

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 15th September 2023

This week's Gospel

Forgive, as you have been forgiven.

Based on the Gospel of Matthew

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Love

Next week's Gospel value will be:

Forgiveness

Mrs. Rawlinson's messages

For those who know me, you will realise I like to keep things fresh, relevant and interesting for the children, taking the children's opinions into account (pupil voice).

As a result we are changing the way Friday's assemblies are organised and delivered. Rather than awarding Star of the Week each week in the hall, this will be done in the classrooms as the children will understand the reasons why they are being congratulated even more.

Equally, the children will receive recognition throughout the week for their efforts, enthusiasm and engagement in reading, rather than waiting until Friday when the moment has passed.

Children who live out our Gospel Values will be celebrated in the school hall which helps to keep our mission (Growing together in God's love) more meaningful to the children. Friday's assemblies will also provide the children with a platform to speak to the whole school and develop oracy skills as they will be asked to perform tasks such as: share their learning, give a book review, read a poem, give factual information etc. Guest speakers will also be invited to talk to the children about various topics.

I will be asking the children for their feedback about assemblies in due course.

The staff and I have been busy creating our next School Improvement Plan for this academic year. Once finalised, I will be sending a parental version home so that you can help and work with school in making further improvements to benefit our children.

The termly parent forums will continue, giving parents opportunity to discuss school improvements with me and give the parental point of view (parent voice) which can prove to be invaluable. The autumn term date for parents forum will be Monday, 13th November at 4.30pm in the school hall.

All are invited.

Finally, things are tightening up where attendance and punctuality are concerned.

Children need to be in school by 8.55am (not arriving at 8.55am) as the doors will be closed at 8.55am prompt each morning.

The school gates will close once the last parent has left the playground. This ensures a smooth start to the day for everyone. There has been a significant improvement in this already, but please continue to make every effort to have your child(ren) in school on time each day. Thank you.

Mass at St. Thomas of Canterbury

There will be a whole school Mass to celebrate the start of the new school year at St. Thomas of Canterbury church on Friday, 29th September at 11.00m.

All our families (parents, grandparents, carers) are warmly invited to attend this special service with Fr. Michael.

Advance request for helpers: if you are available to help walk the children to church please arrive at school for 10.30am.

If you could also let your child's teacher know that you are available to help that would be great—thank you.

AFTER SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Staff are very keen to be up and running with their extra-curricular clubs and letters have been sent home for each one.

The full timetable is as follows:

Club	Day & time	Adult in charge	Other information
Running club	Monday 3.15—4.00pm	Mr Hale	£1 per child per week For children with a keen interest/ability in running For Years 4, 5 & 6
Ukulele	Monday 3.15—4.00pm	Mr. Brown	£1 per week per child 15 places available
Choir	Monday 3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Cain and Mrs Barry	£1 per child per week For Years 1 & 2
Book club	Monday 3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Ganson	£1 per child per week For years 3 & 4
Outdoor Skills	Tuesday 3.15—4.15pm	Mrs Fenney & Mrs Rawlinson	No charge as being run by Mrs Fenney For Year 5
Handball	Tuesday 3.15—4.00pm	Mr. McCue	£1 per week per child For Year 5 & 6
Prayer through Art	Tuesday 3.15—4.00pm	Mrs Houghton & Mrs Millea	£1 per week per child 15 places available
Outdoor club	Thursday 3.15-4.00pm	Ms Farrell & Mrs Connolly	£1 per week per child For Reception & Year 1
Choir	Thursday 3.15—4.15pm	Miss Hitchen	£1 per week per child For Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Mini Vinnies	Any time throughout the school day	Mrs. Rawlinson	No charge as being run within school day

Any monies can be paid into the school office. Thanks

Children with allergies

As we welcome new families and children into school, it is vitally important to inform (and remind current families) about the fact that we do have a number of children with allergies in school.

This means that we are a nut free school—please do not send any food, either as a snack or for packed lunch, that contains any type of nut.

Additionally, children must not share food with their friends.

