Year 5 Class Assembly

Thurs 20th Nov 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Sun 23rd Nov – Family Mass for Christ the King at Our Lady St Thomas

Tues 25th Nov 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Fri 28th Nov 09:00 – Year 4 Class Assembly

Fri 28th Nov – Own Clothes Day for Winter Warmer

Raffle Prizes

Thurs 4th Dec – Pupil Flu Vaccinations

Mon 8th Dec 14:00 – Winter Warmer Performance in School (Year 1 – Year 6)

Tues 9th Dec – Infant Christmas Dinner

Weds 10th Dec – Junior Christmas Dinner

Weds 10th Dec – Pre-school Cakes, Crafts & Carols

Fri 12th Dec 14:00 - Winter Warmer Performance in Church (Year 1 – Year 6)

Mon 15th Dec 14:30 - Nativity Performance for Reception parents

Tues 16th Dec 14:30 - Nativity Performance for Y1 parents

Weds 17th Dec 14:30 - Nativity Performance for Y2 parents

Fri 19th Dec – Finish at 12pm

Mon 22nd December – Fri 2nd January

Christmas Break

Mon 5th Jan – Pupils return to school
Tues 6th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson
Mon 12th Jan 16:00 – Bookings open for Spring 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Tues 13th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson
Tues 20th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson
Fri 23rd Jan 09:00 – Year 3 Class Assembly
Tues 27th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson
Tues 3rd Feb - Y4 Swimming lesson
Fri 6th Feb – School Disco
Tues 10th Feb – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Fri 13th Feb – Non uniform day and bake sale for Children’s Mental Health Week

Mon 16th – Fri 20th February Half Term break

Mon 23rd Feb – Inset day (No pupils in school)
Tues 24th Feb – Pupils return to school
Tues 24th Feb - Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Mon 2nd March 16:00 – Bookings open for Summer 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Tues 3rd March - Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Thurs 5th March – World Book Day
Tues 10th March - Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Thurs 12th March 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening
Tues 17th March - Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Tues 17th March 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening
Weds 1st April – Pre-school Easter Egg Hunt
Thurs 2nd April – Whole School Easter Hat Decorating Competition
Fri 3rd April – Good Friday Bank Holiday (Pupils not in school)

**Mon 6th April – Fri 17th April
 Easter Break**

Mon 20th April – Pupils return to school
Mon 27th April 16:00 – Bookings open for Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Fri 1st May 09:00 – Reception Class Assembly
Mon 4th May – May bank holiday (No pupils in school)
Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May – SATS Week
Weds 20th – Fri 22nd May – Year 6 Residential
Fri 15th May – School Disco

**Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May
 Half term break**

Mon 1st June – Pupils return to school
Weds 3rd June – Non uniform day – bottle donation for summer Fair
Sunday 14th June – Summer Fair
Mon 15th June – Class Photos

Weds 24th – Fri 26th June – Year 5 Residential

Mon 29th June 16:00 – Bookings open for Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings

Mon 29th June 14:15 – Year 3 & 6 Open Afternoon

Tues 30th June 14:15 – Year 2 & 4 Open Afternoon

Weds 1st July 14:15 – Year 1 & 5 Open Afternoon

Weds 8th July – Reception Class Trip to Cleethorpes

Weds 8th July 19:00 – Year 6 End of Year Show at Meadowhead School

Weds 15th July – Pre-school Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

Mon 20th July – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Tues 21st July – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Individual and sibling photos

We will be having our individual and sibling photos on Wednesday 8th October. If you would like your children to have a sibling photo (including any non-school siblings), please bring them to the school office between 8am-8:30am. **We will not be taking any sibling photos during the school day, therefore if you do not bring your children to the before school session, they will not have a sibling photo.**

Children not bringing in water bottles

We have had a number of pupils forgetting their water bottle so far this year. We do not have any spare cups in school so we ask that you ensure that your child is sent to school with a labelled water bottle every day.

Scholastic Book Fair 30th Sept-3rd Oct

We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair Tuesday 30th September to Friday 3rd October.

The Book fair will be in the school office at the end of the school day.

All books will be 3 for 2 and for every book sold, school will receive a % from all sales, which will be spent on new books for the school.

We will **not** be taking cash payments during the event.

Parents will need to pay online via the below link or by scanning the QR code on the fair stands.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1440283>

If your child attends afterschool club and you are unable to attend the book fair with them but they would like to buy a book, please contact the school office.

Dress up clothing request from Pre-School

Pre-School are in desperate need of dressing up clothes, especially those that are people who help us - police, doctor dress up etc. They have a lot of princess and superhero styles but anything else, if you have outgrown it would be appreciated.

Schools Orienteering league

Please see the attached poster with information about a Schools Orienteering League. We are part of the SFSS meaning children in Y3 & above can attend for free.

Louise Hague Christmas Card Competition

Please see the attached letter with information regarding the Christmas Card Competition

Uniform

White or red embroidered polo shirt

- Red embroidered school sweater (round neck) or cardigan
- Red gingham dress
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore dress
- In warm weather, black formal shorts, just above the knee, may be worn.
- Black leather fitted school shoes
- White or black socks or black tights

PE Kit

- Black shorts
- White or red embroidered round neck t-shirt
- Black jogging bottoms
- Grey embroidered hoodie
- Trainers for games

One stud earring may be worn in each ear as long as this can easily be removed by the child for PE but no other jewellery. Makeup, including nail varnish, may not be worn.

