



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 7th February 2025

This week's Gospel

"Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch".

Luke 5:1-11



A message from Mrs Rawlinson

When parents complete the annual parental questionnaire, I take quite a lot of time to read, analyse and understand the comments made, looking for ways to improve our offer to parents. One question relates to parents having a clear understanding of what is taught in Religious Education. In our most recent survey, 80% of parents strongly agree and 20% agree with this comment. I would like to have 100% of parents knowing exactly what children are being taught in their religious education lessons as this is considered to be the 'core of the core subject'. It is now our mission to do just that. Mrs. Houghton has been working on a newsletter to inform parents about the teaching and learning that is happening in 'To Know You More Clearly' (Reception to Year 3) and in Come and See (Year 4—Year 6). She has also included information about our Catholic Life and how we live out our lives in kindness, love and respect. This newsletter is going to be sent home each term, with issue 1 sent home this week, so please do take some time to have a read and help us celebrate the children's learning with you.

Friday Masses at Church

It was a privilege to accompany Year 1 and year 2 to church last Friday. They responded so reverently and behaved brilliantly. Well done to all our children in Yr 1 & 2.

Thank you to the parent helpers in getting them there and back safely - your time is always greatly appreciated.

The following classes will attend Mass on these dates:

- 28th February - Year 5
- 21st 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.

Our next whole school Mass is on Wednesday, 5th March at 11.00am for Ash Wednesday and to mark the beginning of Lent.

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 updates
- ◆ Safeguarding in school
- ◆ AOB

Looking forward to seeing you then.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

Personal development assemblies

Key Stage 2 had their personal development assembly on Wednesday. Their theme was Chinese New Year.

The purpose of these assemblies is to raise awareness of other races, cultures and faiths as well as to develop children's personal qualities.

Next week, Key Stage 1 will be learning about respect and how it differences are celebrated as we are all unique.

Parents Evening Meetings

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

Teachers will personally invite parents to evening 1.

Evening 2: 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.

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.

See Mrs Cain's letter on the next page for more information.

Thank you for your support!

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



On Friday 7th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. Altru Drama will visit each class to deliver drama workshops based on the theme "Brilliant Books" to help children to learn about books and to tell their own stories.

Our week in school will be filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure. Please visit the World Book Day website to use their wonderful resources with your child and to decide how to spend your voucher. The Book Stop in St Helens will stock these books and it is a lovely way to spend an hour looking round or enjoying a hot chocolate!

www.worldbookday.com
www.thebookstop.org

Our dressing-up theme on Friday 7th March will be 'Dress as a Word' and it will culminate in a 'Vocabulary Parade' so that the children can show off their costumes.

Here are a few examples:



x-ray

ambivalent

blizzard

We hope that your children will enjoy the day - please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

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 were sent home yesterday seeking nominations from enthusiastic and committed parents or carers to join our dedicated governing body. The letter, nomination form and information regarding the role of a Governor can also be found on our website under the Governors tab on the menu.

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.

Nomination forms are to be returned to school by **noon on Friday, 28th February 2025.**

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

School Meals /SchoolGrid

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, we transferred over to the Local Authorities new software system called SchoolGrid on Tuesday for the pre-ordering and payment of school meals.

Thank you to all the parents who pre-ordered meals for their children. The SchoolGrid support staff who were with us on the go live date were very impressed with the take up.

Please continue to pre-order and pay for your child's school meals each week to ensure they receive their preferred lunch.

Any dinner arrears held on school money prior to 4th February should be cleared as soon as possible. However, school money should not be used to top up dinner money from now on.

Any credits held on school money accounts after 3rd February were transferred to your SchoolGrid account.

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

[SchoolGrid - Parent Introduction](#)

Out of Hours Club (Beckets)

Mrs Murphy would be grateful for any donations of clean underwear age 4-5 so she has spare when needed.

Thank you

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, 7th February 2025 the whole school attendance is 96.6%

Reception =95.02%

Year 1 = 99.63%

Year 2 = 97.04%

Year 3 = 96.17%

Year 4 = 95.70%

Year 5 = 94.44%

Year 6 = 98.15%

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

February

- 10th - Parents Forum Meeting (4.45pm)
- 10th - Y3 & Y5 visit to Saints Stadium
- 10th - EYFS Phonics Workshop (3.30pm)
- 12th - EYFS Phonics Workshop (3.30pm)
- 13th - EYFS Phonics Workshop (3.30pm)
- 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 - Closing date for parent governor nominations (12 noon)
- 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)
- 5th - Parents Evening 1 (3.30-5.00pm invited parents only)
- 7th - Altru Drama "Brilliant Books" workshops (all classes throughout the day)
- 7th - Year 4 attending mass in church (11am)
- 12th - Parents Evening 2 (1.30-6pm)
- 19th - Y4 First Confession in Church (6pm)
- 25th - Rock Steady Easter Concert (2.15pm in school hall)
- 26th - Year 4 Chester Roman Trip
- 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

