

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 20th October 2023

This week's Gospel

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God"

Matthew 22:15-21

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Courage

Next week's Gospel value will be:

Gratitude

Mrs. Rawlinson's messages

Thank you to all the parents, governors and parishioners who attended the meeting at church on Wednesday evening to discuss the church's future. It was heartening to see so many people in support of the church and even more so to hear from those who voiced their thoughts, memories and opinions. The conclusion of the meeting is that Fr. Philip Inch has agreed to make the recommendation to the Archbishop's Advisory Body that St. Thomas of Canterbury remains open.

This of course is a step in the right direction and certainly sounds positive, however, we are not out of the woods yet. There is so much more we can do to ensure our parish community thrives. What our parish needs is for people to come forward and volunteer. Our church still needs volunteers to help in roles such as: readers, Eucharistic Ministers, cleaners, collection during Mass etc. Details of how you can volunteer are in this week's newsletter at church. Alternatively, you can email me for further information: lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk

The church means so much to so many people. It is up to us as a parish community to work together to ensure it continues to be important for future generations.

Obituary for a past member of staff

Nora Finnegan (some of you will know Nora) informed me this week of the sad passing of a past member of staff, Barbara Hankinson, fondly known as 'Miss. Barbara'.

Miss. Barbara taught generations of children in Windleshaw until her retirement in 1992. Many of our parents, grandparents and even great grandparents will have been taught by Miss. Barbara and will have very fond and special memories of her as a kind and caring teacher.

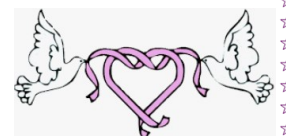
We send Miss. Barbara's family love at this sad time and keep them in our prayers.

Wedding News

You may be wondering where Mrs Horton is this week?

Well, we said goodbye to Mrs Horton on Wednesday and when we return after half term we will be saying hello to the new Mrs. Range, as Mrs Horton is getting married on Tuesday, 24th October on the sunny Greek island of Rhodes.

We wish the new Mr. and Mrs. Range love and best wishes for their future together.



Harvest

Brighten up for CAFOD

Wednesday, 25th October:

Staff and children are to come to school wearing bright colours for a monetary donation towards CAFOD.

Monday, 23rd October - Wednesday, 25th October.

Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and other such items to be brought to school for St Helens Foodbank.

Thursday, 26th October

Our Harvest celebration in church at 9.20am.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME OF 9.20am

All are welcome.

If you can help walk the children to and from school as well, that would be great! Thanks.

Reminder: Parents Evening

Parents evening is to be held on Wednesday, 25th October starting at 1.30pm.

Please make sure to make an appointment to speak with your child(ren)'s teacher.

These meetings are to discuss how your child has settled in to their new year group and how we can best work together to support your child.

Miss Hitchen and Mrs. Rawlinson will be available to speak to if needed.

Special visitor—David Baines

Next week, the children will be visited by Councillor David Baines. The children have been given time in class to carefully consider the questions they would like to ask during the whole school assembly. This is part of our target to develop children's oracy.

Reminder: Half term and INSET days

Friday, 27th October:

INSET day - school will be closed to children.

Half term week

Monday, 30th October to Friday, 3rd November.

Monday, 6th November

INSET day—school will be closed to children.

Tuesday, 7th November

Children return to school

School Levy contributions

Our school is a Catholic Voluntary Aided school and as such a monetary contribution is required for the upkeep of the school (The Levy). The Levy is collected by Liverpool Archdiocese to ensure Catholic schools are kept in a good state of repair and functionality. Recently, the Archdiocese granted us the funds to build the canopy which has extended our provision in reception class, so you can see how important it is to have this Levy in place.

Please, if you haven't done so already, could you please pay your Levy (£10) through parent pay as soon as you can.

Thank you very much.

Tonga Rugby Players Visit

We were so privileged to have three rugby players from Tonga come to school this week to speak with Year 2 & 6 children.

The children were so excited and keen to learn about Tonga, its culture and language and, of course, rugby.

There is a video on X (Twitter) of this special visit.