Children may wear a watch for school if they wish. Children may not have lettering, lines or other designs in their hair. We also ask that, for health and safety reasons, long hair is tied back.

Due to the weather, if children are wanting to play football/sports on the field, they must bring change of shoes.

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.

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://shorturl.at/x3ess>

Whole School My Maths Login

Please see the below login details for the whole school MyMaths account.

<https://login.mymaths.co.uk/login>

School username: sttocps

School password: stthomas

Walking through the car park

Due to issues with our carpark gate, we have now set the gates to manual, meaning the gates will be open at the end of the day for SEN taxi transport. Please can we ask that you are not walking through the car park and through the double gates. We have a number of builders on site during the school day who may also need to access the car park, meaning we need to keep the carpark clear at all times.

Pupil Parliament elections

The elections for our new Pupil Parliament for the new school year will take place week commencing 13th October 2025.

Children in Years 2–6 will have the exciting opportunity to put themselves forward by writing their own manifesto. Their manifesto should explain:

Why they would make a great Pupil Parliament representative for their class

The qualities they would bring to the role

How they would like to help improve our school

Why they should be chosen for this important job

Manifesto forms will be available from 29th September 2025.

The children have already been briefed in assembly – please ask them all about it!

Spring Term PE Days

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

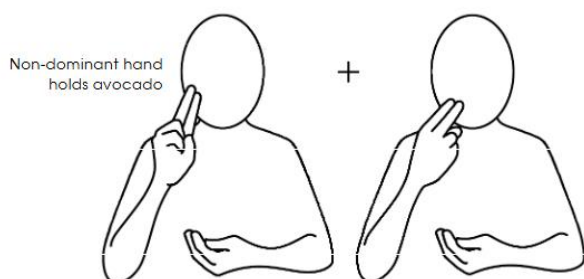
***Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 children will not be getting changed for PE in school. Instead, on their PE days, children should come to school wearing their PE kit for the day and will not need to bring in a change of clothes**

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/H0E6VjUqEAK>



Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	99.3%	98.5%
Year 2	99.6%	94.2%
Year 3	98.4%	97.6%
Year 4	99.3%	93.6%
Year 5	96.6%	92.4%
Year 6	97.9%	93.9%



Term Dates 2025 to 2026

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School



September (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October (18 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Bank Holiday	Autumn 1	Monday 1 st September 2025	to	Friday 24 th October 2025	40 days
	Autumn 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025	to	Friday 19 th December 2025	35 days
School Holiday	Spring 1	Monday 5 th January 2026	to	Friday 13 th February 2026	30 days
	Spring 2	Monday 23 rd February 2026	to	Thursday 2 nd April 2026	29 days
Staff Training	Summer 1	Monday 20 th April 2026	to	Friday 22 nd May 2026	24 days
	Summer 2	Monday 1 st June 2026	to	Tuesday 21 st July 2026	37 days



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 or the Deputy Head Teacher and then it should be reported directly to the Chair of the Governing Body or Management Committee.



The Safeguarding Children Team in your setting includes:

Head of School/ Executive Head: responsible for implementing policies & procedures, allocating resources to the safeguarding team & addressing staff safeguarding concerns.

Name: Mrs L Clements (Headteacher)

Tel no: 01142745597

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): a member of senior leadership team responsible for addressing safeguarding issues, providing advice & support and liaising with the local authority & other agencies.

Name: Mrs L Clements (Headteacher)

Tel no: 01142745597

Designated Safeguarding Deputy (DSD): a teacher or support worker (not admin or finance worker) who works with and covers for the DSL role above.

Name: Ms D Swain

Tel no: 01142745597

Name: Mr M Richardson

Tel no: 01142745597

Name: Mrs R Hanson

Tel no: 01142745597

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo): provides advice, liaison & support for staff & agencies working with pupils with special education needs & disabilities and their families

Name: Miss L McKay

Tel no: 01142745597

Learning Mentor (or equivalent): supports pupils to reach their full potential by addressing their behaviour, attendance, achievement, timekeeping, homework and some safeguarding issues

Name: Ms D Swain

Tel no: 01142745597

Looked After Children (LAC) Designated Teacher: promotes the educational achievement of 'looked after' children and young people by helping staff understand issues that affect how they learn and achieve

Name: Miss L McKay

Tel no: 01142745597

E-Safety Coordinator: develops and maintains an e-safe culture within a setting

Name: Mr M Richardson

Tel no: 01142745597

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Lead: develops and maintains policies & staff awareness of CSE, the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board responsibilities and the Sexual Exploitation Service key priorities

Name: Mrs L Clements

Tel no: 01142745597

Your Safeguarding Children Team also links with the:

Safeguarding Governor: helps the Governing Body to have safeguarding policies & procedures in place, ensures they are followed and addresses general safeguarding issues that staff and parents raise

Name: Mrs B Popplewell

Email: b.popplewell@st-tc.co.uk

Tel no: 01142745597

Chair of Governors: addresses allegations of abuse made against the Head Teacher (and other members of staff when the Head Teacher is not available), liaises with the Local Authority; and works with the Head to ensure safe recruitment practices

Name: Mrs Judith Wilde

Email: chairofgovernors@st-tc.co.uk

Tel no: 01142745597

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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 key 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

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.