As a school we have various safety protocols in place to help these children avoid their particular allergens, but we need your help too.

Parents of children with allergies meet with Mrs. Rawlinson regularly to discuss these protocols and to raise awareness ahead of any whole school events that are forthcoming. If you have a child with allergies and would like to meet with other parents, please email lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk to arrange.

Many thanks for your help and understanding in this important matter.

Meet the teacher

Wednesday, 20th September at 3.30pm in the school hall

Parents/carers are invited to our annual 'meet the teacher' evening on the 20th September.

The evening will begin in the school hall where Mrs. Rawlinson will introduce the evening and give a talk before parents go off to visit classrooms with their child's class teachers. Each talk in the classrooms will be repeated for parents to visit more than one class.

The evening will begin at 3.30 in the hall.

Talk one in classrooms 4.00pm—4.10pm

Talk two in classrooms 4.20—4.30pm.

Looking forward to welcoming everybody.

PLEASE NOTE: teachers will not be speaking to parents about individual children. If you need to speak to your child's teacher about individual/personal cases, please arrange this separate to this meeting.

Earrings

It has been noticed that a small number of children have returned to school with their ears pierced.

Just a polite reminder that children should not be wearing earrings in school for obvious health and safety matters.

Can they please be removed or covered with plasters before coming to school. Thanks

Reminders

- **If you have been asked to complete an Out of Hours registration form please return to school as soon as possible.**
- **Please return consent for school visit forms.**
- **Flu immunisations will take place 12th October—please consent via the on-line link sent by email.**

St Thomas of Canterbury Mums On The Run!

Did you know that St Thomas of Canterbury has its own Social Mums running group?

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm on the school car park and cover around 5km whilst having a good chat. Everyone is welcome no matter what your level of fitness and we always make sure that nobody is ever left on their own.

We would love to welcome any new mums to join us next week for our next 5km!

N.B. This group is not affiliated with any organisation. No one person is responsible. Everyone is responsible for their own safety / belongings etc.

New intake for 2024

If you have a child due to start school in September 2024 and are considering St. Thomas of Canterbury as one of your choices, then we have new admission meetings coming up, offering a chance to look around our school and speak with the head teacher, Mrs. Rawlinson.

Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

Tuesday, 24th October at 3.30pm

and

Wednesday, 15th November at 2pm

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school, please pass this information on to them. Many thanks.

Smithy Heritage Centre

**Polish Heritage at the Smithy - Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September
between 12noon and 5pm**

16th September - find out what life was like for allied soldiers in World War 11.
Make Polish floral wreaths and pisanki eggs.

17th September - Storytelling sessions about Wojtek the Bear with themed crafts. Bring along your own favourite toy and join in with our Teddy Bears picnic!

17th September - The Great Ecclestone Bake-off is back for the 8th time. Amateur bakers of all ages can enter, with prizes and trophies to be won!

Important Dates for your Diary

September

- 20th – Meet the teacher
- 21st - National fitness day
- 29th - Mass for new school year
- 30th - SVP mass at St Teresa's Church

October

- 10th - Rec and Y6 height and weight
- 12th - Flu immunisations (whole school)
- 24th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 3.30pm
- 25th - parents evening
- 26th - Harvest service
- 26th - - end of autumn 1
- 26th - Halloween disco (PTFA)
- 27th - INSET

November

- 6th - INSET
- 7th - children return
- 13th - Anti bullying/kindness week
- 24th - Christmas fayre

December

- 1st - Advent Mass
- 4th and/or 5th EYFS Christmas play
- 11th - KS1 Christmas play
- 11th - Altru Drama performance of Pinocchio (1.30pm)
- 15th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 2.00pm
- 19th - KS2 Carol Service (tbc)
- 22nd - end of autumn term

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 15th September 2023 the whole school attendance is 98.68%

Reception = 100%

Year 1 = 100%

Year 2 = 93.33%

Year 3 = 99.26%

Year 4 = 99.26%

Year 5 = 99.26%

Year 6 = 99.64%