



St Thomas of Canterbury School

Newsletter

Week ending Friday 13th February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

his holiday marks the halfway point in our school year – and what a successful one it has been so far. It has been a busy and productive time, with so much to celebrate across our school community.

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminded us that each one of us has something special to offer. He told His disciples, "You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world," encouraging them to let their light shine and make a positive difference wherever they were. These words felt very fitting for our school. Each day, our children shine their light by being ready, respectful and safe – through their kindness, their helpful actions and the way they look after one another. When we live out our mission to let all you do be done with love, we brighten our classrooms, our playground and our wider community, showing God's love in all that we do. This half term has certainly been one where that light has shone brightly.

One of our key priorities this year has been the development of writing across the school, and we are incredibly proud of the progress our children are making. From handwriting and letter formation to precise sentence structure and accurate punctuation, there has been a clear and consistent focus on raising standards – and it is wonderful to see the impact of this work in classrooms every day.

In Reception, children are building strong foundations through careful letter formation and confidently writing CVC words. In Year 1, pupils are developing greater independence, refining their handwriting and composing simple sentences with increasing accuracy. In Year 2, children are beginning to extend their ideas by using simple conjunctions such as and to join their thoughts, adding detail and fluency to their writing. Those with a natural flair for writing are being thoughtfully challenged to consider their vocabulary choices, selecting ambitious and precise words to enhance their work.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm, effort and pride the children are showing in their writing, and we are pleased to be sharing examples from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as a celebration of their achievements. We look forward to showcasing Key Stage 2 writing next half term.

Reminders

Please continue to support good attendance and punctuality – every day in school really does matter.

The school day begins at 8.45. Gates open at approximately 8:35am. Reception and Key Stage 1 children go straight into class for a softer start to the day. Key Stage 2 children remain on the playground and are brought in at 8:45am, following morning prayers together.

Children should come to school in the correct uniform and with their PE kits on PE days.

Thank you, as always, for helping us to keep everyone safe by following school procedures.

Have a lovely weekend and a great half term. Here's hoping for some sunshine!

God bless
Mrs Clements

School Calendar

Mon 23rd Feb – Inset day (No pupils in school)
Tues 24th Feb – Pupils return to school
Tues 24th Feb – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Fri 27th Feb 09:00 – Year 2 Class Assembly
Mon 2nd March 16:00 – Bookings open for Summer 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Tues 3rd March – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Weds 4th March – Rhyme & Reason Book Fair
Thurs 5th March – World Book Day
Tues 10th March – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Thurs 12th March 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening
Tues 17th March – Y5 & Y6 Swimming lesson
Tues 17th March 15:45-17:45 – Y1-Y6 Parents evening
Fri 20th March 09:00 – Year 1 Class Assembly
Weds 1st April – Pre-school Easter Egg Hunt
Thurs 2nd April – Whole School Easter Hat Decorating Competition
Fri 3rd April – Good Friday Bank Holiday (Pupils not in school)

Mon 6th April – Fri 17th April Easter Break

Mon 20th April – Pupils return to school
Mon 27th April 16:00 – Bookings open for Summer 2 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Fri 1st May 09:00 – Reception Class Assembly
Mon 4th May – May bank holiday (No pupils in school)
Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May – SATS Week
Fri 15th May – Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags
Fri 15th May – School Disco
Weds 20th – Fri 22nd May – Year 6 Residential

Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May Half term break

Mon 1st June – Pupils return to school
Weds 3rd June – Non uniform day – bottle donation for summer Fair
Weds 10th June – Y6 Crucial Crew visit
Sunday 14th June – Summer Fair
Mon 15th June – Class Photos

Before

After

W.c. 6.9.25

Key Learning: We are learning to retrieve information from the text

I can:

- Read or listen to the question
- Think about what is in the text
- Find the information in the text
- Write my response

Question

What did the girl say to the flower?

Key Vocabulary

flower	beautiful
wonderful	love

Good morning

beautiful

flower

Good mornin beautiful flower.

W.c. 6.9.25

Key Learning: Compose sentences orally before writing and identify the verbs

I can:

