



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week it has been in school! We've had Skipping Week, Anti-Bullying Week and our NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe assemblies, so there has been plenty going on to keep everyone active, thoughtful and talking about how we can all look after ourselves and one another.

Last Sunday's Gospel gave us much to reflect on too. We heard how Jesus became angry and turned over the tables in the Temple. It's quite a striking image and one that carries two clear messages. The first is that no one is perfect – not even Jesus. We all make mistakes from time to time. What's really important is what we do afterwards. Saying sorry is a start, but it's not enough on its own; we have to truly mean it and make a real effort not to repeat the same mistake. This ties in beautifully with our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe, and with our behaviour policy which is rooted in those values and in the belief that all we do, we do with love. Helping children to put things right, understand the consequences of their actions and learn from their mistakes is such an important part of this.

The second message from the Gospel reminds us that the Temple was a place of God – a holy place – and that our school is too. Our behaviour and attitudes should reflect that. Acting with love means wanting only good things for one another, and when we live out our values in that way, we show that our school is a place where everyone is valued and cared for.

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents into school for Parents' Evenings on Thursday 20th and Tuesday 25th November. These evenings are a great opportunity to talk with teachers about how your child has settled into their new year group and how they are managing with their work so far. Teachers will also share any support in place. As always, high-quality teaching and engaging classroom activities remain the most effective and most common forms of support for all our children.

A reminder too that our School Family Mass will take place on Sunday 23rd November at 9.15am to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the Church's year. The following Sunday will be the first Sunday of Advent. It's always a lovely time to come together as a school family, and I hope many of you will be able to join us.

Have a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Clements

School Calendar

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 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 (Pre-school closed)

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

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

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.

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

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>

Kitlocker logo competition winners

Winners for the Sports Logo competition will be announced in the upcoming weeks.

Ordering lunches and Christmas Dinner

Parentpay has now been updated with the new menu for Autumn and Spring Term.

This also means that Christmas Dinners are now available to book on Parentpay.

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will be having their Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 9th December.

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be having their Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 10th December.

On Tuesday 9th December, children in Y3,4,5 & 6 will need to bring a packed lunch, unless they are entitled to free school meals, a cheese sandwich can be ordered for the children entitled to free school meals.

On Wednesday 10th December, children in Reception, Y1 & Y2 can book a cheese sandwich, please note that this will be the only option for them on this day.

Children in Pre-school & The Hive can choose between the hot meal or sandwich on both days.

Please can we ask that all bookings are made on Parentpay by Friday 28th November, so the kitchen can accurately order ingredients.

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.

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.

Part time cleaning vacancy

Please see the attached job advert for more information.

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.

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.

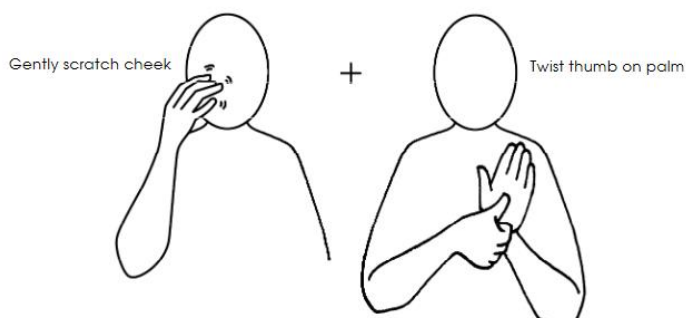
PM - children should come dressed in their uniform, with their PE kit to change into.

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/WCu7mrjlvnl>



Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	98%	95.9%
Year 2	97.4%	93.1%
Year 3	96.9%	96.9%
Year 4	96.7%	95.4%
Year 5	93.6%	95.7%
Year 6	96.5%	97.7%

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.