African Dance

Well done to all our children who were treated to a lesson in African dance and song this week as part of our celebrations to mark Black History month.

All children thoroughly enjoyed their sessions and lots of fun was had!

Well done to you all!

Growing Together in God's Love

PTFA News

PTFA Lottery - Thank you to all families who have signed up for this years lottery. Numbers have been allocated and given out today ready for the first draw. The winners will be announced in next weeks newsletter.

Disco's - Letters were sent home this week about the Halloween Disco's. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the reply slip and return with payment by Monday 23rd October. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre Raffle Prizes - If any parents own a business or have contacts and could help us source raffle prizes for the Christmas Fayre e.g. Vouchers, tickets, products, we would be very grateful. Please let the office or PTFA know if you can help with this. Thank you.

Easyfundraising - Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site. It's a free way to raise money for a charity when you shop online. Easyfundraising works with over 6000 retailers who will give you a donation for shopping with them, with no extra cost to your shop. If you haven't already signed up, go to easyfundraising.org.uk for more information. Make sure you select St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, St Helens from the list of charities. This is an easy way to raise money for the school and every penny counts!

St Thomas of Canterbury Parents Night Out

- > Boc Boc ❤️ 🍷 🍷
- > Christmas night out 🍷
- > Saturday 2nd December
- > 6.30pm-11.00pm
- > 1st drink included (fizz, mimosa, beer, wine red/white) Chili, Rice,
- > Chips and Nachos with dips Disco and raffle to raise money for our
- > PTFA on the evening ❤️ 🍷
- > £25 per person
- > All welcome! 🍷 🍷 🍷
- >
- > Please speak to your designated parents in each year group to
- > purchase tickets. This has been shared to all year group what's apps
- >

Foodbank Vouchers

Everyday people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income.

We are now able to issue Foodbank vouchers to families in need. These vouchers can be exchanged for around 3 days' worth of emergency food for any family who find themselves in crisis. If you would like further information or support please contact Mrs Bishop in school or click on the link below.

[How foodbanks work | St Helens Foodbank](#)

Nursery Admissions for 2024

We still have 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

On-line Safety Tip

This week's tip is:

Child tip - Never post photos of yourself on social media which could include personal information. For example, a photo of you in your school uniform.

Parent tip - Have you checked any photos of your child that you have used on social media to make sure that these do not include personal information?

Attendance at school

Good attendance at school is not just valuable — it is essential.

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

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 20th October 2023 the whole school attendance is 95.12%

Reception = 97.9%

Year 1 = 96.1%

Year 2 = 89.1%

Year 3 = 97.5%

Year 4 = 98.3%

Year 5 = 94.5%

Year 6 = 92.3%

World Diabetes Day

Tuesday, 14th November is World Diabetes Day and this year it also marks 100 years since the recognition of the discovery of insulin. During this week, we will be talking to the children about diabetes and what impact it can have on daily life of a diabetic. Thank you to Esther in Year 5 for helping raise awareness.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

October

- 24th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 3.30pm
- 25th - Brighten up for CAFOD day/food donations
- 25th - Parents afternoon/evening (1.30—6pm)
- 26th - Harvest Mass (9:20am Church)
- 26th - End of autumn 1
- 26th - Halloween disco (PTFA)
- 27th - INSET

November

- 6th - INSET
- 7th - Children return
- 9th - Y5/Y6 Cineworld trip
- 10th - Reception/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4 Cineworld trip
- 10th - Year 6 start swimming lessons (6 sessions finish 15th December)
- 13th - Anti bullying/kindness week
- 13th - Parent Forum Meeting (4.30pm)
- 15th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 2pm
- 15th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 16th - Y6 Visit to Ecclestone Library
- 16th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 17th - Book Fair (from 3.30pm)
- 20th - Wonder Arts Poetry Workshops (KS1 & KS2)
- 20th - Y6 Bikeability training week
- 24th - Christmas fayre

December

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

After School Club - 24th November 2023

There will be no after school club on Friday, 24th November due to the Christmas Fayre taking place.