



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 17th January 2025



This week's Gospel

"He let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him."

John 2:1-11

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

You know you're a grown up when you're glad to see the back of the snow! It is beautiful when it first falls and it does bring out the little child in us all, even for a short while!

I for one am glad it has finally melted away, although I did find joy in walking through the freshly fallen snow in the local park with my dog. This weekend's Gospel is about joy and the joy that was experienced when Jesus performed his first miracle. Our week in school has been filled with joy in many ways; from sharing our learning, celebrating great achievements and milestones, reaching targets and, of course, finally getting to play outside on the playground!

We have now started to implement the new Prayer and Liturgy directory which has been created by Bishops and school leaders from across England and Wales. One of the changes parents need to be aware of is that daily collective worship has moved to daily prayer. Every class now has a collection of prayers to recite each morning at the start of the school day, at lunchtimes and at home time. This daily prayer is then built upon during Celebration of the Word, when the whole school gather to hear the Gospel; to celebrate and understand the teachings of Jesus together. The Celebration of the Word will adopt many of the shared prayers and actions we have in Holy Mass, meaning that the children will be able to be full participants in Mass at church.

I would like to share and discuss the Prayer and Liturgy directory with you, so I have included it on the agenda for our next parents forum meeting which is to be held on

Monday, 10th February at 4.45—5.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please do come along to find out more about Prayer and Liturgy plus any other agenda items you wish to bring to the table.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

Friday Masses at Church

This term we have planned that each class will attend (not lead) Mass at least once during the term.

The order/dates of classes will be as follows:

- 17th January - Reception and Y6 (buddies)
- 24th January - Year 3
- 31st January - Years 1 + 2
- 28th February - Year 5
- 7th March - Year 4

Families are more than welcome to join us, but please note that the children will not be actively involved as they would be in a whole school Mass.

School Meals

The Local Authority is implementing a new software system called SchoolGrid for the ordering and payment of your child's school meals, which starts from 4th February 2025.

A letter has been sent home today and is also attached to this email giving more information. Please click below to watch a short presentation on the new system and how it will work.

[SchoolGrid - Parent Introduction](#)

A message from SVP All Saints Conference and St Helens District Council



The SVP shop on Cambridge Road in St Helens is in desperate need of men's clothes and men's shoes (particularly size 6/7). If you can help in any way, you can donate direct to the shop or you can leave donations with Mrs Rawlinson in school who can arrange to have them delivered to the shop. Many thanks.

YEAR 6 PARENT MEETING

There will be an information evening for Year 6 parents on

Wednesday, 29th January starting at 4.30pm in the Y6 classroom.

Mr. Hale will be discussing End of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs) and talking about the forthcoming residential to Conway Centre in Anglesey.

It is important you attend to receive all the necessary information for both the KS2 tests and the residential and to give you opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

YEAR 4 SACRAMENTS

Thank you to the parents and children who attended our recent workshop for Sacramental preparation.

Our next (and final workshop) will be held on Monday, 7th April at 5.00pm in school.

REMINDER:

Mass of First Forgiveness will be on Wednesday, 19th March at 6.00pm at church.

(If you have missed any of the workshops to date, please contact Mrs. Rawlinson)

A message from the Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies have been incredibly enthusiastic in their mission to help others and have a lot of ideas as to how this can happen.

They have decided to have a pyjama day in school on **Friday, 14th February** with each child donating £1 to wear their pyjamas for the day in school.

Each child will also take part in 'guess how many sweets in the jar' with the child who guesses correctly (or nearest) winning the jar of sweets.

Beulah has written a letter to parents detailing their plans (thank you Beulah). Please see the next page for Beulah's letter.

Information about forthcoming plans will come in due course.

It is so lovely to see the children wanting to help others in so many ways.

Personal Development assemblies

Every alternate Wednesday the children will be taking part in a personal development assembly (EYFS and KS1 taking turns with KS2 each week). These assemblies will focus on PSHE topics such as respect, online safety, personal hygiene, friendships, sleeping habits, healthy diets, exercise etc and will be age appropriate. Please do speak with your child about what they have learnt in their assemblies. The first focus is respect and what that means.

