



# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 6th September 2024



### This week's Gospel

*"He has done all things well; he has made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."*

Mark 7:31-37

## HELLO & WELCOME!

### A message from Mrs Rawlinson

I'd like to wish our new families and children a massive welcome to the St. Thomas of Canterbury School family. I am looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming days and weeks.

I'd like to welcome back all our returning children and their families too. It has been such a lovely week in school with the children settling in quickly to their new classrooms and routines, especially the children in EYFS—they have been phenomenal!

Well done to you all for making such a positive start to our new academic year.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents for adhering so well to our new opening times - the amount of children coming in late has decreased significantly this week - long may that continue!

## IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS

As it is the start of a new academic year, it is important to bring the following points to your attention:

### NUT FREE SCHOOL

We are a nut free school. There are children across all age groups with allergies to many foods.

**Please do not send any food that contains nuts of any sort into school for snack or lunch.**

### STAFF CAR PARK

The car park is for staff use only,

Parents are not allowed to use the staff car park at any time.

Parents must use the parent car park before the school gates.

### PARENTS CAR PARK

Please be patient and mindful of other car park users at drop off and pick up times.

The car park does get busy so observations and patience is important.

Please do not park on double yellow lines/junction box/outside people's drive-ways on St. Thomas Close.

### **Meet the teacher**

Parents/carers are invited to our annual 'meet the teacher' evening on the 18th September.

The evening will begin in the school hall where Mrs. Rawlinson will introduce the evening and give a talk before parents go off to visit classrooms with their child's class teachers. Each talk in the classrooms will be repeated for parents to visit more than one class.

Meet the teacher evening gives parents an opportunity to hear about the curriculum and look at teaching and learning resources and see your child's new classroom.

Teachers will explain what you need to know and their expectations regarding homework, reading, PE, RSHE, extra curricular activities and how you as parents can help support your child through this next academic year, working in partnership with the school.

The evening will begin at 3.30 in the hall.

Talk one in classrooms 4.00pm—4.10pm

Talk two in classrooms 4.20—4.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming everybody.

**PLEASE NOTE: this is for Years 1—6 only as EYFS had 'meet the teacher' meetings before the summer holiday and are having a separate phonics workshop - see below.**

### **EYFS phonics workshop**

Parents and carers of children in nursery and reception classes are invited to a phonics workshop on 25th September in the school hall at 3.30pm.

EYFS staff will be explaining exactly how we teach reading in school.

They will give demonstrations and show the online resources that can be accessed at home.

They will also explain the procedures for reading and reading at home.

Reading is the key to future success and has high priority in the school. We hope you can join us.

### **Parents evening**

Following feedback from parents, staff have agreed to split parents evening into 2 separate days.

Parents evening for the autumn term will be:

- ◆ Wednesday, 23rd October at 1.30 - 4pm
- ◆ Thursday, 24th October at 4.00 - 6.00pm

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and any specific targets they have.

**After school clubs**

The teacher led after school clubs will commence week beginning Monday, 16th September and will run for 6 weeks, taking us up to October half term. Each club is from end of school day until 4.00pm.

The clubs on offer this term are:

Ukulele (STRUM) with Mr. Brown - Mondays. Key Stage 2  
(spaces and ukeleles available)

Running with Mr. Hale - Mondays. Key Stage 2.

Debate Club with Mr. McCue - Tuesdays. Key Stage 2

Young Voices with Mrs. Cain, Mrs Houghton and Mrs Rawlinson - Thursdays.  
Years 4, 5 & 6.

Singing with Mrs Barry and Ms Farrell - Thursdays. Years 1, 2 and 3

PLEASE NOTE: there is a charge of £1 per week per child for each club.

Further information will be sent out next week for each club. Thanks.

**Start of new school year Mass**

Fr. Michael and Mrs. Rawlinson have planned whole school mass dates for this academic year. The first whole school mass will be on:

Friday, 20th September at 11.00am.

This is to celebrate and look forward to a new school year and welcome our new children to the family of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Parents and families are warmly invited to celebrate mass with us.

Any help with walking the children to and from church would be much appreciated. If you can help walk the children to church, can you please come to school for 10.30am.

Many thanks.

**Beckets 'Out of Hours Club'**

Sessions should be booked and paid for in advance via the school money app so that we can manage numbers.

If an occasion arises where you need to book on the day, money should be put onto your account to cover the session as well as the late booking fee prior to contacting school to make the booking.

A reminder that on the day bookings for the Out of Hours Club are for emergencies only.

Any arrears should be cleared prior to using the club.

**The charges are below:**

Breakfast Club from 7.50am - £5.00

After School Club from 3.10/315pm up to 4.30pm - £6.25

After School Club up until 5.30pm - £8.00

Late Booking Fee (on the day bookings) - £2.50

**Please do not drive through the school gates to drop off or pick up children.**

**The car park is for staff only, parents must use the parent car park before the school**

**IMPORTANT:**

**Changes in the law regarding term time absence from school**

You may be aware that the law has now changed regarding penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school. This change came into effect from 19th August 2024.

A letter was sent home documenting these changes and how it will impact on families and schools before the summer holiday.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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

**Important Dates for your Diary**

**September**

18<sup>th</sup> – Meet the teacher (3.30pm) Y1 to Y6

20<sup>th</sup> - Mass for new school year (11am in Church)

25<sup>th</sup> - EYFS phonics workshop in hall (3.30pm)

**October**

7th - RSHE & Journey in Love Workshop in hall (3.30pm)

15th - Reception & Year 6 height & weight screening

21st - Flu Vaccination Programme (whole school)

23rd - Parents afternoon (1.30-4.00pm)

24th - Harvest service in Church ( 11am)

24th - Parents evening ( 4-6pm)

24th - End of first half-term

**November**

4th - Return to school

11th - Remembrance Mass in Church (10.45am)

**December**

6th - Altru Drama performance for whole school

11th - Enrolment Mass in Church for Y4 families

20th - End of autumn term

**NB: Dates will be added to the diary as we go through the term**