



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

This week, it certainly feels as though autumn has well and truly arrived! The cooler mornings and changing leaves are a sure sign that we've reached the end of our first half term.

The half term has finished on a high with the Year 6 class assembly. This was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our Mission Statement, "Let all that you do be done with love," and celebrate what this looks like here at St Thomas of Canterbury. We heard St Paul's words, "the greatest of these is love," reminding us what lies at the heart of our faith. Thank you to the children and staff for sharing such an important message with us.

A Wonderful Gift for Our Readers!

A huge thank you to The Friends (our PTA) and one of our governors, who have each generously donated £500 towards new books. Every KS2 child is visiting Waterstones to choose a book for our school library!

Year 3 and Year 6 have already found some wonderful fiction and non-fiction books, with Year 4 and Year 5 looking forward to their visits after half term. We are so grateful for this generosity. It is lovely that the children can choose books they are excited to read and recommend them to other readers in our school.

Fantastic Footballers!

I want to say well done and thank you to our wonderful Y6 football team who, last night, won the local English Schools Football Association tournament and secured their place in the regional finals. We are so proud of you!



A Gentle Reminder About Start Times

The school day starts at 8.45am, when the gates close. The gates open at around 8.35am, giving children time to gather in the playground before the start of the day. In Reception and Key Stage 1, we aim to welcome children into class a little earlier to help them settle calmly and check in with their teacher. Every day in school counts, and learning begins as soon as the school day starts. Even a ten-minute delay can mean missing important learning, so thank you for helping your child arrive on time and ready to learn each morning.

Thank you for all your support this half term. It has been a very positive start to the year, and we are grateful to work in partnership with you.

Have a lovely half-term week, enjoy some well-deserved family time, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed!

God bless,
Mrs Clements

School Calendar

Mon 26th – Fri 30th Oct – Half term

Mon 2nd Nov – Inset day – No pupils in school

Mon 9th Nov – Spring 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open at 16:00

Friday 20th Nov – 9:00 Year 5 Class Assembly

Tues 24th Nov – 15:45-17:45 Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Thurs 26th Nov - 15:45-17:45 Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Fri 4th Dec – 9:00 Year 4 Class Assembly

Mon 7th Dec – 14:30 Nativity Performance for Reception Parents

Tues 8th Dec - 14:30 Nativity Performance for Y1 Parents

Weds 9th Dec -14:30 Nativity Performance for Y2 Parents

Mon 14th Dec – 14:00 Winter Warmer Performance in School

Tues 15th Dec – Infant Christmas Dinner

Weds 16th Dec – Junior Christmas Dinner

Weds 16th Dec – Pre-school crafts and carols

Fri 18th Dec – 14:00 Winter Warmer Performance in Church

Tues 22nd Dec – School finishes at 12pm

Weds 23rd Dec – Tues 5th Jan – Christmas Break

Weds 6th Jan – Pupils return to school

Mon 11th Jan - Spring 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open at 16:00

Fri 29th Jan – 09:00 Year 3 Class Assembly

Mon 15th -Fri 19th February – Half term

Mon 22nd Feb – Inset day (No pupils in school)

Mon 1st March – Summer 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open at 16:00

Thurs 4th March – World Book Day

Fri 5th March – 09:00 Year 2 Class Assembly

Tues 16th March – 15:45-17:45 Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Thurs 18th March - 15:45-17:45 Y1-Y6 Parents evening

Weds 24th March – Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt

Thurs 25th March – Easter Hat/Egg Decorating Competition

Fri 26th March – Bank Holiday (No pupils in school)

Mon 29th March – Fri 9th April – Easter Break

Mon 19th April - Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open at 16:00

Fri 23rd April – 09:00 Year 1 Class Assembly

Mon 3rd May – Bank Holiday (No pupils in school)

Mon 10th – Thurs 13th May – SATS WEEK

Fri 21st May – 09:00 Reception Class Assembly

Weds 26th – Fri 28th May – Y6 Residential

Mon 31st May – Friday 4th June – Spring Bank Half Term

Fri 11th June – Whole school sports day at EIS

Weds 16th June – Class Photos

Mon 28th June – Y1 & Y5 Open afternoon from 14:15

Tues 29th June – Y2 & Y4 Open Afternoon from 14:15

Weds 30th June – Y3 & Y6 Open Afternoon from 14:15

Mon 5th July – Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings open at 16:00

Weds 14th July – Pre-school Family Fun Day

Weds 14th July – Y6 Leaver's Mass at Church (Time TBC)

Fri 16th July – 14:15 Year 6 Leaver's Assembly

Sheffield Choral Choir

See the attached poster for information about the Sheffield Choral Choir performance on Sunday 18th October.

