



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 31st January 2025



This week's Gospel

"My eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations to see."

Luke 2:22-40

A message from Mrs Rawlinson

This week's Gospel is about Jesus being presented in the temple to Simeon. It gives a message of hope and of good news. This week's Celebration of the Word (Worship) was about good news and what it means to the children. We discussed what good news they have received themselves and the children's responses included everything from holidays, birthdays and babies. We made links with last week's worship (Joy) and how good news brings joy. Since focusing our worship more on the Gospel and God's word, the children have responded so incredibly reverent and their understanding of their faith is deepening. It would be lovely if families could chat about each weekly theme at home to encourage the children to explore and strengthen their faith.

It would also link very nicely to us being Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year.



Years 1 & 2 attended Mass at church this morning. They were so well behaved and prayerful. Well done to the children.

Thank you as always, to the helpers in walking the children to and from church safely, your time is greatly appreciated.

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:

- 28th February - Year 5
- 7th March - Year 4
- 14th March - Year 3

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, Years 1,2 and year 6 have been)

We will arrange for each class to attend Mass during the summer term too.

Personal development assemblies

This week and next, our theme for Personal Development assemblies is Chinese New Year. The children will learn about other cultures and symbolism linked to China.

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
- ◆ Social media and school
- ◆ Car parking
- ◆ AOB

Looking forward to seeing you then.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

Parents Evening Meetings

We are always looking for ways to improve our offer and service in school and this includes our service to parents.

In the Autumn term, we held Parents evening over two evenings/afternoons, which still created some waiting time for a few parents.

To try our very best to prevent parents having to wait for their appointment, we will trial the following changes:

This term's Parents' evening meetings will take place slightly differently to usual as a way to hopefully improve your experience of Parents evening.

Evening 1 will be Wednesday, 5th March from 3.30pm - 5.00pm.

Teachers will personally invite parents to evening 1.

Evening 2 will be Wednesday 12th March from 1.30pm - 6pm.

Evening 2 appointments will be bookable through School Spider.

Parents who attend evening 1 do not need to book for evening 2.

(Happy to discuss at Parents forum!)

Pyjama day

The Mini Vinnies are organising a pyjama day in school on **Friday, 14th February**. Children are asked to donate £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.



There will be a jar for EYFS/KS1 and a jar for KS2.

World book day 2025

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on **Friday, 7th March.**

This year, we are inviting children to take part in a fun and creative challenge

"Dress as a Word!"

Instead of dressing as a book character, we encourage children to choose a word and create a costume that represents it. For example, they could dress as "sparkly," "brave," "stormy," or "stripy"! This is a fantastic way to build vocabulary and make learning even more engaging. We can't wait to see the imaginative outfits and celebrate the joy of words together.

Thank you for your support!

Staff Car Park

A polite reminder that parents should not drive through the main gates into the staff car park when picking up or dropping off children.

This includes when using the Out of Hours Club or any morning or afterschool extra-curricular clubs.

Thank you.

School Nurse Drop In

On Thursday, 6th February the 0-19 team nurse will be in school from 8.30am until 9.30am.

Parents are invited to call in and discuss any health concerns they may have regarding their child.

School Meals

Please remember to pre-order your child's school meals from 4th February on the new SchoolGrid system.

- You should have received an email with a link to set up an account for your child.
 - Please pay for Monday's school meal using your School Money account.
- If you have any dinner arrears these should be cleared on school money by Monday.
- Any outstanding arrears or credits will be transferred to your SchoolGrid account after lunch service on Monday.
- All meals should be pre-ordered and paid for in advance using your SchoolGrid account from 4th February our "Go Live Date"
- Click below to watch a short presentation on the new system and how it will work.

[SchoolGrid - Parent Introduction](#)

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 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, 31st January 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.4%

Reception =94.25%

Year 1 = 96.67%

Year 2 = 98.89%

Year 3 = 94.64%

Year 4 = 100%

Year 5 = 98.52%

Year 6 = 98.52%

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

February

- 4th - School Grid Go Live Date (children's school meals are now to be pre-ordered)
- 4th - Reception Hearing Screening
- 6th - School Nurse Drop In Session (from 8.30am to 9.30am)
- 10th - Parents Forum Meeting (4.45pm)
- 10th - Y3 & Y5 visit to Saints Stadium
- 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 attending mass in church (11am)
- 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)
- 25th - Rock Steady Easter Concert (2.15pm in school hall)
- 26th - Nursery April intake parents meeting (3.30pm)
- 28th - EYFS Mothers Day assembly (Reception & Nursery)

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

