



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 22nd November 2024



This week's Gospel

The Feast of Christ the King

"Yes I am a king. I was born for this; I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice."

John 18: 33-37

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

We are now approaching the last Sunday of the Church's year; the Feast of Christ the King. The following Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent: an important time of preparation and reflection. Preparations are well under way in school for this very special season and we look forward to celebrating with all our school family.

There is so much happening in school in the coming weeks of Advent, so please do keep a check on the important dates for your diary and please do pass these on to your wider family.

CAFOD Live Simply Award

On Wednesday this week, Mrs. Houghton, the Live Simply Ambassadors and I were involved in a Teams meeting/assessment for the CAFOD Live Simply Award. We are delighted to announce that we were successful in the assessment and have achieved the Live Simply award.

This is fantastic news for our school and wider community and testament to the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Houghton and the school family. It shows that we are living simply, in solidarity and sustainably in response to Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home, planet Earth, entitled 'Laudato Si'.

The children involved in the assessment were absolutely amazingly incredible in their responses to the questions, proving that we have truly embedded the aim of Live Simply in our Catholic Life of the school. Their knowledge, understanding and commitment to helping others and looking after our world was outstanding and at times, very emotional.

Very well done to Beatrice, Anna, Molly, Zachary, Priya, William, Ellen, Evelyn and Ruby. They were amazing and did our school community proud.

We will continue to live simply and teach the children of this important mission.



Non uniform days

We have had two non-uniform days in return for donations towards our forthcoming Christmas fair. Thank you all so much for your generous donations. All your contributions are gratefully received and much appreciated.

Meet the teacher—Year 4

Miss Hitchen has planned a meet the teacher session for Year 4 parents on Wednesday, 11th December at 3.30pm. This will give Year 4 parents opportunity to meet with Miss Hitchen and find out more about her plans for the class as we move forward.

Growing Together in God's Love

Cinema trips

The children will be visiting the cinema next week. Mr Hale has secured free tickets as part of the Intu Film Festival which runs during November.

Y3, Y4 & Y5 will watch Migration on 26th November

Reception, Y1 & Y2 will watch Trolls on 27th November

Y6 will watch Kung Fu Panda 4 on 28th November

Thank you to the PTFA for making this trip possible by paying for the coach transport, meaning there is no cost to parents.

Children can bring a small bag of sweets & a drink to have during the film.

Christmas Raffle

Children should have each received a book of raffle tickets. The raffle will take place at the Christmas Fayre. We have some great prizes.

Please can you send any completed ticket stubs & money, filled in with name of adult/ child's name and class etc by Thursday 28th November. We have plenty of spare tickets which can be collected from the office.

Thank you to all the parents who have donated prizes.

Cake Donations

Donations of cakes (home made or shop bought) will be greatly appreciated for our cake stall.

They can be brought in on the morning of Friday 29th November.

Pre-loved Donations

Donations of any pre-loved toys, games, books and Christmas jumpers/tops can be brought in to the office any day next week, although if possible the beginning of the week is preferable.

Thank you.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes again this week. It's very much appreciated.

A reminder that the Christmas Fayre will be held next Friday, 29th November, starting at approximately 3.40pm. The staff are helping us on a lot of the stalls and they need time to see the children out then make their way to their stalls. Thank you for understanding. We hope to see you all there.

Santa's Grotto

Santa's Grotto slips with allocated times will be sent home with the children on Monday 25th November.

All time slots are now taken so we are unable to take anymore bookings.

After School Club - 29th November 2024

There will be no after school club on Friday, 29th November due to the Christmas Fayre taking place.

Nativity Performances

EYFS Nativity

Will take place on:

Monday, 2nd December at 2.15pm

Wednesday, 4th December at 9.30am

KS1 Nativity

Will take place on:

Thursday, 12th December at 3.30pm

Friday, 13th December at 9.30am

KS2 Carol Service

Our KS2 children will be performing their Carol Service in Church on the following days:

- **Monday, 16th December at 11am**
- **Wednesday, 18th December at 4pm**

Children will stay after school on the Wednesday and staff will walk them to Church. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend.

