St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Families,

It has been another busy week at St Thomas', with lots to celebrate and plenty happening in school.

Our Gospel this week
In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus told the parable of the talents. The story reminds us that God has given each of us gifts and abilities, and that we should make the most of them rather than hide them away. Sometimes using our gifts can feel difficult or take us outside our comfort zone, but we need to be brave, have a go and trust in what we can do. This links beautifully with our value of being Ready — being willing to try, take opportunities and use what we have been given to make a difference.

Anti-Bullying Week

I was sorry to miss our Year 5 assembly this morning. I have been away with other Catholic headteachers, working together on our new Inclusion Strategy, which we are looking forward to sharing with families very soon.

I know the assembly rounded off Anti-Bullying Week perfectly. We started the week with our colourful Odd Socks Day on Monday, celebrating the fact that we are all different and that this is something to be valued. A huge well done to our Year 5 children for bringing the week to such a lovely close, and a big thank you to Miss Fitton for preparing the assembly and helping the children share such an important message. I am sorry I missed it!

A Big Thank You to Bess

I would like to say a very big thank you to Bess Poppelwell, whose term as a parent governor has now come to an end. During her time as a governor, Bess has taken on the role of Safeguarding Governor and has been a tremendous support and a much-valued critical friend to me. This has been particularly true during the early days of my headship, when I was finding my feet and learning the ropes! I am incredibly grateful for her time, support, challenge and commitment to St Thomas'. Thank you, Bess!

Parents' Evening

I am looking forward to seeing lots of you at parents' evening next week. It is a really important opportunity to hear how your child is getting on, celebrate their progress and talk with their teacher about their learning.

Just a gentle reminder that children should not be brought into school for parents' evening. These appointments are an opportunity for parents and carers to have a conversation with the teacher and receive feedback about how their child is doing. Thank you for helping us to make the most of this time.

Have a lovely weekend. God bless,
Mrs Clements

School Calendar

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

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

Tues 1st Dec – Year 6 Legally Blond Jr All Saints Show

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

Thurs 10th Dec – Own Clothes day for Winter Warmer Raffle prizes

Fri 11th Dec – Year 5&6 Professor Lightbulb Explains the Mind Machine performance at All Saints

Mon 14th Dec – Flu Vaccination catch up clinic in school

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 – Festive Clothes/Christmas Jumper Day

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

Mon 21st Dec – Class Parties

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

Soccereds & Ruggereds Christmas camps

Please see the attached poster to see the Christmas camps offered by Soccereds and Ruggereds. St Thomas of Canterbury families receive a 10% discount using code EVOFAMILY.

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.

Pre-School teaching assistant Job Advert

Please see the attached poster and job description for an upcoming role in our Pre-school.

Immunisation catch up clinic in school.

The Sheffield immunisation team will be holding a Flu Vaccination catch up clinic in school on Monday 14th December.
This is for children who missed out on the first vaccination date in school.
The vaccinations are also open for any child in Pre-school,
If you would like your child to have the vaccination in school on this date, please complete the below linked consent form.
https://www.sheffieldchildrensvaccinations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SF138828
If your child has already had their vaccination in school or at other vaccination clinics, you do not need to complete the form.

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.

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.

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 November is D Boyle

Golden Broom Winner

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

Year 1

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **To cook.**
Please click this link to see how it is done!
https://youtu.be/VHV27TY9wTc?si=N-UwF7_hrrT6lvRf



Whole School Attendance

Class	Last week	This week
Year 1	98.4%	96.3%
Year 2	100%	100%
Year 3	95.8%	94.6%
Year 4	97.7%	95%
Year 5	98.2%	97.1%
Year 6	100%	99.6%

ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Term Dates 2026 to 2027

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School

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