



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Mass on Sunday, after hearing the parables of The Lost Sheep and The Prodigal Son, I reflected on their message of how God rejoices when we recognise our mistakes and look to be reconciled with those we have hurt. For me, this is one of the most important parts of our school and our faith as a whole.

There have been lots of good things happening in school this week. The children have settled back into their routines and I have been thrilled to be able to give out plenty of Headteacher Award stickers for good work. In the newsletter which was sent on Monday, I shared with you our core values of ready, respectful and safe. We have been working on understanding what these mean for us and what they look like in school. It has been great to see the children and staff showing these each day. Understandably, some children are still finding the transition hard. Just like in Sunday's Gospel message, we look to support those children and have rejoiced with them when they have made the right choices. This is one of the joys of our job!

We started our week with a special assembly in which we heard all about the work of Grace Foodbank. We were sad to hear that the number of people who use them has more than doubled over the last few months. We are still collecting tins and packets for Grace Foodbank and the box is in the school entrance. We also thought it would be nice to hold a special Harvest Festival day on Friday 21st Oct where we would have a non-uniform day in support of the foodbank and have a special collective worship where we give thanks to God for the food we have. More details to follow nearer the time.

I hope you have a good weekend and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

God bless and thanks for your continued support.
Mrs Clements

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Autumn Term 2022

Monday 19th Sept – Bank Holiday for The Queen's funeral - School Closed

Weds 21st Sept – 3.30 – 4.30 Friends' Event: Teachers vs Parents Football Match

Sun 2nd Oct – Family Mass 9.15am

Thurs 13th Oct – Individual Photos

Thurs 20th Oct – 6.00 – 7.30 Friends' Event: School Disco

Friday 21st Oct – Non-uniform day in support of Grace Food Bank

Half term 24th-30th October

Mon 31st Oct – Inset Day

Sun 6th Nov – Family Mass 9.15am for the school's 50th anniversary

Mon 12th Dec – Winter Warmer

Thurs 22nd Dec – Break up for Christmas: School Finishes at 12pm

Spring Term 2023

Mon 9th Jan – Children return to School

Queen Elizabeth II, 1926 – 2022

The Catholic Community of the Diocese of Hallam mourns the loss of Our Great Queen, Elizabeth II.
We give thanks for her seventy years' service as our Queen.

Her Christian Faith was the compass of her life.

May Christ who chose her to lead our nation, now receive his loyal servant into the glory of Heaven.

We offer our deepest prayers and condolences to the Royal Family at this sad time for them.

Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in Peace.

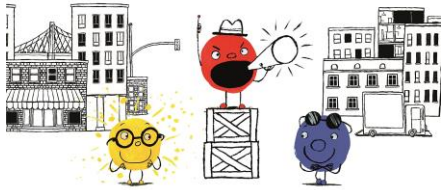
God save the King.

Book Corner

This week's recommendation is by Miss Stevens.

MIXED

Arree Chung



An inspiring story about colour

Mixed by Arree Chung, is a great book with which to start the school year as it helps us to see how, although we are all different, we are all better off together.

Thank you Miss Stevens

Family Masses and 50th Anniversary Celebration

This year, we are delighted to be bringing back Family Masses. These are celebrated at Our Lady & St Thomas Church and are an opportunity for children to take part more actively in Mass. The first of the school year will be celebrated at 9.15 Mass on 2nd October and we are looking for volunteers to welcome families into church, do the readings and bidding prayers, help with the offertory, and be part of the music. If you would like to take part, please email Mr Richardson: m.richardson@st-tc.co.uk There will be a Family Mass every half term, so we hope everyone who would like to be part will get a chance.

The second Family Mass of the year is doubling as our belated 50th Anniversary Celebration. We are inviting current and former pupils, families, staff and governors to join us at 9.15 Mass on 6th November and then to come to school for an open event with refreshments. Please help us to spread the word about this event and get a wonderful turnout. If anyone has any pictures of the school from their time here, please share them with us on the day, or by dropping them into school beforehand.

Our Lady & St Thomas Table Tennis Tournament

A friendly table tennis tournament for children and adults will take place in the church hall at 1pm on 24th September 2022. There will be fun, food and prizes, all in support of Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. Entry is free for those not participating in the tournament and entries to the tournament cost £5 for adults and £3 for children. There is a flyer attached to this parentmail with more details.

FAO parents/carers of children on the mainstream SEND register and those in The Hive

Miss Needham (Teacher and Senco of The Hive) and Mrs Heaton (mainstream Senco) would like to invite you an informal coffee meeting on TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER at 2:30pm here at school. The meeting is a joint one for all parents/carers of children on the SEND Register, both those with a mainstream place and those with an IR place in The Hive. It will be an opportunity to get together and perhaps consider if you would like us to provide future opportunities to meet. Perhaps you would like to consider if you would like meetings to have a particular SEND focus?

Please contact either Mrs Heaton (k.heaton@st-tc.co.uk) or Miss Needham (e.needham@st-tc.co.uk) to confirm your attendance on the 18th October.

Online Safety Update

Last week, we introduced 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 2: Be active.

Being active can be anything which you enjoy, and a chance to get a regular break from the screen and notifications!

Researching an activity or place online before going out is a good way of combining the two and provides an opportunity for you to use the internet together.



Keeping in Touch

As parents, you are the first educators of your child and at this school we recognise that the partnership between home and school is fundamental to a child's success. The school staff team are always happy to see parents during the week before or after school to pass on brief messages, and you are welcome to make an appointment if more time is needed. Please come and talk to us if you are worried about friendships, progress or anything at all. It is always best to talk to the class teachers as the first port of call.

We know that many parents work long hours therefore you may prefer to send an email to us and we will respond to you as quickly as possible. Please note however, that teachers will not be expected to read or respond to emails after 5.00pm or over weekends. If you would like to email us, please use the school email address rather than teachers individual addresses. Thank you.

E-mail address: enquires@st-tc.co.uk

PE and Sports

SportsEd have started their lunchtime clubs this week. This year, we have free lunchtime sports clubs each day in school these are as follows: On a Monday Y1/2 have a club; Y3/4 have Wednesday and Friday and Y5/6 have Tuesday and Thursday. These clubs seem to have been very popular with all of the children and are paid for by the school as part of our Sport Premium provision.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you one again for your continued support with the new arrangements for PE. While I know there are many benefits to this change, there have been a few teething problems in these first two weeks. Like with anything new and different, it takes time for us all to adapt and I am confident that this new system will feel quite normal by half term.



Attendance

We have had our termly attendance meeting with Sheffield City Council and have been advised to remind parents that the registers in school close at 9:00, with any child arriving after 9:00 being marked as late and any child arriving after 9:30 being marked with an unauthorised absence.



The Friends of St Thomas are hosting a parents vs teachers football game on Wednesday 21st September.

The kickoff time is 3:30pm, allowing us to start straight after children have been collected.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available (cash only).

If you are able to donate a baked item for the stall, please bring it to the school office Wednesday morning.

We are still needing players for our parent team, if you are interested in joining, please contact Tommy on 07866 986890.