



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 4th October 2024



This week's Gospel

"Jesus put his arms around the children and gave them His blessing."

Mark 10: 2-16

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

I was once asked at an interview, "What is your favourite piece of Scripture and why?" to which I replied, *"Let the little children come to me, do not stop them for it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."* which just happens to be this week's Gospel. It also happens to be the reason why I chose leadership in a Catholic school. For me, the ethos and mission of a Catholic school stems from this, making each Catholic school distinctive in its own character. To work with such wonderful children is a joy and I give thanks each day for the happiness, fun and the many surprises the children bring to school life at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

This Gospel reminds me of how lucky I am to be the head teacher of St. Thomas of Canterbury and to be of service to the wonderful children and their families each and every day.

OFSTED REPORT

Following our recent OFSTED (section 8) visit in July, we can now share the finalised report with you. It has been sent to all parents as an email and is available on our website. I am delighted with the report; the inspector really listened to staff, children and governors and this is reflected in the report. To have the children's 'impeccable conduct,' the 'infectiously enthusiastic' teaching staff and governors' 'extensive experience' all identified is fantastic.

The areas to improve on are areas we were already aware of and have been built into this year's school improvement plan.

If you have any feedback about the report, you can email me (lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk) or come to our next parents forum meeting to be held on **Monday, 4th November at 4.45pm**

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. Parents will receive a message to book a timeslot via School Spider nearer the time.

Growing Together in God's Love



AGM

Thank you very much to the parents who attended the AGM on Tuesday. Your support is really appreciated.

Lottery

We have extended the deadline to Friday 11th October.
Please can we have any slips and payments in by this date. Thank you.
Please ask the school office if you require any spare forms.

Xmas 4 Schools

Children will be completing their designs in school over the next week or two. They will then bring their design template home where you will find the order form on the reverse. This is a lovely chance to purchase Christmas cards and gifts with your child's design on, while raising money for school too. Any order forms need to be returned to school by Monday 21st October.

Halloween Disco

The discos will be held on Thursday 17th October after school. See separate letters for further details. Letters will be given out in the next few days.

World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October it is world mental health day.

Parents, grandparents and carers are invited into school for a coffee morning starting at 9am. Mrs Bishop, Mrs Rawlinson and our school mental health practitioner, Jayne Aspinall will be hosting.

We are planning activities for the children throughout the day together with Adam from Healthy Active Lifestyles, including Yoga and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

This year the theme is to wear a green ribbon, so we are inviting the children to wear something green with their uniform.

There will be an assembly for the children with Jayne Aspinall at the end of the day.



New intake for September 2025

If you have a child due to start school in September 2025 and are considering St. Thomas of Canterbury as one of your choices, then please come along to our new admission meetings. These will give you all the information you need to help you make your choices and give you a flavour of what school life is like here at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

- Tuesday, 15th October at 3.30pm and
- Wednesday, 13th November at 2.00pm

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school please pass these dates on to them.

Nursery Admissions for 2025

We are now allocating 30 hour and 15 hour funded places in our Nursery for September 2025 for children who turn three before

31st August 2025

We also still have places available from January 2025 for children who turn three before December 2025

If you would like any further information regarding nursery places, funding entitlements or to pick up application forms, please contact the school office on telephone number

01744 621380

Morning Snack

Children in Reception and KS1 receive a free piece of fruit each day.

Free fruit for KS2 has started up again this week, so children in Year 3 to Year 6 can also have a daily piece of fruit.

We are noticing that some children are bringing in crisps, biscuits and chocolate for snack.

Please remember we are a Healthy School so any morning snacks sent into school should be healthy.

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

End of school day

Polite reminder:

If a child has not been collected at the end of the school day and has not been booked into the after school club, then a call will be made to parents.

If parents are on their way to school and have unavoidably been caught in traffic, for example, the child can sit by the school office up to 3.25pm.

However, if the delay in collecting will be longer, children will go to the after school club and a charge will be incurred.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

October

- 7th - RSHE & Journey in Love Workshop in hall (3.30pm)
- 10th - World Mental Health Day - wear something green with uniform
- 14th - Sacramental Workshop 2 for Year 4 (5-6pm in school hall)
- 15th - Reception & Year 6 height & weight screening
- 15th - Open evening for prospective Reception 2025 intake (3.30pm)
- 17th - Halloween party : 3.20-4pm Reception & KS1/4.00-5pm KS2
- 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)
- 13th - Open afternoon for prospective Reception 2025 intake (2pm)
- 15th - 1st non-uniform day (in return for donations TBC for Christmas Fair)
- 22nd - 2nd non-uniform day (in return for donations TBC for Christmas Fair)
- 26th - Y3/Y4/Y5 Cineworld trip - film Migration
- 27th - Reception/Y1/Y2 Cineworld trip- film Trolls
- 28th - Y6 Cineworld trip - film Kung Fu Panda 4
- 29th - PTFA Christmas Fayre (3.30pm start)

December

- 2nd - Altru Drama performance for whole school
- 6th - Advent Mass in Church (11am)
- 10th - Rock Steady Concert (2.30pm)
- 11th - Enrolment Mass in Church for Y4 families (6pm)
- 20th - End of autumn term

Attendance

For week ending Friday 4th October 2024 the whole school attendance is 95.35%

Reception = 96.67%

Year 1 = 96.67%

Year 2 = 94.81%

Year 3 = 91.44%

Year 4 = 97.85%

Year 5 = 97.45%

Year 6 = 92.22%