[Abler - Marketplace](#)

Sheffield United Half term camps

See the below link for camps held by Sheffield United Community during half term.

Plea for board games

If you have any board games you are no longer using, please bring them to the school office. We would love them for our wet play days!

Book donations for KS2

We would like to replenish the books in our KS2 library, if anyone has any suitable reading books, in good condition, please bring them to the school office.

Ordering dinners and Christmas Dinner

Parentpay has now been updated with the new menu for Autumn and Spring Term, meaning you can now book school dinners until Thursday 25th March 2027.

This also means that Christmas Dinners are now available to book on Parentpay.

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will be having their Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 15th December.

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be having their Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 16th December.

On Tuesday 15th December, children in Y3,4,5 & 6 will need to bring a packed lunch, unless they are entitled to free school meals, a cheese sandwich can be ordered for the children entitled to free school meals.

On Wednesday 16th December, children in Reception, Y1 & Y2 can book a cheese sandwich, please note that this will be the only option for them on this day.

Children in Pre-school & The Hive can choose between the hot meal or sandwich on both days

Please can we ask that all bookings are made on Parentpay by Friday 4th December, so the kitchen can accurately order ingredients.

Immunisation drop in clinics

Some children and young people may not be up to date with the current national immunisation programme. The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) provides regular drop-in clinics across Sheffield, offering parents and carers a convenient way to access vaccinations.

Further information about the service, including clinic locations and times, can be found here:

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/services/school-nursing/school-age-immunisation-service/>

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>

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.

Parent sleep survey

Please see the attached letter from Sheffield Children's Hospital regarding a parent survey regarding sleep.

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://shorturl.at/WGShC>

Autumn Term PE Days

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

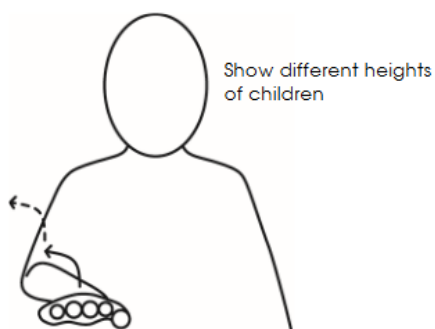
PM - children should come dressed in their uniform, with their PE kit to change into.

Makaton Sign of the Week

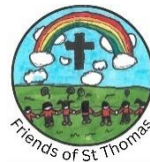
This week's sign is Children.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/J56U6uiQxs0?si=rBmSVm8rmaVlvzHH>



Friends of St Thomas Cash Draw



Donate £2.50 per month to support the school and be in with the chance of winning £50 each month! Contact the school office for more info.

The winner for October is J O'Connell

Golden Broom Winner

Each week, our caretaker chooses a class to win the Golden broom for having the tidiest cloakroom.

Year 6

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last week	This week
Year 1	98.8%	97.5
Year 2	99.3%	100
Year 3	99.6%	96.9
Year 4	99.6%	96.2
Year 5	97.9%	93.6
Year 6	100%	97.1



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 (17 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 (21 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 (16 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 (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

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 (19 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 (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		

May (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						

June (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				

July (12 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 2026 to Friday 23 rd October 2026	39 days
	Autumn 2	Monday 2 nd November 2026 to Tuesday 22 nd December 2026	35 days
School Holiday	Spring 1	Wednesday 6 th January 2027 to Friday 12 th February 2027	35 days
	Spring 2	Monday 22 nd February 2027 to Thursday 25 th March 2027	24 days
Staff Training	Summer 1	Monday 12 th April 2027 to Friday 28 th May 2027	29 days
	Summer 2	Monday 7 th June 2027 to Tuesday 21 st July 2027	37 days



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2026 - 2027

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



Our Designated Safeguarding Deputy and LAC designated teacher is:

Name: Miss L McKay

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

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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

*excellence
for all
children*

Sheffield Every School day matters!

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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.