- Use an adjective to describe a noun
- I can write 5 tick sentences

Key Vocabulary

bear	boat
boat	soled
ton	him
play	see
bear	piano

Literacy

16.1.26

The bear sailed in a boat. ✓

The bear played the piano. ✓

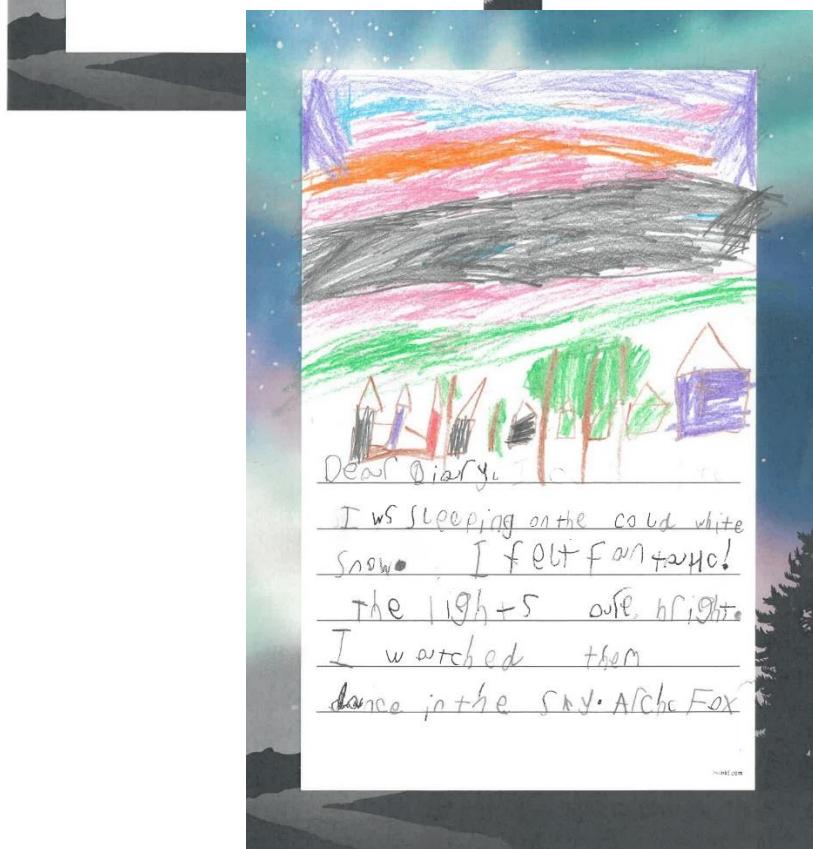
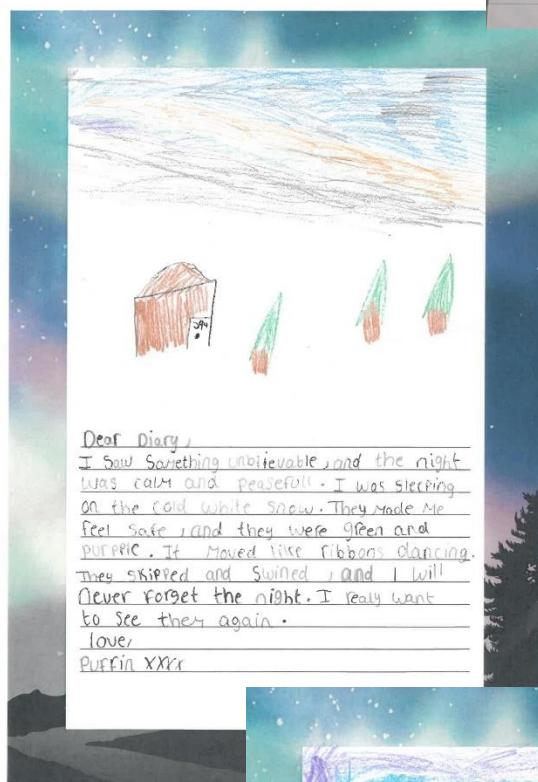
The fans went to see him play the piano. ✓

The sound was awful.

The piano was strange.

The bear was happy.

The applause was wild.



Reading

w.c. 1.9.25

Key Learning: We are learning to infer from the text

I can:

- Read the question
- Think about what it is asking
- Discuss with my learning partner
- Write my response

I will...

Key Vocabulary

read	see
notice	cloud
on the	rainbow
first	her
page?	colour?

What do you notice on the first page? Why is dad wanting to show her colour?

I saw a rainbow in the sky.

I had cold today.

I am cold because the cat.

I am sad cos it is raining.

I am sad cos it is raining.

I am sad cos it is raining.

Literacy

w.c. 19.1.26

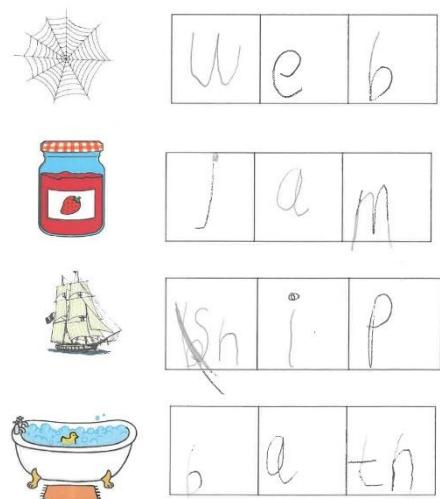
Key Learning: to apply our phonics to identify sounds in words

I can:

- Name picture
- read talk word
- Write correct graphemes to spell word

Key Vocabulary

abc sound	red talk
read	segment
match	phonics



Tues 16th June – Year 1 & 2 Trip to Butterfly House
Weds 24th – Fri 26th June – Year 5 Residential
Mon 29th June 16:00 – Bookings open for Autumn 1 Breakfast & Afterschool club bookings
Mon 29th June 14:15 – Year 3 & 6 Open Afternoon
Tues 30th June 14:15 – Year 2 & 4 Open Afternoon
Weds 1st July 14:15 – Year 1 & 5 Open Afternoon
Mon 6th July – Whole School Sports Day at EIS
Weds 8th July – Reception Class Trip to Cleethorpes
Weds 8th July 19:00 – Year 6 End of Year Show at Meadowhead School
Weds 15th July – Pre-school Family Fun Day (Pre-school closed)
Mon 20th July – Inset day (No pupils in school)
Tues 21st July - Inset day (No pupils in school)

Labelling uniform

We have a growing amount of unlabelled lost property in school. Please ensure all of your child's uniform is labelled permanently with their name including their coat and any bags.

