



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 1st December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to join us for our school family mass on Sunday morning. It was such a joyful occasion; the perfect way to end the Church's year.

Y4's class assembly today certainly helped start the new year by preparing us for Advent. They explained to us the meaning behind each part of the Advent Wreath. Thank you, children.

In his homily on Sunday, Fr Geoff shared with us that, just as we can be Jesus's presence on Earth, we need to remember to look for him in others. He reminded us that it is easy to see his likeness in people who are openly showing love but that it is more difficult to spot it in those people who are in need. In the Gospel, Jesus reminded us that every little thing we do for others we do for him. This is why, no matter how hard it might be to show love to others sometimes, we must do our very best to do so as we are doing this love to him. Advent is a perfect time to try harder with this and to help others. As a school, we are going to be raising funds for the Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust. More information to come soon.

On Thursday this week, we were very lucky as the singer, James Partridge, came in to school to teach us a few new songs and also some actions for The 12 Days of Christmas. James has been playing concerts for adults and children across the country and kindly visited us for free because Kate Shipway, our singing teacher, wanted to mark our commitment to the teaching of singing. It was brilliant! Do ask your child about the actions 12 days of Christmas – they are great fun!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

God bless

Mrs Clements

Punctuality

I have noticed an increasing number of children arriving after 8.45, the time when school begins. From next week, we will be closing the gates at 8.45 and children arriving after this time will need to enter school through the main office and will be marked as late on the register. Please help your child to get to school on time. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Monday 4th December – 14:30 Supporting children with anxiety Parent Workshop

Friday 8th December – 09:00 Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust Festival of Cribbs

Monday 11th December – 14:00 Winter Warmer

Tuesday 12th December – Infant Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 13th December – Junior Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 13th December – Nativity

Thursday 14th November – Hive Pantomime trip

Friday 15th December – 13:30 Traditional Winter Warmer in Church

Friday 22nd December – School finishes at 12pm

Christmas Break – 25th December – 5th January

Monday 8th Jan – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 9th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 16th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 23rd Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Friday 26th Jan – 09:00 Y3 Class Assembly

Tuesday 30th Jan – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 6th Feb – Year 6 Swimming lesson

Spring Half term – 12th – 16th February

Monday 19th February – INSET Day – No Pupils in School

Tuesday 20th February – Pupils return to school

Tuesday 20th February – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 27th February – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Friday 1st March – 09:00 Y2 Class Assembly

Tuesday 5th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

4th – 8th March – Open Afternoons

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Monday 11th March – Parents Evening (In Person)

Tuesday 12th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Wednesday 13th March – Parents Evening (Virtual)

Friday 17th May – School Disco

Tuesday 19th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Friday 22nd March – 09:00 Y1 Class Assembly

A Prayer from our Class Teachers

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.

Easter Break – 29th March – 12th April

Monday 15th April – Pupils return to school

Wednesday 24th April – Class Photos

Friday 3rd May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Monday 12th May -SATS WEEK

Summer Half term – 27th – 31st May

Friday 7th June – Whole School Sports Day

Weds 19th – Fri 21st June – Year 6 Residential

24th – 27th June – Open Afternoons

Mon 1st July – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

Weds 3rd – Fri 5th July – Year 5 Residential

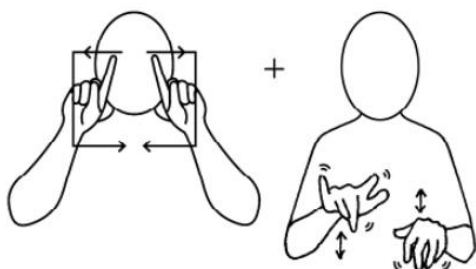
Tues 9th July – Year 6 Leaver's show

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/rCCFq9XmVAg>



PE Days

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

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.

