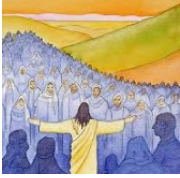




St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Monday, 22nd July 2024



This week's Gospel

"You must come away to some quiet place all by yourselves and rest for a while".

Mark 6:30-34

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

Firstly, apologies for not getting the newsletter to you on Friday, but the technical 'outage' that affected many companies and organisations across the world also affected us, meaning we could not access the servers/internet/the cloud etc. Systems were fixed late on Friday afternoon and all is well now.

Thank you for your patience.

What a final full week we had! Just as the children were settled in the hall to enjoy the Altru Drama's performance of Rumpelstiltskin, the OFSTED call came! The inspector spent Tuesday and Wednesday in school, speaking with staff, governors and children, looking at documents, paperwork, questionnaires, books, planning etc and was incredibly thorough in her inspection. We now wait for the report which will be shared with parents once it has been published. Thank you to the parents and children who took the time to respond to the survey.

As this will be our last newsletter for this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to our parents, children and wider school community. It has been a successful year in so many ways and we have overcome many challenges. Your contributions to school and support of the school still astound me and it is such a privilege to be head teacher of such a wonderful school — we are a school family and I will forever be grateful to the wonderful people who make it such a special place to be.

Good luck to our amazing Year 6 children who take their next step on their academic journey and head to their high schools in September. We wish you love, luck and much success. And welcome to our new families who will be embarking on their St. Thomas of Canterbury journey in September.

And to all our families, have a lovely, restful and enjoyable summer.

I hope you do find a quiet place and rest for a while.

We will keep you all in our prayers.

REMINDER: From September 2024, our times of the school day will be slightly changing and will be as follows:

Gates open: 8:40am

Registers: 8:50am (meaning children need to be in class by 8.50am)

End of day for Reception, KS1 and KS2: 3:20pm (nursery remains unchanged).

Growing Together in God's Love

Staffing for 2024—2025

Class	Teacher	Teaching assistants
Nursery	Mrs. Horrocks (Nursery manager)	Miss. Taylor and Mrs. Scott
Reception	Ms. Farrell	Miss. Jerram and Mrs. Dunning
Year 1	Mrs. Barry	Mrs. Draper
Year 2	Mrs. Cain	Mrs. Shepherd
Year 3	Mrs. Houghton	Mrs. Hayton
Year 4	Miss. Hitchen	Mrs. Tucker
Year 5	Mr. McCue	Mrs. Rignall
Year 6	Mr. Hale	Mrs. Snee

In addition, Mrs. Ganson and Mrs. Woodward will be working in classes to allocate designated PPA time to teachers.

The teaching assistant allocation will also be slightly different during the next academic year:-

EYFS remains unchanged;

KS1 teaching assistants will work together as a team meaning that Mrs. Draper and Mrs. Shepherd will work across both Year 1 and year 2;

lower Key Stage 1 will have Mrs. Hayton and Mrs. Tucker working across the 2 classes;

upper Key Stage 2 will have Mrs. Rignall and Mrs. Snee working across the 2 classes.

IMPORTANT:

Changes in the law regarding term time absence from school

You may be aware that the law is changing regarding penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school. This change will come into effect from 19th August 2024.

There will be a letter sent home documenting these changes and how it will impact on families and schools.

Please ensure that you read and keep this letter for future reference.

End of summer term

Please be aware that the last day of the summer term is
Tuesday, 23rd July.

Children will finish school at 1.30pm.

Please note there will be no after school club on this day.



Well done to the children who came along to Victoria Park to take part in Junior Parkrun last weekend.
We had a record number of children from our school attend and were just one short of reaching the overall record of attendance at Junior Parkrun (70 runners in total and the record is 71!)
Every runner received a medal for their efforts—thanks to the Liverpool Running Bugs.
Well done to all involved. Remember: this event takes place every Sunday and is free!

The Sound of Music

Good luck to Nicole from Year 6 who will be performing in The Sound of Music at St Helens Theatre Royal. She will be playing one of the Von Trapp children.

