



# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 14th February 2025



### This week's Gospel

*"Be glad and rejoice, for your reward will be great in Heaven."*

Luke 6:17, 20-26

### A message from Mrs Rawlinson

When Mr. Hale first started as deputy head here in 2021, I knew then he had the potential to become a fabulous head teacher, and that is exactly what is going to happen. Mr. Hale has secured himself the headship at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School in Rainford. He will take up office in September. I for one am delighted for Mr. Hale, as he is more than ready to take his next step in his career and I know he will be amazing and much loved as he is here. He has achieved and done so much in his time here at St. Thomas of Canterbury and has made a lasting impression on us all, but for now, we continue to work for the next term and a half in the best interests of the children and the school. I am sure you join in wishing him every success and congratulations.

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Our parents forum meeting took place on Monday evening. Thank you to the parents who attended; as always, your time is greatly appreciated and your contributions really do matter. I believe that working in conjunction with parents is so beneficial to the children and life of the school in so many ways. We discussed our school improvement plan and how parents can help with this, see below.

<p><b><u>Quality of Education</u></b> Review and enhance the quality of curriculum and ensure it supports effective planning, teaching, assessment with full coverage of national curriculum.</p>	<p><b><u>Behaviour and Attitudes</u></b> Enhance the support offered to pupils relating to emotional well-being</p>
<p><b><u>Personal Development</u></b> Raise the profile of arts based curriculum (music, art, design drama etc)</p>	<p><b><u>Leadership and Management</u></b> Improve school website and ensure it is regularly updated</p>

We also discussed the changes being brought in to school from the Archdiocese in relation to prayer and liturgy. Safeguarding in schools was discussed, with the action that a parent-friendly booklet will be uploaded to our website in the coming weeks. Also, the car parking issues were discussed, as there has been a meeting with school and representatives from the crematorium to find out alternative ways we can access school. This is still being addressed.

Our meeting ended with a discussion around the role of a parent governor. As you will be aware, we have two vacancies for parent governors. If you are interested and would like to know more about the role of a governor and the commitment it entails, then please do contact me. I'll be more than happy to talk you through the role and answer any questions you may have.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very happy Valentine's day and a happy half term.

Remember, Monday 24th February is an INSET day, so school will be closed to children on that day.

**Children attending Young Voices are to come to school by 11.30am and must be wearing their Young Voices Tee shirts and bring food and drink (no nuts).**

# Growing Together in God's Love

## Pyjama day

Well done to our Mini Vinnies who have organised the pyjama day today. Monies raised will go to the SVP, whose mission is to help those in need. This has been a lovely way to show how to live in solidarity and help the children understand the importance of Catholic Social Teaching.

**Together we have raised a grand total of £191.00**

and our winners of Guess the Sweets in the jar are

Ava Walsh and Grace Cunliffe who both got the exact number of 132 and have each won a jar of sweets.

Runners up, who came very close, were Edward Badley,

Jack Middleton, Bridgette Toole, Kaiden Pennington,

Zach Southward-Raby and Jaxon Marsh. These children

have also won some sweets.

## Friday Masses at Church

The following classes will attend Mass on these dates:

- 28<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5
- 21<sup>st</sup> March - Year 4 (changed from 7<sup>th</sup> March)
- 14<sup>th</sup> 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, 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am for Ash Wednesday and to mark the beginning of Lent.

## Internet Safety Day

The children were reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe on line with a very informative assembly led by Mr McCue and the ambassadors for online safety on Monday morning.

This year's theme is 'Too good to be true' and raising awareness of online scams.

## Parents Evening Meetings

Evening 1: Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30pm - 5.00pm.

**Teachers will personally invite parents to evening 1.**

Evening 2: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## World book day 2025

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March.**

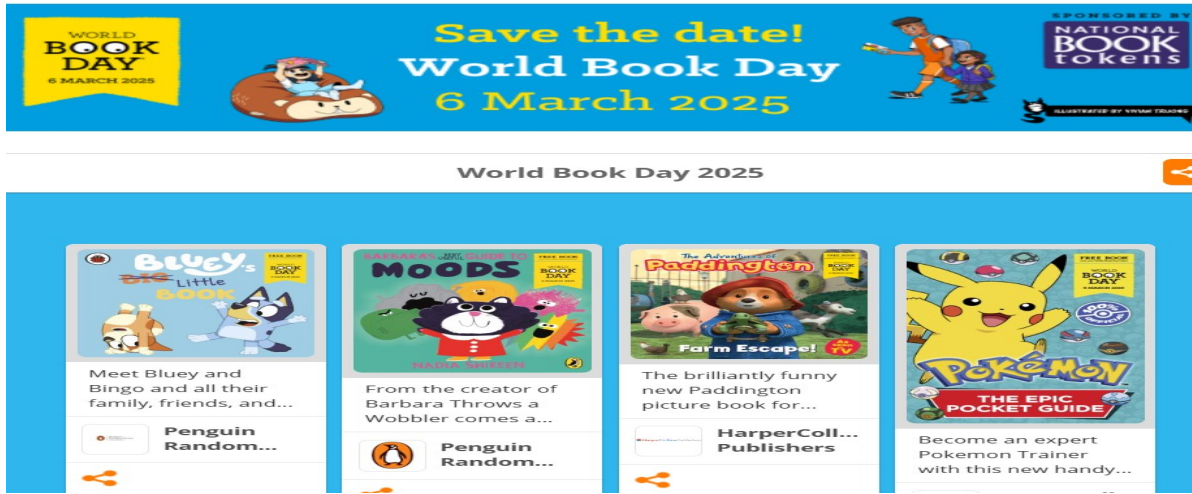
This year, we are inviting children to take part in a fun and creative challenge

**"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!



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.worldbookday.com)

[www.thebookstop.org](http://www.thebookstop.org)

Our dressing-up theme on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 last week 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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



**Jewellery**

We have noticed that some children have been coming to school wearing earrings.

A polite reminder that jewellery of any kind should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons.

Please make sure that all jewellery is removed before attending school.

Thank you.

**PTFA Lottery**

Congratulations to the winners of the January and February lottery.

**January**

1st prize £40 - No. 64 Kate Bagdonavicius

2nd prize £20 - No. 63 Cath Middleton

**February**

1st Prize £40 - No. 58 Claire Millen

2nd prize £20 - No. 2 Nicola Chiddy

# Growing Together in God's Love

## Important Dates for your Diary

### February

- 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)
- 6th - "World Book Day" - Year 3 visiting Ecclestone Library
- 7th - Altru Drama "Brilliant Books" workshops (all classes throughout the day)
- 12th - Parents Evening 2 (1.30-6pm )
- 19th - Y4 First Confession in Church ( 6pm)
- 21st - Year4 attending mass in church (11am)
- 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)

### **School Photographs – Monday, 3rd March 2025**

Academy, the school photographers will be in school on Monday, 3rd March.

They will be taking all the children's individual photographs, as well as sibling photographs during school time.

However, if you would like a photograph of your child with a sibling who does not attend our school or nursery then please come to the school hall at the earlier time of 8.30 a.m.

**NB: all children should come to school in their school uniform.**

**If your child has PE on Monday they will be required to change into their PE kit/tracksuit, so should bring this with them to school.**

**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, 14th February 2025 the whole school attendance is 95.63%

Reception =95.57%

Year 1 = 94.76%

Year 2 = 98.10%

Year 3 = 91.63%

Year 4 = 96.77%

Year 5 = 97.14%

Year 6 = 95.24%