



# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 29th November 2024



### This week's Gospel

### 1st Sunday of Advent

*"Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."*

Luke 21:25-28

### A message from Mrs Rawlinson

My eternal gratitude goes to the people of the PTFA who have worked tirelessly over the last few days and weeks, organising the Christmas Fayre. A lot of thought and preparation has gone into making today's Christmas Fayre a special community event for our school family. All this week, PTFA members have been in school sorting the incredibly wonderful donations into prizes, decorating school, creating games, baking at home etc. All this effort culminates into a wonderful Christmassy event to be celebrated and shared with everyone. For me, it marks the 'official' start of Christmas and the beginning of Advent.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE THIS EVENT SUCH A SPECIAL CELEBRATION.

Remember, every penny raised is spent directly on the children to enhance their experience of primary school life (cinema trips and transport, ICT equipment and resources, pantomimes, ice cream van visits to name a few). These wonderful experiences are made possible because of the love we all share for the children and for the school.

Also remember, the PTFA is not an exclusive club....any parent/grandparent/family member can help in the mission of raising money to spend on the children.

Please do get involved in any way you can. Thank you.

I am incredibly proud of the relationship I have between home and school and parents know they can come to me with any questions, concerns, problems...anything at all and I will always try to find a way to help and support families. That said, it has come to my attention that there was a query about the children wearing uniform for the day of the Christmas Fayre.

The children have a lot of fun activities to look forward to over the Advent season, and have opportunity to wear festive clothes and Christmas jumpers for particular festivities and charities.

The children still have a lot of the curriculum to cover and still have the autumn term assessments to complete. Whilst I will always find opportunity for the children to have fun in school, their academic journey remains our priority. For this reason, I decided for the children to wear their uniforms on Christmas Fayre day. I hope this clarifies the query that has been raised.

### Advent Mass

We will be celebrating the Advent season on Friday, 6th December with a special whole school Mass in church at 11.00am. As always, any help with walking the children to and from church is much appreciated. Thanks in advance.

### REMINDER:

### Meet the teacher

Exclusively for Year 4 parents on Wednesday, 11th December at 3.30pm.

# Growing Together in God's Love

## 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 onto 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 was sent home with the children this week.

Please do not send in cash, places should be booked through the school money app.

## Altru Drama

Altru Drama group will be in school on Monday, 2nd December performing 'The Emperor's New Clothes' for all the children.

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

**'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.

**St Mary's Lowe House & St Thomas of Canterbury & St Julie's**

**Christmas Mass schedule 2024.**

Blessing of Advent wreath: all weekend Masses 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

Advent Service for children: 1<sup>st</sup> December 4.00pm St Julie's

Fridays of Advent at St Thomas of Canterbury: 10.15am Exposition & Benediction; 11.00am Mass (unless there is a Requiem

Mass-see weekly newsletter)

School Advent Mass: 11.00am Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, St Thomas of Canterbury

Church Parade 8<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am Lowe House

11<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.00pm First Confession and Holy Communion enrolment Mass St Thomas of Canterbury

13<sup>th</sup> Dec 5.00pm First Sacrament of Reconciliation (yr4) St Julies

13<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 pm. St Helens Singers present "When a Child is Born", Christmas music and entertainment in St Julie's Church

14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Dec Gaudete Sunday: Blessing of bambinelli/crib figures-all weekend Masses

15<sup>th</sup> Dec 5.00pm Lowe House Youth Alive Mass

16<sup>th</sup> Dec St Thomas of Canterbury school carol service 11.00am

18<sup>th</sup> Dec St Thomas of Canterbury school carol service 4.00pm

18th December 6.30pm-8.00pm Christmas Carols Lowe House parish hall. If you are able to contribute, please bring either a box of mince pies or a bottle of mulled wine

19<sup>th</sup> Dec St Julies school Nativity in church 2.00pm

**Christmas Eve Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas** St Thomas of Canterbury. *Carols from 5.30pm*

**Christmas Day Mass Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:**

9.30am St Julie's

11.00am St Mary's Lowe House. *Carols from 10.30am*

St Stephen Thu 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am Mass St Julie's

Epiphany of the Lord 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 11.00am Mass at Lowe House will be an international themed Mass followed by international "shared table" lunch in the hall.

# Growing Together in God's Love

## Important Dates for your Diary

### 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 and punctuality at school is not just for the academic progress your child will make, but is also important for developing personal qualities too, such as:

- ◆ Friendships
- ◆ Social skills
- ◆ Team and school values
- ◆ Cultural awareness
- ◆ Life skills etc

### Attendance

For week ending Friday, 29th November 2024 the whole school attendance is 97.43%

Reception = 96.67%

Year 1 = 96.30%

Year 2 = 98.15%

Year 3 = 94.81%

Year 4 = 99.64%

Year 5 = 98.21%

Year 6 = 98.15%