Tickets are still available.

Year 6 Leavers show

Our incredible Year 6 children 'wowed' their audience last week when they performed their end of year show. It was funny, emotional and very entertaining. It was clear to see that the children thoroughly enjoyed performing for their families—the fun they had was obvious throughout the show!

They thoroughly deserved the standing ovation they received for such an incredible evening.

Well done to you all and to Mr Hale, Mrs. Woodward and Mr. McCue in making it happen.

Message from PTFA

A big thank you to all parents, staff, family members and of course the children for your continued support throughout this school year.

We have raised over £7000 in total. This has helped to fund a dance workshop, coaches or the cinema trip, drama performances/workshops, a new speaker, new therapy classroom (Becketts), learning French, teaching/classroom resources, music resources and an ice cream van for all the children today.

Lottery

May draw

1st prize £40 - Erin Griffin No. 16

2nd prize £20 - Nicola Colquitt No. 36

The draws for June, July and August will take place later today.

Attendance

For week ending Friday 19th July 2024 the whole school attendance is 94.6%

- Reception = 95.9%
- Year 1 = 91.8%
- Year 2 = 94.6%
- Year 3 = 93.3%
- Year 4 = 96.3%
- Year 5 = 93.7%
- Year 6 = 96.7%

Growing Together in God's Love

A letter to parents from our Chair of Governors

Dear Staff, Parents, Carers, Children, and everyone associated with St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School,

Being the Chair of Governors gives me a unique opportunity to see the day-to-day activities of our school and then report back to my fellow governors. It is on behalf of the governing body that I write to you now this last week of the academic year.

We feel that it is important for us to say a huge thank you to every single person involved in our school.

My abiding memory of the year 2023/24 will be the incredible amount of dedication and hard work that I have seen in every aspect of school life this year.

It feels slightly wrong for me to list some of my observations for fear of missing others out who deserve a recognition but with apologies to any missed I must mention:

Our Senior Leadership Team, who have worked tirelessly facing many challenges but delivering another outstanding year of high academic achievement including driving the curriculum forward and restructuring the teaching methodology, as well as a wide range of internal and external activities with many varied successes. They have led us all professionally whilst maintaining a caring, positive, and progressive culture across the whole school.

Our teaching staff. Teachers, teaching assistants and helpers who have supported our management by working so closely as a team delivering the best for our children both inside and outside the classroom and very often in their own time. They all epitomise true dedication from nursery right up to year six.

Our support team. Pastoral Care, Office staff, Dinner ladies, Maintenance/caretaking, and cleaning, all working constantly there behind the scenes and always willing and happy to give as much support as they can.

The PTFA. They have put so much energy into a wide range of fund-raising activities which not only contribute greatly to school resources but have given our children (and parents) some really fun times.

The Children. Their commitment and hard work left me in awe. From school trips to first communions to school performances and I must mention the fabulous play which reduced our head teacher to tears of pride, the list really is endless. Every year group have shown boundless enthusiasm for everything that has been asked of them.

The parents. For getting children to school on time, in uniform with homework done and ready for the day ahead. At a time when absenteeism and punctuality are a real national concern you have kept us high in the performance charts and at the same time contributed time and again to school life by your presence and support.

We have so much to be proud of, improving again on what were already above national average SATS results, and being ranked in the top five hundred primaries in Britain including number two on Merseyside. I am sure you will agree with me that all these things do not happen by accident.

Then, as we draw our last deep breath to cross the finishing line of the year and with just 5 teaching days left, His Majesty's Inspector of Schools chose to pay us a visit. Why didn't it surprise me that once again instead of hearing grumbles, I saw a close team of professionals each knowing what was expected of them and each other; spring into action for an Ofsted inspection. As this was classed as a non-graded inspection it will have no bearing on our standing, but I know the inspector was very impressed and it will help us to focus on our next steps moving forward.

Farewell and best wishes to our year six young people, we hope their time with us serves them well.

Finally, we pray for the best possible August because you all deserve it so much.

Thank you everyone from the governing body.