



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

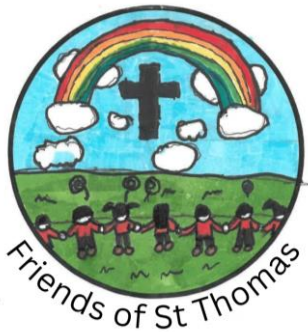
Week ending Friday 25th April 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a lovely Easter. There has been much to enjoy and celebrate in school this week.

Yesterday we were visited by the author Andrew Powell-Thomas. He spent time in all of the classes delivering workshops on creative writing. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and I am proud to say that Andrew did too. He has emailed to say what a lovely school St Thomas' is and that 'The children were fabulous throughout - from the way they all walked into assembly; the way they listened and engaged during the sessions; to some of the Y6's having lunch with me in the hall.' The only thing he felt could have been better was if he had had more time with each class!

In our Golden Time assembly today members of The Friends came to announce the winner of the logo competition. Very well done to Evan in Y5 who designed the winner. I love the way it captures everything about our school, especially with The Cross in the centre. Well done and thank you Evan.



In classes during the week, the children have celebrated the life of our late pope by finding out more about him. Next week, our whole school assembly will be devoted to Pope Francis and his mission. Monica Conmee, Head of Education at CAFOD, has written and asked us to pass on this message to you:

'A constant source of hope and inspiration, Pope Francis has profoundly shaped the very mission and the whole life of the Catholic school community, moving a generation of children and young people throughout England and Wales to put their faith into action, to care for our world and for those in greatest need. There is no doubt that the impact of Pope Francis's words can be found in every Catholic school in the country...

Pope Francis said that his own life story was a journey of hope. He understood that in a world that can feel scary or divided, God's love and the hope it brings is needed more than ever. In fact, he made hope the theme of this Jubilee year. How poignant it is in this Jubilee year, as hundreds of thousands of children and young people in schools around or nations embark on their Jubilee journey, aspiring to his invitation to be pilgrims of hope, he is now passing the baton over to these trusted young hands.'

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless

Mrs Clements

School Calendar

Fri 2nd May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Fri 2nd May – 15:15 Reception Class Bake Sale

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

Thurs 15th May – 10:00 Prospective Pre-school parent morning

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

Thurs 5th June – Own clothes day for Bottles for summer fair

Sun 8th June – Summer Fair

Tues 10th June – 17:00 Reception 2025 Parent information evening

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

Mon 7th July – Reception trip to Cleethorpes

Tues 8th July – Year 6 Crucial Crew trip

Weds 9th July – 19:00 Year 6 Leaver's Show at Meadowhead

Thurs 10th July – Year 4 trip to Weston Park Museum

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)

Smart watches

Children should not be coming to school with smart watches. These are any watches that connect to the internet or have a camera. These kinds of watches can pose a safeguarding risk for our children

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.

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

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.

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **To Run.**

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/IHOMP1m4OgI>



Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This Week
Year 1	96.8%	96.8%
Year 2	96.2%	96.2%
Year 3	89.3%	93.1%
Year 4	97.5%	69.3%
Year 5	93.3%	99.2%
Year 6	97.9%	95.8%

Spring Term PE Days

Reception	Friday AM
Year 1	Monday PM & Thursday AM
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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025



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 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

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.

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.