

# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 22nd September 2023

## This week's Gospel

*"The last will be first, and the first, last."*  
Based on the Gospel of Matthew

## This week's Gospel Value has been:

Forgiveness

## Next week's Gospel value will be:

understanding

## Mrs. Rawlinson's messages

Meet the teacher on Wednesday evening was a great success and it was lovely to see so many families (existing families and those who are new to school).

Thank you to all who attended and I hope you found the sessions both in the hall and in the classrooms informative and useful.

Like I explained in the meeting, there are many ways you can help and be involved:

- come along to parent forum meetings - the next one is Monday, 13th November at 4.30pm in the meeting room.
- Be involved in the PTFA (no commitment, no pressure on time. Sometimes it is just fresh ideas needed!)
- Come along to parental information evenings. These focus on school improvement and directly link to our school improvement plan.
- Attend parents evenings (next one is Wednesday, 25th October)
- Keep communicating with us! Communication is key!

Further information about this year's school improvement plan will be sent out to parents in due course.

## 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 11.00am.

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.

## New intake for September 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 please come along to our new admission meetings. These will give you all the information you need to help you make your choices and give you a flavour of what school life is like here at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

- Tuesday, 24th October at 3.30pm and
- Wednesday, 15th November at 2.00pm

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school please pass these dates on to them.

## Growing Together in God's Love

### **Important Dates for your Diary**

#### **September**

- 28<sup>th</sup> - Y3 visit to Ecclestone Library (am)
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Mass for new school year (11am)
- 30<sup>th</sup> - SVP mass at St Teresa's Church (12 noon)

#### **October**

- 9<sup>th</sup> - Rec and Y6 height and weight
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Flu immunisations (whole school)
- 24<sup>th</sup> - New intake meeting for prospective parents 3.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> - parents afternoon/evening ( 1.30—6pm)
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Harvest service
- 26<sup>th</sup> - end of autumn 1
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Halloween disco (PTFA)
- 27<sup>th</sup> - INSET

#### **November**

- 6<sup>th</sup> - INSET
- 7<sup>th</sup> - children return
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Y5/Y6 Cineworld trip
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 Cineworld trip
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Anti bullying/kindness week
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Parent Forum Meeting ( 4.30pm)
- 15<sup>th</sup> - New intake meeting for prospective parents 2pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Visit to Ecclestone Library
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Wonder Arts Poetry Workshops (KS1 & KS2)
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas fayre

#### **December**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Advent Mass (11am)
- 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup> EYFS Christmas play
- 11<sup>th</sup> - KS1 Christmas play
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Altru Drama performance of Pinocchio (1.30pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Rock Steady Performance (2.30pm)
- 19<sup>th</sup> - KS2 Carol Service (tbc)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - end of autumn term

### PTFA News

**PTFA Lottery** - Letters for the lottery were sent home just over a week ago. Please return payment and slips by 2nd October. Slips will need to be completed and re-turned, even if you choose to make your payment by bank transfer. This is so we can match the payment to the correct person and allocate numbers.

**PTFA New Members** - Thank you to all the parents and friends who have joined the PTFA group so far. If you would like to be part of our team you will be very welcome, please leave your name and number at the school office.

### Attendance

For week ending Friday, 22nd September 2023 the whole school attendance is 96.4%

Reception = 99.63%

Year 1 = 99.23%

Year 2 = 94.44%

Year 3 = 99.26%

Year 4 = 97.78%

Year 5 = 90.74%

Year 6 = 93.91%

### Nursery Admissions for 2024

There are still 30 hour and 15 hour funded places available in our Nursery for September 2024 for children who turn three before

**31st August 2024.**

If you would like any further information regarding nursery places, funding entitlements or to pick up application forms, please contact the school office on telephone number 01744 621380

### 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.**

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Free School Meal Eligibility**

We now have access to an on-line Free School Meal eligibility check.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive Universal Free School Meals.

However, if you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be eligible to a free school meal up until and including Year 6, but you must apply

The checker is easy to use and completely confidential, simply click on the link below which takes you through to a short questionnaire and you will receive a decision immediately. The school will then be informed of the outcome.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Benefits are:-

A free school meal for your child.

Savings for you - worth over £350 a year.

Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium - worth £1385 a year.

Remember just registering your child for Free School Meals means that school receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No-one will know that you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

**Health and Safety reminders**

- ◆ We are a nut free school. Please do not send any food that contains nuts of any sort into school for snack or lunch.
- ◆ Please ensure that if your child has requires medication in school or has an inhaler that it is in date and a new medication form is completed for this academic year.
- ◆ The car park is for staff only, Parents are not allowed to use the staff car park at any time. Parents must use the parent car park before the school gates.
- ◆ Please be patient and mindful of other car park users at drop off and pick up times. The car park does get busy so observations and patience is important.
- ◆ Do not block nearby residents' drive ways or park on double yellow lines.

THESE REMINIDERS ARE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AND FOR YOURSELVES.

THANKS