

St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This first week of Advent has been such a lovely time in school. Year 4 have thoughtfully made each class their own wreath, and our special assemblies are now underway. In the midst of this busy season, Sunday's Gospel reminded us of what this time is truly about. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth on Christmas Day, we are also called to be ready for his return.

It brought me back to the words shared by Year 4 last week: that every small act of kindness we offer is a way of making Jesus's presence known here on Earth. One of our school values is Ready. We often think of this as being ready to learn, ready to help, or ready to accept an apology. But this week's Gospel reminded me how deeply this value sits at the heart of who we are at St Thomas'. Through our kindness, compassion, and understanding, we are preparing ourselves—personally and as a community—for when Jesus comes again.

At the Local Academy Committee meeting on Tuesday, our Governors voted unanimously to support my proposal to adopt the mission statement: "Let all you do be done with love," based on 1 Corinthians 16:14. This simple statement captures the ethos we want to define our school. It reflects how we treat one another, serve our community, and prepare children to navigate the world with compassion, integrity, and purpose. Its simplicity makes it memorable for all: children can understand it, staff can apply it, and families can see it reflected in daily life.

This mission aligns closely with our values and behaviour policy. Teaching good behaviour—being clear about expectations, modelling them, and reinforcing them consistently—is an act of love. Even when correction is needed, it is offered with care to help children grow. By grounding our school in love, we provide a strong moral anchor for kindness, respect, patience, and responsibility.

We have also recently completed our four-yearly Catholic school inspection. While this was an intense process, it was both validating and uplifting. The inspectors highlighted what a wonderful, loving community our school is and how we live out Jesus's message to love one another every day. I will be proud to share the full inspection report with parents as soon as I am able to. This feedback serves as a wonderful affirmation of our new mission statement and the values we hold dear.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you at our Winter Warmer performances next week. The children's singing over the past fortnight has been beautiful, and I know they will help us open our hearts and become truly ready for Christmas. Year 6 will once again sing O Holy Night, a perfect reminder of the true meaning of the season.

Have a wonderful weekend.

God bless, Mrs Clements School Calendar

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 – Whole School Christmas Jumper Day

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 – School finishes 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 20th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson

Tues 27th Jan - Y4 Swimming lesson

Sat 31st Jan - Friends of St Thomas Race night

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

Fri 15th May – Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags

Fri 15th May – School Disco

Weds 20th - Fri 22nd May - Year 6 Residential

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

Weds 10th June – Y6 Crucial Crew visit

Sunday 14th June – Summer Fair

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

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

Mon 6th July – Whole School Sports Day at EIS

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 (Preschool closed)

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

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

Parking around school

We have been contacted multiple times recently regarding cars that are parking illegally near school. This can be dangerous and could cause an accident.

As a school we send out reminders to our parents and carers regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking. We also forward complaints to our contact at the local parking enforcement team. They will be doing spot checks and will give out fines to anyone parking illegally.

The following are examples of incorrect parking that can be reported to the enforcement team:

- parking on yellow lines, including adjacent to footways and verges
- stopping on zig zag lines by a crossing or outside a school
- using a disabled bay without a valid Blue Badge double parking
- dropped kerb access in front of driveways
 If you see a car that is causing danger to other road users or pedestrians then please use this link to report them.
 https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/report-incorrectly-parked-vehicle

RuggerEds Christmas Holiday Camp

Please see the attached poster, Code RuggerFamily will get families 10% discount!

Swim England National Winter Championships- £1 family swim sessions and FREE tickets

In celebration of Sheffield hosting the Swim England National Winter Championships, working alongside Swim England, Places Leisure, Everyone Active and Zest are providing £1 swimming at a range of venues across the city.