Rock Steady

The children who have music with Rock Steady will be performing for parents on Tuesday, 10th December at 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner Day &

'Wear it Well for Willowbrook'

Christmas dinner day will be held on **Wednesday, 11th December** for those children on school meals .

Children who have packed lunch are welcome to bring a festive packed lunch on this day.

We are also inviting the children to wear their Christmas jumpers and or festive headwear for the 'Wear it Well' appeal for Willowbrook Hospice. We just ask that the children bring in a £1 donation and we will send the money raised to Willowbrook Hospice.

Breakfast With Santa

We will be hosting Breakfast with Santa again this year. The event will take place in school on Wednesday, 18th December, starting at 8am. A letter will be sent home with the children in the coming weeks with more information.

Altru Drama

We are excited to welcome Altru Drama group into school on the morning of Monday, 2nd December. Their mission is to offer high quality, engaging performances during the festive season. We know that many children may not have seen a theatre performance yet and we want to give them an engaging, exciting and memorable experience this year. We are excited to welcome them into school. We would like to thank the PTFA for funding this event.

Growing Together in God's Love



School Meals Winter Menu

The new school meals winter menu starts on Monday, 25th November.

The menu is attached to this email.

If you would like your child to start school meals please contact the school office.

We do ask that children remain on school meals for at least the half-term.

If wanting to switch to packed lunch from school meals please inform the school office in advance.

'Beckets' Out of Hours Club

Please book breakfast or after school club sessions in advance using the school money app. This helps us to manage staffing and numbers.

On the day bookings should only be made for emergencies, by ringing the school office.

Please put money on your account before ringing to cover the session.

Please clear any arrears before booking any further out of hours club sessions.

Please note that children who haven't been picked up at 3.20pm will be taken to after school club and a charge will be applied.

Message from Mr McCue regarding KS2 Times Tables

Dear Parents,

As a school, we want our children to be fluent mathematicians and become confident in applying number facts to their learning. Times tables are taught at school every day in a variety of ways. To help achieve this, we would like to please ask parents that, as part of homework, Key Stage 2 children access TT Rockstars for 5-10 minutes per night Monday-Friday.

To promote the importance of using TT Rockstars at home, Key Stage 2 classes will have weekly leaderboards based on the amount of coins that they have gained in the previous week with an awards ceremony taking place on Friday afternoons. As well as this, the top 3 children across the school will be celebrated during our end of week assemblies. These children will receive certificates of congratulations to take home each week! There will also be a weekly school leaderboard displayed in the corridor at school so we hope children keep practising times tables at home to see if they can make it onto this!

There is information on the school website about the different modes on TT Rockstars and we recommend that children play a different game mode each night Monday-Friday. There is also a parent letter that can be accessed with some additional tips and answers to possible questions that you may have about your child's learning of times tables at home using TT Rockstars. These can be accessed via the website by clicking 'Information for Parents' and 'Times Tables at Home.'

School will monitor homework set in Key Stage 2 via children's reading records. We politely ask that TT Rockstars is recorded in these as well as reading homework each night.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr McCue.

Adam McCue

St. Thomas of Canterbury

Year 5 Teacher

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

November

- 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 (3.40pm start)

December

- 2nd - Altru Drama performance for whole school
- 2nd - EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Nativity (2.15pm)
- 4th - EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Nativity (9.30am)
- 6th - Advent Mass in Church (11am)
- 10th - Rock Steady Concert (2.30pm)
- 11th - Christmas Dinner Day & Wear it Well for Willowbrook (Christmas Jumpers & Festive Headwear)
- 11th - Year 4 meet the teacher with Miss Hitchen (3.30pm)
- 11th - Enrolment Mass in Church for Y4 families (6pm)
- 12th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - 3.30pm performance
- 13th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - 9.30am performance
- 16th - KS2 Carol Service in Church (11am)
- 18th - Breakfast with Santa (8am)
- 18th - KS2 Carol Service in Church (4pm)
- 20th - End of autumn term (children will finish at 1.30pm)

Attendance at school

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

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 22nd November 2024 the whole school attendance is 95.86%

Reception = 96.67%

Year 1 = 95.19%

Year 2 = 98.52%

Year 3 = 91.85%

Year 4 = 94.27%

Year 5 = 97.13%

Year 6 = 97.41%