Absence due to illness

After a review with our Attendance Worker from Sheffield City Council, it has been brought to our attention that, although our overall attendance figures are very good, many of our absences are for 'low level illness' such as coughs and colds.

Going forward, if you call school or leave a voicemail to report your child's absence, we ask that you please explain the illness your child has and the symptoms they are showing. As part of our duty of care, we need this information to both safeguard staff and other children from any possible exposure to infections, and also to confirm how long your child should be absent. For example, if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, they need to be absent for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. On some occasions, it might be that, through our conversation, we advise that your child is actually well enough to

attend school. Often, children feel much better once they are with their friends and engaged in their learning.

If you are unsure if your child is well enough to be in school, please refer to the below NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

As part of our duty of care, we will be carrying out a 'spot check' home visit to some families if their child is off sick. This is to see how we can support in enabling children to return to school.

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

Visitors wanted for British Science Week

We are excited to announce our school will be holding a whole school science week from March 9th- March 13th. This week will be filled with engaging activities designed to spark curiosity and inspire our pupils to explore the fascinating world of science.

To make our event engaging and impactful, we would like to reach out to ask for support. We would like to invite volunteers who work in a STEM-related field to share their knowledge with our pupils. This could be through presentations, demonstrations, workshops, or even an informal talk about your career and the work you do.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please contact Miss Schofield, b.schofield@st-tc.co.uk with:

- A brief description of what you would like to present or demonstrate
- Your preferred date and time during science week

Congratulations to the Y3 football team

We would like to pass on our congratulations to Kitlocker juniors, which many of our Y3 boys play for. They have been thriving as a team, building strong friendships, showing fantastic teamwork, and growing in confidence each week within a safe, calm, and supportive environment. It has been wonderful to hear how they encourage one another, particularly as this is the first experience of football for many of them.

Their hard work is already paying off, with the team reaching the Cup semi-finals on Valentine's Day – a fantastic achievement that they are all excited about. In addition, the entire squad has been selected to play in a tournament at Nottingham Forest on Sunday 15th, where they will be individually assessed by Talent Scouts. This is an incredible opportunity and a true reflection of the progress they have made together in such a short time.



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.

Spring Term PE Days

Reception	Friday AM
Year 1	Monday PM & Thursday AM
Year 2	Tuesday AM & Wednesday PM
Year 3	Thursday PM & Friday PM
Year 4	Tuesday AM & Thursday PM
Year 5	Tuesday AM* & Thursday AM
Year 6	Tuesday 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.

***Swimming lessons will replace PE lessons on applicable days (see school calendar for dates).**

Makaton Sign of the Week

This week's sign is **Heart**.

Please click this link to see how it is done!

<https://youtu.be/DZVay4ediY>



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>

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://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/report-incorrectly-parked-vehicle>

Golden Broom Winner

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

This week's winners are

Year 3

Whole School Attendance

Class	Last Week	This week
Year 1	99.6%	96.3%
Year 2	96.3%	98.9%
Year 3	96.5%	96.9%
Year 4	96.3%	92.6%
Year 5	98.3%	98.6%
Year 6	98.6%	99.3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026



31 JAN

RACE NIGHT

ADULTS ONLY



6 FEB

SCHOOL DISCO

6-7.30PM



13 FEB



NON UNIFORM DAY & BAKED SALE
FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

2 APR

EASTER HAT DECORATION



15 MAY

SCHOOL DISCO

6-7.30PM



14 JUN

SCHOOL FAIR



FRIENDS CASH DRAW

WIN £50 EVERY MONTH

The Friends of St Thomas raise money to support our 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 (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			

November (20 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 (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	31					

January (20 days)							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
			1	2	3	4	5
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	29	

March (20 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 (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				

May (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	31	

June (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						

July (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			

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 2025	to	Friday 24 th October 2025	40 days
School Holiday	Autumn 2	Monday 3 rd November 2025	to	Friday 19 th December 2025	35 days
	Spring 1	Monday 5 th January 2026	to	Friday 13 th February 2026	30 days
Staff Training	Spring 2	Monday 23 rd February 2026	to	Thursday 2 nd April 2026	29 days
	Summer 1	Monday 20 th April 2026	to	Friday 22 nd May 2026	24 days
	Summer 2	Monday 1 st June 2026	to	Tuesday 21 st July 2026	37 days



A Safeguarding Policy Front Sheet

Name of Education Setting: St Thomas of Canterbury School Academic Year 2025 - 2026

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

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

developing
lifelong
learners



30 hour
places available
(subject to eligibility)
plus a wrap around
service

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
years
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 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

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 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.