General Family swim session – 'open session for all families to attend'

Sunday 14th December

Graves Tennis and Leisure Centre - 13:00-14:00

Concord Sports Centre - 15:00-15:45

Springs Leisure Centre - 13:15-14:00

Friday 19th December

Zest Centre - 19:00-19:45

Sunday 14th December

Zest Centre - 10:00-10:45 and 11:00-11:45

We are also able to offer FREE tickets to go to watch the event. https://tinyurl.com/vxb24k5v

Ordering milk for Spring term

Milk is now available to book on Parentpay for Spring Term 2025.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December will be our Christmas Jumper Day. We invite children to come to school in a Christmas Jumper or festive clothing. Children are welcome to wear own clothes with their festive item.

Labelling uniform

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.

Sheffield Parent Hub classes

Please see the attached letter with information about upcoming courses that Sheffield Parent Hub.

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.

Autumn Term PE Days

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

Makaton Countdown to Christmas

20 sleeps to go

Today, we have Solo Choir performing **Christmas Is All Around Us.**

https://youtu.be/fO fqctBfPY

Golden Broom Winner

Each week, our caretaker chooses a class to win the Golden broom for having the tidiest cloakroom.

This week's winners are



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.

https://shorturl.at/x3ess

Absence due to illness

After a review with our Attendance Worker from Sheffield City Council, it has been brought to our attention that, although our overall attendance figures are very good, many of our absences are for 'low level illness' such as coughs and colds.

Going forward, if you call school or leave a voicemail to report your child's absence, we ask that you please explain the illness your child has and the symptoms they are showing. As part of our duty of care, we need this information to both safeguard staff and other children from any possible exposure to infections, and also to confirm how long your child should be absent. For example, if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, they need to be absent for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. On some occasions, it might be that, through our conversation, we advise that your child is actually well enough to attend school. Often, children feel much better once they are with their friends and engaged in their learning.

If you are unsure if your child is well enough to be in school, please refer to the below NHS guidance:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/ As part of our duty of care, we will be carrying out a 'spot check' home visit to some families if their child is off sick. This is to see how we can support in enabling children to return to school.

Christmas Dinners next week

As a reminder, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will be having their Christmas dinner of Tuesday 9th December, children in Year 3-6 will need to bring a packed lunch, unless they are entitled to free school meals, these children can order a cheese sandwich on this day.

Year 3-6 will be having their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 10th December, children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 can order a cheese sandwich on this day.

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	84.1%	92.4%
Year 2	81.6%	88.5%
Year 3	96.5%	93.2%
Year 4	91.4%	91.1%
Year 5	96.8%	93.9%
Year 6	95.7%	91.1%

Winter Warmer Kaffle

How it works: Each class has a class colour which is below. On the own clothes day, 28th November, we will be collecting any gift donations in the colour of your child's class colour. If you can't think of anything in your class colour you could wrap it up in that colour! The Winter Warmer class hampers will then be raffled off to raise funds for the school. All donations welcome from chocolate coins, books, a toy, snacks, candles, drinks and everything else in-between!

To win a hamper visit Parent Pay for raffle tickets.

Don't forget you can buy raffle tickets for friends and family!

Raffle tickets are £1 each

Donations 28th November
The draw will take place on Monday 8th December during the Winter
Warmer

Christmas own clothes day

Friday 28th November





Term Dates 2025 to 2026



St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School

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					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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Jar	nuary	(20	days	s)		
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Mai	rch (20 d	ays)			
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Ma	y (15	Day	rs)			
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29	30					

July (14 Days)							
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

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 Hollday	Autumn 2	Monday 3rd November 2025	to	Friday 19th December 2025	35 days
School 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 nd April 2026	29 days
Stoff Training	Summer 1	Monday 20th April 2026	to	Friday 22 nd 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 2025 - 2026

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.

















The Safeguarding Children Team in your setting includes:

Headteacher: 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 or deputy headteacher (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 Molly Baxter Email: chairofgovernors@st-tc.co.uk Tel no: 01142745597

(cc) BY-NG-SA www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk

developing lifelong learners



30 hour places available (subject to eligibility) plus a wrap around service

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 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 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 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 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.

term

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.