

# St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank goodness that the weather has been much drier this week. That said, it has been a little chilly standing by the gate in the morning. As ever, the children's warm smiles have warmed us up.

Today, we had a welcome assembly for our new Reception children. Thank you to Fr Clement and Mr Farragher for joining us on this special day and bringing together all the different parts of our community. I am impressed with how quickly the children have settled into school and it has also been wonderful welcoming so many new families into our community and seeing the return of others. We are thrilled that you have chosen to join us.

On Sunday, we heard Jesus tell one of the trickiest parables to understand. Thankfully, Fr Geoff was visiting my Parish and he eloquently explained its relevance to our lives today. Jesus's message was about our inability to 'serve two masters'. He was explaining that to truly follow the Gospel teachings we must put our own desires aside unless they too would benefit the greater good. Through our school value of respect, we try to support our children in doing this. I was also reminded of one of Pope Francis' messages, where he talked specifically about putting aside our desire to say unkind things about people. He described this as 'an evil that destroys social life, sickens people's hearts and leads to nothing.' It is really tricky helping the children to understand how hurtful words can be and I am glad we can work in partnership with you, the first educators of your children, to teach them this.

Next week, we have our class open afternoons for Y1 -6. This is a chance for you to come into school, meet your children's class teacher and see their classroom. Even though Mr Woodhouse will not be in school next week, we still invite Y2 parents in so that you can have a look at what your children have been learning about so far. Mr Woodhouse will invite you into school again once he returns from paternity leave. I am pleased to say that mum, dad and George are doing well.



I am pleased to share that the building work is still on track for finishing for October half term. Windows have gone in this week and the scaffolding has come down. The space is huge - we are not sure where it has all come from as the footings are the same as before! I look forward to showing it to you.

Have a lovely weekend God bless Mrs Clements

#### School Calendar

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 16:30** – Reception 2026 Prospective Parent open afternoon

Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 13:30 – Reception 2026 Prospective Parent open afternoon

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 15:15-15:45 - Y1 Parents Phonics Meeting

### Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October Half Term break

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Pupils return to school

**Mon 10**<sup>th</sup> **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – Own Clothes Day for Winter Warmer

Raffle Prizes

Thurs 4th Dec - Pupil Flu Vaccinations

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 14:00** – Winter Warmer Performance in School (Year 1 – Year 6)

**Tues 9**th **Dec** – Infant Christmas Dinner

Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Junior Christmas Dinner

Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Pre-school Cakes, Crafts & Carols

**Fri 12**<sup>th</sup> **Dec 14:00** - Winter Warmer Performance in Church (Year 1 – Year 6)

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> January Christmas Break

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – Pupils return to school

Tues 6th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson

**Mon 12**<sup>th</sup> **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 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 09:00 – Year 3 Class Assembly

Tues 27th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson

Tues 3rd Feb - Y4 Swimming lesson

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – School Disco

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Non uniform day and bake sale for Children's Mental Health Week

#### Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> February Half Term break

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Tues 24th Feb – Pupils return to school

Tues 24th Feb - Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Whole School Easter Hat Decorating Competition

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Good Friday Bank Holiday (Pupils not in school)

## Mon 6<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April Easter Break

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April – Pupils return to school

**Mon 27**<sup>th</sup> **April 16:00** – Bookings open for Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings

Fri 1st May 09:00 – Reception Class Assembly

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May – May bank holiday (No pupils in school)

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May - SATS Week

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

Fri 15th May - School Disco

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> - Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 6 Residential

## Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> May Half term break

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June – Pupils return to school

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Non uniform day – bottle donation for summer Fair

Sunday 14th June – Summer Fair

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June – Class Photos

Tues 16th June – Year 1 & 2 Trip to Butterfly House

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 30<sup>th</sup> June 14:15 – Year 2 & 4 Open Afternoon

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

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> July – Whole School Sports Day at EIS

Weds 8th July – Reception Class Trip to Cleethorpes

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

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> July** – Pre-school Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 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.

#### Louise Hague Christmas Card Competition

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

#### 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

#### **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

### Labelling uniform

them all about it!

We have a growing amount of unlabelled lost property in school. Please ensure all of your child's uniform is labelled permanently with their name including their coat and any bags.

#### 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.

#### **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

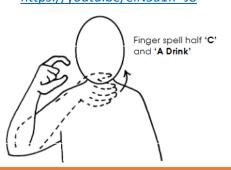
AM - children come to school in their PE kit and bring their uniform to change into.

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 <u>Coffee.</u>
Please click this link to see how it is done!
<a href="https://youtu.be/elN5a1fP-J8">https://youtu.be/elN5a1fP-J8</a>



#### 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: <a href="https://shorturl.at/x3ess">https://shorturl.at/x3ess</a>

#### 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.

#### Scholastic Book Fair 30th Sept-3rd Oct

We will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### Sheffield United October Half Term Football Camps

Please see the below links for more information:

LU Thorncliffe - https://shorturl.at/lwbz5

LU Graves - https://shorturl.at/4e72U

LU Westfield - https://shorturl.at/6rnMF

Wisewood - https://shorturl.at/4nwpb

Handsworth - https://tinyurl.com/ms4825pu

#### Girls Only

LU Westfield - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/37b8rpvf">https://tinyurl.com/37b8rpvf</a> LU Graves - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4hcv826s">https://tinyurl.com/4hcv826s</a>

#### **Whole School Attendance**

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	98.5%	98.9%
Year 2	94.2%	96.5%
Year 3	97.6%	95.8%
Year 4	93.6%	93.9%
Year 5	92.4%	96.9%
Year 6	93.9%	92.5%



# Term Dates 2025 to 2026



St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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August							
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

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















Tel no: 01142745597



### 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.

Tel no: 01142745597 Name: Mrs L Clements (Headteacher)

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

Tel no: 01142745597 Name: Miss L McKay

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

Tel no: 01142745597 Name: Miss L McKay

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

### 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 L Clements

Name: Mrs Judith Wilde Tel no: 01142745597 Email: chairofgovernors@st-tc.co.uk



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# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL

A CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Pre-School



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 <a href="https://www.st-tc.co.uk/our-nursery">www.st-tc.co.uk/our-nursery</a>

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



enjoy • learn • achieve

sheffield.gov.uk/schoolmatters

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.