Newsletter

Our Mini Vinnies (SVP children) are very enthusiastic in their mission to help others.

They have written this piece for the newsletter.

Thank you to the Mini Vinnies for their commitment and their enthusiasm.

Dear Parents,

The mini Vinnies have decided that they are doing events during now and easter. For every single event the children have to bring a \$1 pound. All of the events will be placed in a different day. The events are Pajama day, guess the sweets in the jar, easter egg hunt and talent show.

The reason that we are asking for money for the events is for donating to charity. For pajama day the childrens will need to wear there pajama it is your choice if they

want to wear it on there school uniform this event will be placed on February 19th and guess the sweets is placed on the same day as Pajama day. Easter egg hunt is placed on April 6th. Talent Show is where the children needs to bring something to school and show there talent. The talent show is on the the 7th February.

**A letter from
Archbishop Malcolm to
all families**



If you wish to book on to this special mass at the Cathedral and have trouble in doing so, let me know so I can help you with the booking. Mrs Rawlinson

(send an email to
lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk)

13 January 2025

Dear parents and young people of our Catholic schools,

Happy New Year to you all!

Last month, I was able to declare the cure of John (Jack) Traynor a miracle after a very long wait. Jack was a pilgrim on the Archdiocesan first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923, and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. Many people at the time considered the cure to be miraculous, but there was never any official Church-recognition because it was felt that there was insufficient medical evidence. Thankfully, some painstaking research over the last couple of years has unearthed evidence of the medical examinations of Jack Traynor at the time of the pilgrimage in 1923 and subsequently. Thus, the cure of Jack Traynor has now been recognised as the 71st official miracle to have happened at Lourdes, and he is the first person from England to have been cured at the shrine.

Though the official declaration of the miracle has come a century after the cure, it is still a significant moment for each of us in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We will, therefore, have a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, at 7pm. A drinks reception will follow in the cathedral crypt. It will be an opportunity for people from across the archdiocese and beyond, including representatives from the shrine at Lourdes, to gather in Liverpool to mark this historic moment, and to heed the call of Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year to be "Pilgrims of Hope".

I wish to invite you **personally**, parents, students and family members to participate in this celebration of the Eucharist, and hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating this joyful event. I include a link to help you book your place in this historic event.

[Booking form for attendance at the celebration of the miraculous cure of Jack Traynor](#)

With my very best wishes and prayers for each of you, your families, and your school communities.

Please pray for me as your archbishop and know that I pray for you each day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm'.

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

January

- 20th - Y5 Bikeability Training—different group each day Mon-Thurs
- 29th - Y6 SATs & Conway Residential Parents information meeting (4.30pm)
- 30th - Y5 attending Crucial Crew Event

February

- 4th - Reception Hearing Screening
- 14th - Pyjama Day (organised by Mini Vinnies)
- 14th - end of Spring term 1 (break for February half-term)
- 24th - Staff Inset Day
- 24th - Young Voices Concert
- 25th - School Re-opens (doors open at 8.40am)
- 28th - Year 5 start swimming sessions (runs for 6 weeks)

March

- 3rd - Whole school photographs (Academy Photography)
- 5th - Ash Wednesday Mass in Church (11am)
- 19th - Y4 First Confession in Church (6pm)

April

- 2nd - Y6 Residential (The Conway Centre) leave at 10am
- 4th - Y6 return from Residential
- 7th - Y4 Sacramental Workshop 4 - (5pm School Hall)
- 11th - Stations of the Cross Mass in Church (11am)
- 11th - end of Spring term (school closes for Easter at 1.30pm)

Attendance and punctuality at school

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, 17th January 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.89%

Reception =92.96%

Year 1 = 100%

Year 2 = 100%

Year 3 = 97.04%

Year 4 = 98.92%

Year 5 = 98.89%

Year 6 = 97.41%