



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 24th January 2025

This week's Gospel



"He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to prisoners and new sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."

Luke 1: 1-4, 4:14-21

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

There is a clear link this week between my message and this week's Gospel reading, as this week in school we have been bringing good news to the poor and proclaiming the Lord's year of favour.



For a long time now, I have been trying to create links between St. Thomas of Canterbury and a school overseas and now it has finally happened! Spurred on by the enthusiasm of the Mini Vinnies, we are now supporting a school in Milawi in South East Africa. Mr. Armstrong, who works for the charity 'Great Minds, Bright Futures' came to school to collect bags of unwanted uniform and donated clothing items to send to a school in Milawi who don't have any uniform or shoes. The Mini Vinnies were so excited to be involved and can see that their efforts are helping our global brothers and sisters.

Once the children in Milawi receive our donations, Mr. Armstrong has promised to send some photos so we can share the impact our generosity has had on others.

Another act of charity comes from Mrs. Mills, our Teaching assistant in Reception class, who has decided to have her (very) long hair cut and donate to the Little Princesses charity who makes wigs for children living with cancer. Staff have donated money to the charity in support of Mrs. Mills.

Both of these acts of mercy show that we are more than ready to proclaim this year as a Year of Hope. Mrs. Houghton has led a beautiful worship about the Jubilee Year of Hope and has written a message for our newsletter. Please do have a read of that.



We look forward to celebrating our Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope and sharing our news with our families and wider community.

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:

- 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.

(Reception, Year 3 and year 6 have been)

Parents forum

Our next parents forum meeting is to be held on

Monday, 10th February at 4.45—5.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

The agenda so far:

- ◆ School improvement plan for parents
- ◆ Prayer and Liturgy
- ◆ AOB

Looking forward to seeing you then.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

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.

Pyjama day

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.

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.

Every 25 years the Catholic church holds a Jubilee year.

All members of the global family are called to participate. It is a time to grow in faith and prayer; a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation. During this Jubilee year, school staff and pupils, along with their families and parish communities are asked to remind themselves that Christ and the values he taught are central to who we are and what we do. Following Christ and being examples to others makes us Pilgrims of Hope which is the theme for this Church Jubilee year.

The launch day for this Jubilee year was today and the children have shared in an assembly and worship to mark this very special occasion.

We have lots of ideas, activities and fund-raising opportunities to explore with the children as we journey on our pilgrim of hope and bring hope to others throughout 2025. We look forward to sharing them with you as we go along.

Best wishes
Mrs Houghton





Families and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are invited to a special **SEND Information Day** on **Tuesday, 28th January 2025**, at the **Totally Wicked Stadium**.

This exciting event provides a valuable opportunity to meet local service providers, explore the support and resources available, and learn about the wide range of services tailored to young people with SEND.

The event will feature **two drop-in sessions** to accommodate different schedules:

- **Afternoon Session:** 10am - 2pm
- Early Evening Session:** 5pm - 7:30pm

From education and employment support to health and wellbeing services, attendees will have the chance to connect with providers face-to-face, ask questions, and gain insight into the opportunities available in the local area.

Whether you're looking for advice, resources, or new ideas to enhance your SEND journey, this is the perfect chance to get informed and network with experts and other families.

Save the date, spread the word, and drop in to Saints Stadium on 28th January!

School 25th Anniversary



Our beautiful school building will be 25 years old this March. No doubt, many of you or your families will have been associated with the school over that period of time.

To mark this lovely milestone, we would like to create a small display which recognises how we have changed/grown over the years.

If you have any documentation or information which could be of interest please let us know.

We would particularly like any photos especially those of year groups.

Many thanks

Parent Governors

At St Thomas of Canterbury we always aim for positive and purposeful partnerships with parents. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor.

Our current parent governors' term of office is coming to an end on 4th April, leaving two parent governor vacancies. Letters will be sent home over the next couple of weeks seeking nominations from enthusiastic and committed parents or carers to join our dedicated governing body.

There are no particular qualifications required for the role but we would be particularly keen to receive nominations from parents or carers who have financial experience or a background in finance.

The term of office for all governors is four years and the position will start from 5th April 2025.

School Meals

The Local Authority is implementing a new software system called SchoolGrid for the ordering and payment of your child's school meals,
our **“GO LIVE DATE is 4th February 2025”**

You should have received an email with a link to set up an account for your child.

Please continue to pay for school meals using your School Money account up to 3rd February. If you have any dinner arrears please ensure these are cleared on school money. Any credits on school money after meals taken on 3rd February will be transferred to your SchoolGrid account.

Meals should be pre-ordered and paid for in advance using your SchoolGrid account from 4th February our “Go Live Date”

Please do not pre-order meals for before this date.

Click below to watch a short presentation on the new system and how it will work.

[SchoolGrid - Parent Introduction](#)

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



Lateness

We kindly remind parents and carers about the importance of ensuring children arrive at school on time. Arriving late not only disrupts the start of your child's day but also impacts the learning of their classmates. The morning routine sets the tone for the day, and being on time helps children settle, engage with their peers, and begin lessons without stress or distraction. Please aim to have your child at school by 8.40-8.45am, ready to start their day. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting a positive learning environment for everyone!

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 24th January 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.6%

- Reception =97.72%
- Year 1 = 97.04%
- Year 2 = 99.63%
- Year 3 = 97.04%
- Year 4 = 97.49%
- Year 5 = 97.78%
- Year 6 = 97.04%

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

January

29th - Y6 SATs & Conway Residential Parents information meeting (4.30pm)

30th - Y5 attending Crucial Crew Event

February

4th - Reception Hearing Screening

6th - School Nurse Drop In Session (from 8.30am to 9.30am)

10th - Parents Forum Meeting (4.45pm)

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)

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope all is well with you and your families!

I am just giving you all a heads up that our Footy Factory dates for Queen's Park Primary School during the February Half Term will soon be advertised:



Footy Factory at Queen's Park Primary School, St Helens

Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th February (3 days)

Year 1-6 Full days (9.00-15.00)

Cost:

3 full days- £57

Single full days- £22

15% sibling discount applies.

We really hope that you can join us over the Feb Half Term and if you would like your child to attend, please get in touch via social media (@footyfactorycoaching on Facebook and Instagram) or on 07479 953 465 with:

Childs Name
Camp Location
Days Required

Please note, your booking is confirmed when payment has been received.

Any questions please let me know! 😊

Kind Regards

Matty Ward

Healthy Active Lifestyles Ltd. & Healthy Active Sports Events Ltd.

www.healthyactivelifestyles.co.uk

07479 953 465

