

# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Thursday, 26th October 2023

This week's Gospel

*"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

Gospel of Matthew

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Gratitude

The next Gospel Value will be:

Peace

**Mrs. Rawlinson's messages**

"It is not enough to say 'I love'; we must put that love into a living action."

St Teresa of Calcutta.

Our school has certainly been putting love into living action this week. Firstly we have raised over £300 for CAFOD by wearing our bright colours on Wednesday. We have also collected an overwhelming amount of food/toiletries for our local foodbank. Thank you everyone for your display of kindness. Once again I am truly humbled at your generosity. Thank you.

The food will be collected by volunteers from St. Helens foodbank; thanks to Mrs. Allaway for arranging collection.

Our Harvest Mass at church this morning was a wonderful celebratory occasion for our school and parish community. The children sang and read beautifully; it really was uplifting and a lovely way to say thank you to God for all we have.

Thank you to the parents who helped escort the children to and from church, your help and time is appreciated, as always.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to the children and staff for all their hard work and efforts during this half term and I wish everyone a restful half term holiday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday, 7th November (Monday 6th for staff!)

**Reminder: Half term and INSET days**

Friday, 27th October:

INSET day - school will be closed to children.

Half term week

Monday, 30th October to Friday, 3rd November.

Monday, 6th November

INSET day—school will be closed to children.

Tuesday, 7th November

Children return to school

**Parents forum**

The first parents forum meeting for this academic year will be held on Monday, 13th November at 4.30pm.

All are invited.

We will be discussing our latest school improvement plan (see over).

**Reminder for Y6 parents**

Your application forms for secondary schools must be submitted by the 31st October.

## Growing Together in God's Love

### **School Improvement Plan for 2023—2024**

This year's school improvement priorities (SIP) can now be shared with parents (see below). Also included are ideas for parents with suggestions as to how you can help at home. The SIP will be one of the agenda items for the forthcoming parents forum meeting to be held on Monday, 13th November at 4.30pm

#### **Quality of Education**

##### **MATHS**

To improve children's knowledge and skills of mental arithmetic and recall of known number facts including timestables

##### **READING**

To develop and encourage a love of reading so children can articulately talk about books and authors

#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

##### **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

To improve whole school attendance and punctuality

#### **Personal Development**

##### **ORACY AND USE OF STANDARD ENGLISH**

To develop children's oracy and ability to speak audibly, articulately and confidently for a variety of audiences using correct grammar and style

#### **Leadership and Management**

##### **IMPROVING THE CURRICULUM OFFER**

Foundation subjects (Science, Art & Design, Music, Design and Technology, Languages, Geography, History and Computing to be delivered in blocked units of time to ensure the children are fully immersed in their learning of new knowledge and skills.

#### **How parents can help at home:**

- ⇒ Play counting games, practise times tables regularly, ask children to add prices in shops etc
- ⇒ Talk about books and authors, visits to library regularly, encourage children to talk about stories they have read (predict and retell)
- ⇒ Listen to your child read regularly at home
- ⇒ Let your child see you reading at home and allow them to share your reading
- ⇒ Ensure children come to school every day and on time
- ⇒ Give children opportunity to talk aloud, read aloud, ask questions, have conversations and debate topical issues
- ⇒ Ask children what they have been learning in each topic and discuss new vocabulary that has been taught in school
- ⇒ Speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions
- ⇒ Attend parental workshops that will be planned into the school year
- ⇒ Attend parents' forum meetings held termly with Mrs. Rawlinson

**A message from the School Nurse**

Dear Parents,

The 0-19 school nursing team are delivering a drop in service at St. Thomas of Canterbury School on:  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, between 14:40pm-15:40pm.**

This service offers confidential support and advice for you and your family around:

- Emotional and mental wellbeing
- Physical health
- Dental health
- Bullying and keeping safe
- Relationships, advice and support
- Puberty
- Vaccinations

Please drop by between these times if you wish to speak with your school nurse.  
We look forward to seeing you.

**School Levy contributions**

Our school is a Catholic Voluntary Aided school and as such a monetary contribution is required for the upkeep of the school (The Levy). The Levy is collected by Liverpool Archdiocese to ensure Catholic schools are kept in a good state of repair and functionality. Recently, the Archdiocese granted us the funds to build the canopy which has extended our provision in reception class, so you can see how important it is to have this Levy in place.

Please, if you haven't done so already, could you please pay your Levy (£10) through parent pay as soon as you can.

**Thank you very much.**

**Christmas Fayre preparations**

Yes I have said it - Christmas!

Our Christmas fayre is to be held on 24th November (the third week back after half term)

So in preparation there will be own clothes days on the following dates:

Friday 10th November and Friday 17th November.

In return for wearing own clothes, children are to bring donations into school, such as new toys, bottles of wine/spirits and luxury items e.g. gift sets/toiletries for the Christmas Fayre.