Chess Sets

Mr Woodhouse is running a very popular chess club during lunch times at school. We currently have more children wanting to play, than chess sets available. If anyone has a chess set at home that they no longer use and would like to donate to school, we would be most grateful. Please bring any donations to the school office.

Online Safety Update

To start the school year, we are revisiting the digital 5 a day – easy to follow, practical steps for children and parents to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

This week, try looking at number 4: Give to others. As well as being charitable, we can be giving in how we talk to people online. A 'like' and a kind comment letting people know that you appreciate what they have made is encouraging to others. Just be sure to stay safe and not give away personal information.

It is very important that if other people behave badly online, we report it to someone we trust keep our online community safe and respectful.

Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

Lunchtime Supervisor Job Advert

We are currently advertising for a Lunchtime Supervisor role, if you, or someone you know would be interested, please see the attached Job advert. If you would like to know any more information, please speak to the school office.

Milk for Spring Term

Milk for Spring Term is now available to book via Parentpay.

Advent Collections

This Advent, Our Lady & St Thomas church are having weekly collections for those in need. Details of the collections are included below, and these items can also be brought into school.



Advent Offertory Collections

As usual we are invited to make additional practical offerings as part of our preparations for Christmas for those in need in our area at this time – starting next week.

1st Sunday (3rd): TOILETRIES, CLOTHING, FOOD for ST WILFRID'S CENTRE eg Men's roll on deodorant, soap, lip salve, combs/hairbrushes, packs of tissues, gloves, underpants/boxers (sm-med size), boxes/bars/sharing tubs of chocolate, biscuits, sweets, Tins of ham, corned beef, tuna, casseroles, stews, potatoes, veg, fruit, custard, rice pudding, pot noodles See also their Reverse Advent Calendar at www.stwilfridscentre.org & GIVE TO LIVE Collection for distribution to our Outreach Partners in Sheffield & overseas.

2nd Sunday (10th) BISCUITS & CHOCOLATES for SVP to distribute locally.

3rd Sunday (17th) MEN'S NEW SM/MED PANTS, VESTS, SOCKS, FOOTWEAR, WARM HATS, GLOVES, (NO SCARVES) for BEN'S CENTRE for people on the streets in Sheffield.

4th Sunday (24th) Advent Collection of Money for SOCIETY for the PROTECTION of UNBORN CHILDREN



Diarrhoea and Vomiting

We have been advised by UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) to inform you that we have several cases of Diarrhoea and vomiting (gastroenteritis) in school. If you think that your child may have developed this infection, please keep them off school until they are 48 hour symptom free. Please inform school immediately of any cases.

Please see the link below for further information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

We have also got one confirmed case and two possible cases of Scarlet Fever.

What is it?

Scarlet Fever is an infection due to a germ called Streptococcus.

What are the symptoms

Scarlet Fever often starts with a sore throat, high fever, swollen neck glands and tonsillitis. A skin rash develops on the body, and the face is often flushed. The tongue may be smooth and bright red.

If you think that your child may have any of the above symptoms, please:

Contact school

Contact your GP, informing them that there are cases in school

Refrain from school until two days after the start of antibiotics

Please also see this link for further information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>



Winter Warmer Raffle

Two festive treats in the run up to Christmas!
Hold on for deer life with a festive own clothes day and our annual Winter Warmer raffle.

WINTER WARMER How it works: Each class has a class colour which is below. On the own clothes day, 1st December, 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 from 20th November.

Raffle tickets are £1 each.
Tickets from **20th November**
Donations **1st December**
The draw will take place on **Monday 11th December** during the Winter Warmer

Christmas own clothes day

Friday 1st December

Thank you from the
Friends of St Thomas.

NURS **RY** = **RAINBOW**
RECEPTION = **WHITE**
YEAR 1 = **GREEN**
YEAR 2 = **RED**
YEAR 3 = **PURPLE**
YEAR 4 = **BLUE**
YEAR 5 = **SILVER**
YEAR 6 = **GOLD**
HIVE = **YELLOW**

