



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have a few notices to share with you this week.

Firstly, Mrs Hartley, our new caretaker, starts with us on Monday. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her - there certainly is much for her to get on with! It has been a tricky six months for us and I would like to thank the children, staff and families who have helped us look after the site during this time.

One of the things I am going to talk to Mrs Hartley about is our muddy playgrounds. Support to make these better is coming from a variety of sources and there is light at the end of the tunnel (It's just a long tunnel I'm afraid). In the meantime we are trying to prevent the spread of mud inside school. We have explained to the children that the carpets and corridors are becoming very dirty and that our cleaning staff are struggling with this. Until the weather changes, I have asked our children to stay away from the grassy areas in the playgrounds unless they have brought a change of shoes. Thank you for your support with this.

I have spoken to the children in KS2 about a proposed change with our Dojo points. Last week, I invited Jheni Weir, Assistant Head and Behaviour Lead at St Catherine's School, to St Thomas' to take a look at behaviour in our school and how well the policy is working. I'm pleased to say it was a very positive visit indeed (although she too commented on our mud!). One question she raised was about how our relational approach to behaviour management fitted with children losing Dojos when they didn't make good choices. Although the children themselves shared that they didn't mind this, it made me think hard about what makes us St Thomas of Canterbury and how this fits with our values. As a consequence, after half term, we will be trialling a different approach to Dojos. From February 24th, we won't be giving children any Golden Time Dojos, instead, the children will aim for their '5 a day' as staff award children for examples of positive behaviour that reflects the St Thomas of Canterbury way. Our 'always children' will be rewarded for their continued good choices and those children who struggle will be encouraged in a more positive way to make the right choices. Our behaviour policy sets out how we will support children who make the wrong choices. If you would like to talk to me about this, either to ask questions or give feedback, either email the school office or pop in to see me on Thursday afternoon next week.

Our final piece of news this week is very exciting indeed! Miss Batteson is expecting a baby! The baby is due in June and she will be starting her maternity leave from May Bank Holiday. We felt it was a good idea to let you know now as her bump is becoming very obvious! I have a plan for our Y2 class for the last half term and will share this with you as soon as I can.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

God bless

Mrs Clements

Lateness

Please remember that gates close at 08:45 and any children arriving late than this will receive a late mark in the register.

School Calendar

Tues 4th Feb – Year 4 &6 Swimming Lesson

Fri 7th Feb – Non-uniform day for Children's Mental Health Week

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 – 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)

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

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>

Non-uniform day for Children’s Mental Health Week

On Friday 7th February, children are invited to wear own clothes that reflect their personality. For example, if they have a loud personality, they could wear something loud, if they play a lot of football, a football shirt etc. This is in support of Children’s Mental Health Week. More information for parents can be found on the attached poster.

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.

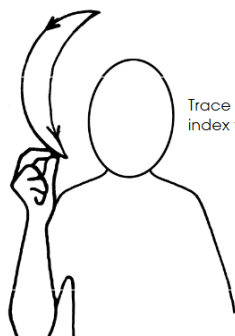
Children may not have lettering, lines or other designs in their hair. We also ask that, for health and safety reasons, long hair is tied back.

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week’s sign is **Moon**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/xaPz6QI5VYU>



Trace crescent shape with index finger and thumb

Annie Performance

Please see the attached poster for information about a performance of Annie. Current and past pupils are performing in this show and we hope people can show their support.

Cycling Pilgrimage

Please see the attached poster with information regarding a Cycling Pilgrimage in July 2025.

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).**

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	92.6%	98.5%
Year 2	98.8%	98.1%
Year 3	94.6%	98.9%
Year 4	97%	97%
Year 5	96.7%	94%
Year 6	91.7%	98%



SCHOOL

6-7.30PM

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

DISCO

£6 TICKET FEE VIA PARENTPAY - ONLINE ONLY

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GATE

**£6 INCLUDES ENTRANCE AND £3 WORTH OF VOUCHERS.
DEADLINE TO BUY ONLINE WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY**

PARENTS AND CARERS MUST STAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN. MINIMUM 1 ADULT TO 5 CHILDREN. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ADMIT ANY CHILDREN OR BABIES INCLUDING OLDER OR YOUNGER SIBLINGS WHO DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND SCHOOL. OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

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

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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

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children

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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 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.