



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 1st March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a very busy week in school.

In our assembly this week, we focussed on the first reading from Sunday's Mass. We heard how Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac as an offering to him. This was a test for Abraham and when he showed he loved God enough to make this huge sacrifice God stopped him and, instead told him how pleased he was with him. He promised him and all his descendants every blessing in return. I shared with the children how we are all descendants of Abraham and because of this sacrifice we too have those blessings in our lives. I shared with them how I truly feel they are my blessings (their cheery 'good mornings', ever ready smiles and little chats on the playground being a few of the ways I receive these!). I have encouraged them to look for ways to show that they are blessings to one another and to you too. I hope you have noticed a difference!

We have had our book fair in school this week; many thanks to everyone who came and supported this. I don't know yet how much we have made for school but we certainly will be able to buy some new books for our libraries.

Today was Y2's class assembly. This assembly shared with us the very important message of forgiveness. It reminded us that we are all humans and that we all make mistakes but we can put these right by saying sorry and by giving the gift of forgiveness. Thank you Y2, Miss Batterson and Mrs Leask. What a fantastic assembly!

This afternoon, I had the privilege of accompanying Y6 to Church for the first of our school Lenten Stations of the Cross. Each KS2 class will have the opportunity to visit Church on one of the Friday afternoons this half term. Parents are welcome to join their children in church if they would like to.

Next week looks like a busy one too. We have World Book Day on Thursday and each KS1 and 2 class have their Spring open afternoons. I look forward to seeing you there!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

God bless

Mrs Clements

Safeguarding

I am pleased to say that Our Trust safeguarding audit went well on Wednesday. Thank you to those parents who took the time to speak with Mr Fernandes and Mrs McFarlane. One of the things they found was that not everyone is aware of who all the members of our School Safeguarding Team are. This information is available on our website and we have attached our information sheet to this newsletter. In case you were not sure, I am our school safeguarding lead and would be the person you would contact with any safeguarding concerns. If you have safeguarding concerns about me, your point of contact would be our Chair of Governors. They can be contacted at chairofgovernors@st-tc.co.uk

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Tuesday 5th March – Year 5 Swimming lesson

Tuesday 5th March 14:30 – Parent/carer workshop

4th – 8th March – Open Afternoons

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Monday 11th March - Parents Evening (In Person)

Monday 11th March - Summer 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

Tuesday 12th March 14:30 – Parent/carer workshop

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

Tuesday 26th March 14:30 – Parent/carer workshop

Easter Break – 29th March – 12th April

Monday 15th April – Pupils return to school

Wednesday 24th April – Class Photos

Monday 29th April - Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

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 – Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open on Parentpay at 4pm

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

Tues 9th July – Year 6 Leaver's show

Thurs 11th July – Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit

Fri 19th July – Last day of Term

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.

Whole School Attendance

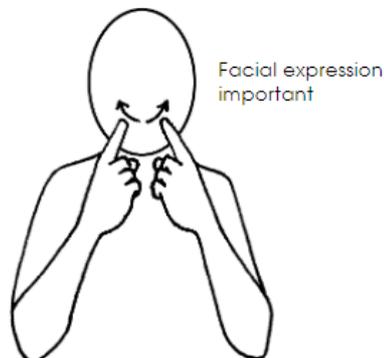
Our attendance for last week was 98.3%
Our attendance this week was 96.9%

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/axjY7Am6aLI>



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.

Open Afternoons

We would like to remind you that our next open afternoons will be next week. These will run from 2pm – 3.10pm.

The run as follows:

Y6 and Y3 – Monday

Y2 and Y4 – Tuesday

Y1 – Wednesday

Y5 - Thursday

Parish Events

Please see the attached church newsletter.

Contacting teachers via Email

We have noticed an increasing number of parents/carers are emailing teachers directly. Please can we remind everyone that if you are wanting to contact your child's class teacher, please email enquiries@st-tc.co.uk and the message will be passed on to the class teacher. We ask that you do not email teachers directly to ensure that messages are read in a timely manner. Teachers do not always have time to read their emails in a morning or during the school day and important messages may be missed. This is also for the wellbeing of our teachers as some emails are received outside of school hours.

Parent/Carer Informal workshops

Our Well being mentor, Cathy Byrne, is delivering 3 short workshops for parents on the themes of anxiety, anger and self esteem. They will take place at 2:30pm and will finish in time for the end of the school day. They are taking place on the following dates;

- Tuesday 5th March
- Tuesday 12th March
- Tuesday 26th March

Please book a place by contacting Cathy on wellbeingmentor@st-tc.co.uk or Kate Heaton on k.heaton@st-tc.co.uk.

Use of adult toilets near school office

Due to new safeguarding guidance, we will no longer be able to allow parents to use the adult toilets near the school office. The adult toilet in Pre-school may be used in emergencies but only before 9am and after 3:15pm (the school day).

Online Safety Update

Online Safety Update

Online gaming is very popular with children and adults alike and players can play live with people across the world through a range of devices. In-game chat is a feature that many parents worry about, and which can cause anxiety and danger to children.

It is always helpful to discuss with your child how to stay safe online. Set boundaries about what information they can and can't share and what to do if they come across something inappropriate such as bad language. They should know that they can come and talk to you if they feel others are being mean or making them feel uncomfortable online.

Here are some useful resources about in-game chat and specific games.

Think U Know - article about in-game chat - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat/>

Ask About Games - searchable advice for parents/carers and children about games - <https://www.askaboutgames.com/>



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2023 - 2024

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 is:

Name: Mrs L Wragg

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.