



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Gospel, we heard the powerful story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life. What stands out so clearly is the deep friendship between Jesus and Lazarus. Jesus is visibly moved and saddened by the loss of his friend, reminding us of the importance of love, compassion and the relationships we build with one another. It is a moment that calls us to care for others and to be there for our friends in times of need.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week — a very special and important time in the Church's year. It is a time for reflection, prayer and remembering the events leading up to Easter. In school, we will be helping the children to understand this important time and its message of hope, love and new life.

These messages are closely rooted in our school mission, "Let all that you do be done with love," guiding the way we care for and support one another each day.

We are very much looking forward to our Year 5 children leading us in their performance of the Passion of Christ on Thursday afternoon. The children have been working incredibly hard, and their singing already sounds beautiful. It promises to be a moving and special occasion for our school community.

As a reminder, school will close for the Easter break on Thursday, and we look forward to welcoming the children back after the holidays.

Have a good weekend

God bless
Mrs Clements

Ordering school dinners & milk for Summer Term

The new school dinner menu and milk are now available to order via Parentpay for Summer term (20th April – 17th July).

Toys in School

Just a reminder that toys and cards (for example Pokémon) are not allowed in school. If you feel that your child needs a fidget toy from home to support their learning, please contact Miss McKay, our SENCO to discuss this. senco@st-tc.co.uk

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.

School Calendar

Weds 1st April – Pre-school Easter Egg Hunt

Thurs 2nd April – Whole School Easter Hat Decorating Competition

Thurs 2nd April – Non uniform day for Caritas/Good Shepherd

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 3rd June – Toy & Book donations accepted 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

Fri 19th June – Year 4 Trip to Magna

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)

Sheffield Children' Hospital fundraising update

We are pleased to say that our lion cub has been painted and returned to Sheffield Children's Hospital ahead of the Pride of Yorkshire trail, which will take place over the summer. Well done to our 2 Y6 pupils, who's ideas were used in final design for our lion cub. Fundraising has also finished for this and we have been able to raise an incredible £2596.24, thank you for all the amazing donations and support during this fundraising event.



Sheffield United Football Half term camps

Handsworth - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-handsworth-easter-football-camp-week-2.html>

Westfield - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-lu-westfield-easter-camp-week-2.html>

Graves - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-lu-graves-easter-football-camp-week-2.html>

Wisewood - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-wisewood-easter-football-camp-week-2.html>

Thornccliffe - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-lu-thornccliffe-easter-football-camp-week-2.html>

Girls Only

Westfield - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-lu-westfield-girls-only-easter-football-camp-week-3.html>

Graves - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/sheffieldunited/25-26-lu-graves-girls-only-easter-football-camp-week-2.html>

Safeguarding update

You may be aware of recent conversations on social media relating to a trend referred to as "Red v Blue School Wars," which has caused some concern in schools both locally and nationally.

We want to reassure our families that we are aware of these reports and are working closely with our Trust, local secondary schools, the Local Authority and the Police to monitor the situation and respond to any information shared with us. At present, this appears to be a social media rumour, and we will not be addressing it directly with pupils, as we do not want to cause unnecessary fear.

That said, we regularly talk with children about staying safe, travelling carefully, and using social media responsibly. The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is always our highest priority, and we are grateful for the continued support of our families in helping children stay safe both in school and online.

Breakfast & Afterschool club price increase from September 2026

Unfortunately, due to the ever-rising costs in staffing, food and resources we have no other option but to increase the breakfast and after school club to keep this sustainable.

The following charges will apply from September 2026.

Breakfast club £5.50

After school club £10.50

I am sure you will agree that this invaluable provision is still very competitively priced.

Thank you for your continued support.



Cakes/Sweets for birthday celebrations

We understand that parents/carers would like to send their child with a cake or sweet treats to celebrate their birthday with their class. Please can we ask that any food items sent in are shop bought in original packaging, with full ingredients list and also individually portioned for example, cupcakes, small packets of sweets etc. Going forward we will be unable to accept whole cakes that need to be cut and wrapped up to be sent home.

Good Friday Liturgy for Children

On Good Friday, 3rd April, children are welcome to join the Children's Liturgy Team in the Parish Hall during the 3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at Our Lady & St Thomas Church, Meadowhead. We will lead a simple retelling of Jesus' Passion story, with reflective activities to help children engage with the themes of the day, before joining the congregation in church for the Veneration of the Cross and the remainder of the main Liturgy. Please come straight into the Hall when you arrive. Adults are welcome to stay with their children or attend the main Liturgy. We hope you will join us for this important day.

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.

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>

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>

Spring Term PE Days

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

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

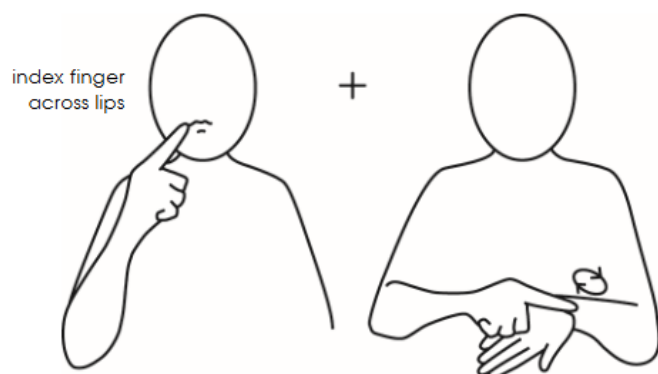
PM - children should come dressed in their uniform, with their PE kit to change into.

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/5U0FzUgaza0?si=rzVbCaeLbcX8oht>



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

Year 2

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This week
Year 1	94.8%	98.5%
Year 2	97%	99.3%
Year 3	93.2%	93.6%
Year 4	91.5%	94.8%
Year 5	95.9%	94.5%
Year 6	95.5%	100%



EASTER HAT DECORATING COMPETITION

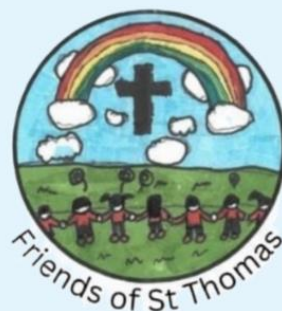
DONATE £1 PER HAT TO ENTER
WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

Decorate or make a hat and make it as colourful as you can. This could be anything from a bonnet to cardboard crown. Get creative and stick things on it to create a fun Easter design.

The competition will be judged on Thursday 2nd April. Please bring your hats into school the morning of 1st April and don't forget to include your name and year group.

There will be prizes for the best designs.

HAVE FUN DECORATING





Children's Liturgy Presents...

EASTER CRAFTS!

Saturday, March 28th 2-4pm

St Williams Parish Centre

Please come prepared to get messy and bring a shoe box to take your crafts home.

Please RSVP to

office@stwilliamssheffield.org.uk

Donations for foodbank and HCPT - providing holidays in Lourdes for disabled and disadvantaged children

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

2 APR

EASTER HAT DECORATION

15 MAY

SCHOOL DISCO 6-7.30PM

14 JUN

SCHOOL FAIR

FRIENDS CASH DRAW

WIN £50 EVERY MONTH

The Friends of St Thomas raise money to support our 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 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

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

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

Sheffield Every School day matters!

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 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.