

# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 15th December 2022



### Thought for the week

*“The birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely and uniquely by God.”*

*Pope Francis*

### A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Words cannot describe how immensely proud I am of everyone involved in St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School right now.

The Early Years Nativity, Key Stage 1 Nativity and our Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service at church were just wonderful, absolutely wonderful. I was actually moved to tears in church watching all our Key Stage 2 children perform so amazingly well together as they gathered on the altar. Well done to all our children and to our wonderful staff as well who have worked hard in putting all these wonderful events on. Our Advent season of preparation and hopeful waiting has certainly been a joyous time in school.

Added to all this, we found out this week that our school has been placed in the TES top 100 schools in the country and 11th in the North West region. Absolutely amazing.

These things don't happen by chance. It is a result of our fantastic children and their families, our hardworking staff, our dedicated governors and of course, the strong relationship we have between home and school.

**A massive 'thank you' to you all for making St. Thomas of Canterbury the fantastic school it is.**

### Merry Christmas



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and friends a very happy Christmas. I hope you get to spend time with loved ones and make special memories. Thank you for all your support over 2022 and here's to a happy and successful 2023!

Have a wonderful Christmas, everyone!

### Year 2 Class Collective Worship

Well done to our Y2 children who led their Collective Worship this morning for the school and their families. They lit the 4th candle on our Advent wreath and led us in prayer so beautifully.

Well done, Year 2.

**A message from Denise Catterall, Chair of Governors**

As I come towards the end of my first term as Chair of Governors, I just wanted to share with you my thoughts on the past four months of school life from a governor's perspective.

At last, we can begin to feel that life within school is back to normal after the events of the past couple of years, and the SATs results showed what an outstanding job the teachers have done getting the children back up to speed.

We were delighted to see the appointment of Fr Michael Harwood as our Parish Priest, and welcome him as our newest member of the governing body. On 1<sup>st</sup> November, the feast of All Saints, Years 2 to 6 shared in the re-opening of St Thomas of Canterbury Church - after a closure of over two years - by celebrating Mass with Fr Michael, which was the first of what will hopefully be many celebrations we can share with the community.

The Mini Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul "Mini" group), have represented the school by taking part in the Mass on the feast of St Vincent de Paul at the Cathedral and leading the Harvest assembly, collecting donations as part of their mission in helping others. They also visited the people who attend the Dementia Café where they joined in with craft work and socialised with everyone there. The performing arts group along with the Mini Vinnies had another visit on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December and entertained the group singing Christmas Carols and songs. It was a huge success – I'm not sure who enjoyed it more – the children or the members of the group!!

Sporting competitions with other schools are also up and running and the school has enjoyed success in many of these.

Parents and family members have been able to once again join with the children in collective worships, nativity plays and concerts, which really means a lot to the children and enhances the Catholic life of the school in many ways.

These are just a few examples of how school life is fully functional again.

Along with some of the other governors, I have been fortunate to join the children at many of these events, and their behaviour, enthusiasm, ability to express themselves and empathy for others really does shine out.

The governors would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Rawlinson, staff, parents, children and everyone else involved in helping us to get back on track.

So for now, may we the governing body extend a very warm and holy Christmas to you all.

God Bless, Denise.

## **Important Dates for your Diary**

### **December**

- 19th - Nursery/Reception/Y1/Y2 Christmas Party afternoon
- 20th - Breakfast with Santa (8am)
- 20th - KS2 (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6) Christmas Party afternoon
- 21st - Production of Charlotte's Web for whole school
- 21st - End of Autumn term (1.15pm finish)

### **January**

- 6th - Feast of the Epiphany Mass at 11.00am in church
- 30th - Crucial crew (year 6)

### **February**

- 1st - Young Voices (Performing Arts group)
- 6th - Mental health week
- 6th - Sacramental workshop 3
- 10th - End of Half term
- 20th - children return to school (this was originally an INSET day)

### **March**

- 3rd - World Book Day
- 21st - Rock Steady concert
- 22nd - Parents evening
- 27th - Y6 residential to Conway Centre
- 31st - End of Spring term

### **April**

- 12th - children return to school
- 17th - Sacramental workshop 4

### **May**

- 1st - Bank Holiday
- 8th - Bank Holiday
- 9th - Start of Year 6 End of Key Stage tests (SATs)

June

- 5th - Year 4 Multiplication tables check (2 week window)

## **Feast of the Epiphany**

Friday, 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany and as it is a Holy Day of Obligation. the children will be attending Mass at church.

Families and friends are more than welcome to join us at 11.00am.

Celebration page



Well done to our stars of the week.

The award this week is for Spreading joy through their words and actions during Advent.

Reception: India Pilling and Reuben Sewell

Year 1: Aaron Burdett

Year 2: Mikel Tinodiwanashe

Year 3: Anna Kilgannon

Year 4: Alfie Tasker

Year 5: Aoife Cross

Year 6: Tobias Bunting

PTFA News

Congratulations to our November Lotto Winners!

1st Prize Samantha Leighton No.20

2nd Prize Paula Rafferty No.3

3rd Prize Rachel Springford No.28

Reminder:

School closes on Wednesday, 21st December at 1.15pm.

School reopens for Spring term on Wednesday, 4th January.