



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 28th February 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your children had an enjoyable half term.

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking Mr Howe and all those who worked with him over half term to make improvements to our outdoor areas. Many staff and parents have commented on what a good job they made and how much smarter the outside looks. We are continuing to work with The Friends of St Thomas' to look for cost effective ways to further improve our outside environment but I am sure you will agree that Mr Howe's team have certainly made an excellent start for us. Thank you again!

Today, we had the Y2 class assembly. Thank you to Y2, Miss Batteson and Mrs Leask for reminding us of the importance of forgiveness. They shared the story of Peter asking Jesus how many times you should forgive someone. Peter suggested 7 times. Jesus replied that you should forgive 77 times just as God always forgives us. Y2, you did a fantastic job of sharing this message today. Thank you again!

We relaunched the Dojos this week. Rather than giving the children 25 Dojos and then rewarding extra for going above and beyond or taking them away for not following school values, the children will earn each and every point for making good choices. The children will aim to earn a minimum of 5 Dojos each day. Please ask your children what they have earned their points for already this week.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Clements

Reminder

We have been working with all schools in the Trust on procedures should the school need to be placed into lockdown and are now at the stage when it is necessary to inform children of the procedures and undertake a lockdown drill. This had been planned to take place last half term but given the tragic events at All Saints we felt it more sensitive to postpone.

Preparing the children

Conscious that we needed the children to take the process seriously but not to frighten them, we will explain to children beforehand that we are practising a way to stay safe in an emergency, giving the example of a deer being loose recently at a nearby school. We will explain it is like a game of hide and seek, and that each class will have a designated space to 'hide' with their teacher. We will explain that when they hear a continuous tone sound for 10 seconds, they should show the stop sign immediately and follow their teacher's instructions.

The first drill will take at 9.30am on Monday 3rd March 2025. We are informing you of the date because you may wish to speak to your child about this before and/or after. Because of the need to be prepared in an emergency, we will not give out details of future drills beforehand, but will send a parentmail immediately after to let you know this has taken place.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries.

School Calendar

Mon 3rd Mar – 16:00 Summer 1 Breakfast/Afterschool Club bookings open

Tues 4th Mar – Year 5 Swimming Lesson

Thurs 6th Mar – World Book Day

Fri 7th Mar – SEN Parent Coffee Morning

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)

Tues 22nd April – 16:00 Summer 2 Breakfast/Afterschool Club bookings open

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 – Year 1 & 2 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

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

Sun 8th Jun – Summer Fair

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

Mon 7th July – 16:00 Autumn 1 Breakfast/Afterschool Club bookings open

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)

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.

Parking at Chancet Wood Children's centre

We've been made aware that some of our parents have been parking in the limited spaces in the Children's Centre car park. Please can we ask that you do not park in their as their spaces are limited and they also have to accommodate a number of wheelchair accessible vehicles and these spaces need to be available to people using the centre.

World Book Day -Thursday 6th March

Please see the attached letter with details about World Book Day 2025.

Reminder: Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are something that the DFE, our LEA and our school take very seriously as persistent absence and lateness can impact both on a child's academic performance and their mental health.

The school day begins at 8.45.

Change for KS1 - The KS1/Reception gate will continue to be open between 8.45 and 8.45. Rather than play outside, the children will now go straight in to class so that they can be greeted by our staff who are waiting for them. This change has been put in place as both staff and parents expressed that this would be offer a softer start for the children.

No changes for KS2 - When the whistle is blown, the children gather together as a key stage to say and sign their morning prayer. As this is the formal start of the school day, the KS2 side gate is closed at 8.45.

The main gate is closed at 8.55 to allow children who start their day in The Hive (our IR) access to school through the office. Any child who arrives after 8.45, when the KS1/EYFS and the KS2 side gates are closed but before the main gate is shut at 8.55, will be classed as late for registration. Entry to school after 8.55 but before 9.30 is

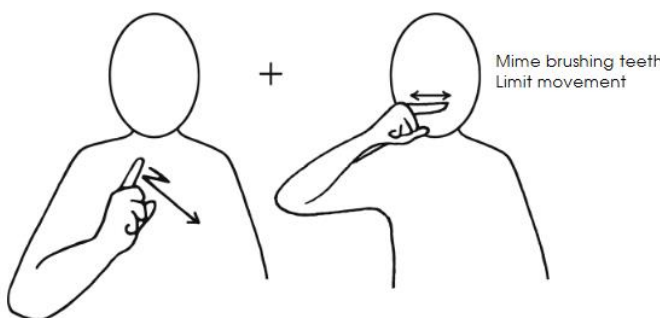
classed as late after registration has closed. Any latecomers after

9.30 are classed as having an unauthorised absence for the morning. This is in line with the LEA and National guidance.

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **Electric Toothbrush**. Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/9CVMNnzF63Q>



Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	94.1%	99.5%
Year 2	96.5%	99%
Year 3	91.5%	93.1%
Year 4	95.7%	97.5%
Year 5	98.7%	100%
Year 6	90%	92.1%

Spring Term PE Days

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

***Swimming lessons will replace PE lessons on applicable days (see school calendar for dates).**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



7
FEB

SCHOOL DISCO
6-7.30PM



17
APR



EASTER EGG
COMPETITION

16
MAY

SCHOOL DISCO
6-7.30PM



8
JUN



SUMMER FAIR
2-5PM



MONTHLY

FRIENDS CASH DRAW
WIN £50 A MONTH



Friends of St Thomas

All of these events raise money to support our school. Please get in touch if you would like to help and volunteer and help at any of the above dates.



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 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

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.