



St Thomas of Canterbury School Newsletter

Week ending 18th September 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you've had a good week and that your children have enjoyed being back into the rhythm of school. It's been lovely to see them settling so confidently into their new classes and routines — the school has felt very calm and purposeful.

Our Gospel This Week

This Sunday's Gospel focuses on forgiveness — something we all need, and something we're all called to offer. Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive someone who has hurt us, perhaps hoping for a sensible limit. Jesus' answer is gentle but firm: forgiveness isn't something we count.

We all get things wrong at times, and we all need a fresh start. Just as God shows us compassion, we are invited to show that same compassion to others. Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending nothing happened; it means choosing not to hold on to anger, talking things through, and being willing to begin again.

This is such an important part of life in our school community, and it links closely with our value of Respect.

Our Mission Statement — "Let all that you do be done with love" — reminds us that how we treat one another matters, especially when things haven't gone quite right.

A Great Week of Learning

It's been another really positive week in school, and I've loved seeing so much brilliant English work taking place across the classes.

Our handwriting continues to be a real joy. Children are taking such pride in their presentation, and it shows. In Years 3 and 4, consistently neat handwriting earns a pen licence, and lots of children are already working towards theirs. A huge well done to Lucas, Casper, Hugo, Raphael, Chloe and Hubert, who have earned their pen licences this week — your beautiful handwriting is wonderful to see.

I've also been really impressed by the children's sentence construction. It's lovely to see them remembering what they've been taught and using it so confidently in their writing.

Class Open Afternoons

We're really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school for our class open afternoons the week after next. These sessions are a lovely chance to see your child's new classroom, meet their teacher and get a glimpse of what they've been learning so far this term.

When you visit, do take a moment to look at the children's handwriting — it really is something to be proud of.

Community Fundraising

A group of our parents recently took part in a charity walk to raise funds for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. They asked for the school community's support, and you responded with such generosity. Together, they have raised over £13,000, which is an incredible achievement.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported them, and a huge well done to the parents involved — we are very proud of you.

Reception Starters Assembly

Next Friday at 9am, we'll be holding our Reception Starters Assembly. This is always a special moment in our school year as we welcome our new children — and their families — into the St Thomas of Canterbury community.

Fr Clements will be joining us, and we're very much looking forward to celebrating the beginning of their journey with us. Have a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Clements

School Calendar

Mon 21st Sept — All Saints open evening

Fri 25th Sept — 9:00 Reception welcome assembly (parents invited to attend)

Mon 28th Sept — Y1 & Y5 Open afternoon from 14:15

Mon 28th Sept — 15:30 Y5 Residential information event

Tues 29th Sept — Y2 & Y4 Open Afternoon from 14:15

Weds 30th Sept — Y3 & Y6 Open Afternoon from 14:15

Weds 30th Sept — 15:30 Year 6 SATS & Residential parent information meeting

Tues 6th Oct — 15:30-16:00 Reception parents phonics meeting

Weds 7th Oct — Individual & sibling photos

Fri 16th Oct — Y5 Attending St Clare Trust Mass

Tues 20th Oct - 15:30-16:00 Year 1 parents phonics meeting

Fri 23rd Oct — 9am Y6 Class Assembly

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 Year 1 Parents

Weds 9th Dec - 14:30 Nativity Performance for Year 2 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

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!

Thornbridge outdoors 20

Please see the attached poster with information regarding Thornbridge outdoors 20, A peak district challenge with a purpose.

SFSS Orienteering

Please see the attached poster with information regarding the 2026/27 orienteering series.

Additional Inset day information

Please see the attached letter regarding an additional inset added to our 2026/27 calendar.

Toys in School

Just a reminder that toys and cards (for example Pokémon) are not allowed in school. If you feel that your child needs a fidget toy from home to support their learning, please contact Miss McKay, our SENCO to discuss this. senco@st-tc.co.uk

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>

Sheffield SEND reforms parent workshop

Sheffield parent carers come and have your say!

Have you heard about the national SEND reforms and Experts at Hand? Do you want to hear what the Sheffield Local Area Partnership's plan is?

It is critical that we hear parent carers views on Sheffield's intent and so are holding a parent carer workshop so you can hear the journey so far, the intended plan and to give your views on how this could support children and young people with SEND. There will be a presentation from Jo Laidlaw, Head of SEND, and Lee Carey, Learn Sheffield, along with table top discussions and a Q&A session at the end.

Please do come along to ensure the lived experience of families is embedded in the development.

Book your place here: <https://sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk/events/>

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.

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/>

Piano/Guitar/Drum Lessons Available in School This Term for Y1-Y6 pupils!

We're pleased to let you know that there is currently some availability for in-school Piano/Guitar and Drum lessons at St Thomas this term.

St Thomas has a fantastic history of music playing, with lots of pupils learning instruments over the years, as well as fantastic performance opportunities in school music assemblies each year.

Full details about the lessons can be found on the attached flyer.

To sign up, please visit the Lowe Academy website and complete the lesson sign-up form:

www.loweacademy.com/sign-up

If you have any questions about lessons, please contact the Lowe Academy team directly at info@loweacademy.com

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.

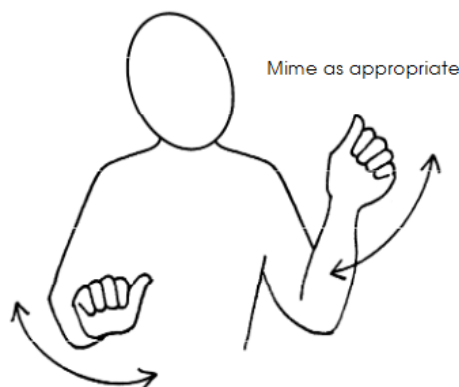
PM - children should come dressed in their uniform, with their PE kit to change into.

Makaton Sign of the Week

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

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/I6ME4T1h2os?si=2vdmhXZ0BYa9XyE>



Golden Broom Winner

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

Year 1

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last week	This week
Year 1	96.6%	98.8%
Year 2	100%	98.9%
Year 3	98.8%	97.7%
Year 4	99.6%	96.9%
Year 5	98.9%	96.4%
Year 6	99.6%	98.6%



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				

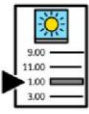
July (12 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

The School Age Immunisation Team will be visiting schools from September 2026 to give the **Seasonal Flu Vaccine** to children. **A single dose of the flu nasal spray will mean your child is less likely to become ill if they come into contact with the flu virus.**

	Flu Vaccination at St Thomas of Canterbury School a Catholic Voluntary Academy For: • all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2026 • primary school and secondary school-aged children (from reception to year 11) • individuals 17 years and over attending a special education needs (SEN) school may also be vaccinated alongside their peers.
	07/12/2026
	We need your consent to give your child the vaccine. When filling in the consent form, you will have 3 options:
	1. Nasal spray- This is the most effective way to protect your child from flu. (Please note: it contains pork gelatine.)
	2. Injectable flu vaccine - This version does not contain pork gelatine.
	3. To not give consent
	Please fill in the form. Link: https://www.sheffieldchildrensvaccinations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SF138828
	Please contact the School Age Immunisation Service for more information: Admin: 0114 305 3291 Nurses: 0114 305 3230 Email: scn-tr.sheffielddutysn.vacandimm@nhs.net

If your child has had the flu vaccination elsewhere before we come to your school, please inform the School Age Immunisation Team using the details above. For more information about the vaccination please visit website: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine



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!

enjoy • learn • achieve

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.