**PTFA**

**Congratulations to our Lottery winners**

**September winners**

1st Rachel Springford- £40

2nd Michelle Robinson - £20

**October winners**

1st Siobhan Kays - £40

2nd Paul Burdett - £20

**Xmas4Schools**

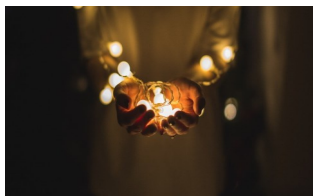
Parents who returned their child's Christmas designs should have received a link via email. The online ordering portal deadline is **Tuesday 31st October**. The email can be shared with family members so they can order too.

**St. Andrew's Church**

**Will be hosting a Light Night on Tuesday 31st October 5.30-7pm**

There will be Games, crafts, Hot Dogs and cake!

It will provide a welcome opportunity to step out of the dark and cold of this October night and enjoy some light, fellowship, fun and hear about all the amazing events coming up in the months of November and December!



Why not go along and enjoy the fun, food and company.

**St Helens Family Hub and Children's Centre**  
**Offer 30th October to 4th November 2023**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Baby Group (0-12mths) 9.30am - 10.30am Newton Family Hub</p> <p>Slow Cooker Challenge (Due to popularity places are limited) 11.30am - 1.30pm Central Link Family Hub</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Spooky Mini Chef's (4-11yrs) 10.30am - 11.30am Central Link Family Hub</p> <p>Baby Group (0-12mths) 10.00am - 11.00am Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>Read and Rhyme 10.30am Eccleston Library</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Coffee/Tea Tots 10.00am - 11.00am Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>Sensory Baby Group (0-12mths) 10.00am - 11.00am Parr Children's Centre</p> <p>Let's Get Ready for Nursery (6-36mths) 10.00am - 11.30am Newton Family Hub</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Sensory Baby Group (0-12mths) 9.30am - 10.30am Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>Let's Get Ready for Nursery 9.30am - 11.00am Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>Baby Group (0-12mths) 10.00am - 11.00am Parr Children's Centre</p> <p>Spooky Silent Disco (2-11yrs) 10.30pm - 11.30am Thatto Heath Children's Centre</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Sensory Baby Group (0-12mths) 10.00am - 11.00am Haydock Library</p> <p>Autumn Crafts including refreshments (2-14yrs) 10.00am - 11.00am Newton Family Hub</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p>Parent's In Mind 9.00am - 12.00pm Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>M.A.T.CH Group (0-11yrs) 10.00am - 12.00pm Sutton Family Hub</p> <p>Change Grow Live Drop-in clinic (0-18yrs) 10.00am - 1.00pm Sutton Family Hub</p>



**Foodbank Vouchers**

Everyday people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income.

We are now able to issue Foodbank vouchers to families in need. These vouchers can be exchanged for around 3 days' worth of emergency food for any family who find themselves in crisis. If you would like further information or support please contact Mrs Bishop in confidence, or click on the link below.

[How foodbanks work | St Helens Foodbank](#)

### **Attendance at school**

Good attendance at school is not just valuable — it is essential.

Attendance and punctuality at school is not just for the academic progress your child will make, but is also important for developing personal qualities too, such as:

- ◆ Friendships
- ◆ Social skills
- ◆ Team and school values
- ◆ Cultural awareness
- ◆ Life skills etc

### **Attendance**

For week ending Friday, 27th October 2023 the whole school attendance is 93.7%

Reception = 99.0%

Year 1 = 95.4%

Year 2 = 86.1%

Year 3 = 99.0%

Year 4 = 92.2%

Year 5 = 90.0%

Year 6 = 94.62%

### **School Meals Cost Increase**

In setting the budget for 2023/24 the Council made a commitment to increase charges in line with inflation. This will result in increased charges for school meals in order to ensure that budgeted levels of income are achieved. The new charge for a pupil meal which will be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 will be £2.60.

### **World Diabetes Day**

Tuesday, 14th November is World Diabetes Day and this year it also marks 100 years since the recognition of the discovery of insulin. During this week, we will be talking to the children about diabetes and what impact it can have on daily life of a diabetic. Thank you to Esther in Year 5 for helping raise awareness.

## Growing Together in God's Love

### Important Dates for your Diary

#### November

- 6th - INSET
- 7th - Children return
- 9th - Y5/Y6 Cineworld trip
- 10th - Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 Cineworld trip
- 10th - Year 6 start swimming lessons (6 sessions finish 15th December)
- 13th - Anti bullying/kindness week
- 13th- Parent Forum Meeting (4.30pm)
- 15th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 2pm
- 15th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 16th - Y6 Visit to Ecclestone Library
- 16th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 17th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 20th - Wonder Arts Poetry Workshops (KS1 & KS2)
- 20th - Y6 Bikeability training week
- 24th - Christmas fayre

#### December

- 1st - Advent Mass (11am)
- 4th and/or 5th EYFS Christmas play
- 11th - KS1 Christmas play
- 11th - Altru Drama performance of Pinocchio (1.30pm)
- 12th - Rock Steady Performance (2.30pm)
- 19th - KS2 Carol Service (tbc)
- 22nd - end of autumn term

### **After School Club - 24th November 2023**

There will be no after school club on Friday, 24th November due to the Christmas Fayre taking place.