

# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 22nd December 2023

Advent week 4



**"Do not be afraid. The  
lord is with you."**

Luke 1 26-38

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Love (Advent week 4)

The next Gospel Value will be:

Hope

## Mrs. Rawlinson's message

The last few weeks have been filled with so many celebrations and events for our school; PTFA Christmas Fair, Nativities, Carol Concert, parties and drama productions to name but a few and we certainly have had a lovely time in preparing for Christmas this year. The children have had so many opportunities to pray, play and party together with their friends and school family, it really has been a joyous time in school and I hope parents have had time to join with us and to get into the Christmas spirit too!

That said, all the extra events and special times only happen because of the strength and dedication of our team here at school and the strength of our school community. I would like to say a massive thank you to all the adults in school for making it a memorable term for the children and their families. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support in school. We have an amazing school family here in which we all belong and I am one incredibly proud (and a bit emotional) head teacher.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making St. Thomas of Canterbury the amazing school it is.

On that note, I wish the staff a well earned rest during the holidays and to you all, I wish a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

I look forward to continuing our amazing journey throughout 2024!



*Wishing you a very Happy Christmas*

## A request on behalf of our Mini-Vinnies

We would like to re-use your old Christmas cards for next year. This will help spread festive cheer and happiness to people who need to know someone cares at Christmas (and it will also help in looking after our planet).

What we are asking is that your old Christmas cards are sent into school during January (picture side only—please remove the personalised side of the card and messages) as the festive pictures can be reused to make new cards.

Thank you.

### **Curriculum plans for 2024**

When we return in January, we will be starting with our revised curriculum plan of teaching 'blocks' of subjects over a number of weeks. This will mean that foundation subjects (history, geography, art, design, music etc) will be delivered in blocked units of time which will ensure the children are fully immersed in their learning. This will help the children to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in each subject. This is part of our School Improvement Plan for 2023/2024 and has been discussed at our most recent parents forum meeting. It will be an agenda item at the next meeting in the spring term to get parental feedback.

### **The next parents forum meeting will be Monday, 11th March at 5pm**

January will start with a history focus for 2 weeks. There will be a launch assembly for children on Monday, 8th January when we return after Christmas.

Maths, English, phonics, RE and PE will remain as they are and will be taught on a daily/weekly cycle.

I look forward to hearing about the wonderful topics and fantastic learning taking place in 2024.

Any parental feedback welcomed.

Once again, many thanks for your support.

### **Sacramental Workshop for Year 4 Children**

The next workshop for children making their First Confession and First Holy Communion will be taking place on Monday, 8th January at 5pm.

### **Rock Steady Performance**

The revised Rock Steady performance will take place in the school hall on Tuesday, 9th January at 2.30pm

### **Fairtrade Week**

A member of the Fairtrade/CAFOD will be in school on Friday, 19th January to talk to the children about Fairtrade and to launch our Fairtrade week which will be commencing on Monday, 22nd January.

This is an important part of our Live Simply action plan.



### **Prayer Garden update**

The SVP has very kindly donated funds for us to have a brand new prayer garden on the school field. St. Helens council have recently been battling the elements and working hard building and installing it for us. Progress is being made and we hope to have it officially opened in the spring term. It will be dedicated to the memory of Helen Shields.

# Growing Together in God's Love

## Important Dates for your Diary

### January

- 8th - School Re-opens (doors open from 8.40am)
- 8th - KS2 Fencing starts after school until 4.15pm (running for 5 weeks)
- 8th - Y4 Sacramental Workshop 2 (5pm)
- 9th - Healthy Active Lifestyles morning multi-sports club starts (Years 4/5/6)
- 9th - Rock Steady Performance (2.30pm in school hall)
- 9th - Vibrance Dance after school club starts ( KS2)
- 10th - Healthy Active Lifestyles after school dodgeball starts (Years 1/2/3)
- 11th - Healthy Active Lifestyles morning multi-sports club starts (Years 1/2/3)
- 18th - Reception hearing screening

### February

- 2nd - Y5 attending Crucial Crew
- 5th - Y5 Bikeability Training - different group each day throughout this week
- 7th - Young Voices Concert
- 9th - end of Spring term 1 (break for February half-term)
- 19th - Staff Inset Day
- 20th - School Re-opens (doors open from 8.40am)
- 23rd - Year 5 start swimming sessions (runs for 5 weeks)
- 26th - KS1 Fencing starts after school until 4.15pm (running for 5 weeks)

### March

- 4th - Whole school photographs (Academy Photography)
- 20th - Y4 First Forgiveness ( 5pm)
- 21st - PTFA Easter Bingo
- 25th - Y6 Residential (The Conway Centre) leave at 10am
- 27th - Y6 return from Residential
- 28th - end of Spring term (school closes for Easter at 1.30pm)

### **Duracell Big Battery Hunt**

Mrs Murphy has signed our school up to The Duracell Big Battery Hunt and will be collecting used batteries in the new year.

Batteries can be dropped off at the school office or handed into the Breakfast or After school Club

### PE Newsletter

Please click the link below to view Mr Hale's PE Autumn term 2 newsletter.

Containing plenty of pictures and details of all our sporting achievements from this last half-term.

<https://express.adobe.com/page/hHm0bygVto6lp/>