

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 24th November 2023

This week's Gospel

**"Whatever you did for my brothers
and sisters in need, you did for me"**

Matthew 25: 31-46

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Compassion

The next Gospel Value will be:

Hope (Advent week 1)

Mrs. Rawlinson's messages

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Everywhere I go!



As I am writing this newsletter, we have the elves working hard in school preparing our Christmas Fayre, the children from EYFS are rehearsing their Nativity songs in the hall, and Mr Martin has made our entrance look like a winter wonderland! So I am well and truly in the Christmas spirit now!

The first Sunday of Advent is next Sunday (3rd December) and we are taking the first week of Advent to reflect on the word 'hope'. The children will be attending mass next Friday (1st December) so as usual, if anyone can spare the time to help us walk the children to and from church, it would be much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

As Christmas is always such an eventful time please do keep a check on what is happening in school through the newsletter.

We look forward to waiting, preparing and celebrating this special season of Christmas with you all.

Junior Parkrun

St. Thomas of Canterbury 'take over' at Junior Parkrun!

***This will be taking place on Sunday, 10th December at
9.00am at Victoria Park.***

It would be amazing to have as many of our children there (there will be goodies too!)

To take part, all you need is a barcode (use google for this) or come and speak with Mrs Rawlinson who will be more than happy to help you.

My aim is to get as many children as active as possible as it is good for physical and mental health for everyone. Children (and accompanying adults) can walk, jog or run the 2km course but most of all you get to enjoy the fresh air and make new friends.



WEAR IT WELL FOR WILLOWBROOK

St Thomas of Canterbury always supports Willowbrook Hospice at Christmas as it is a charity very close to our hearts.

This year, children are asked to come to school wearing something festive on their heads as part of their campaign 'Wear it Well for Willowbrook' fundraiser.

This is to take place on Friday, 8th December.

Alternatively, children can wear their Christmas jumpers if they have nothing to wear in their hair or on their head.

Children are asked to bring a donation (suggested £1 per child) for this good cause.

As always THANK YOU!

Mrs Houghton.

MARY'S MEALS

St Thomas of Canterbury also supports Mary's Meals Charity which provides nutritious meals to some of the world's poorest countries.

Therefore, we are combining our 'Wear it Well for Willowbrook' fundraiser Christmas jumper day with 'Double the love' for Mary's Meals.

All monetary donations to Mary's Meals will be doubled until the 22nd January 2024 so we are doubling our love as we support two charities close to our heart.

As always THANK YOU!

Mrs Houghton.



On-line Safety Tip

This week's tip is:

Please be wary of text messages that you receive this Black Friday weekend. Scammers are sending 'Hello Mum' text messages from unknown numbers. These may ask you to click on a link to access a 'Black Friday deal' in an attempt to steal personal information.

When is my child too ill for school?

As we are working hard to improve attendance across the school, it can be quite difficult to decide sometimes if your child should attend when they are feeling unwell. With this in mind, this chart has been created to help parents and carers make that judgement call.

Please do use it and refer to it when needed.

Type of illness	Should my child attend school	How long should child be off school?	Further comments
Coughs and colds	Yes—if minor cough and cold	0	
Cough and cold with fever	No	Until fever goes	
High temperature	No	Until temperature has returned to normal	
Chicken pox	No	Until spots have crusted over	
Cold sores	Yes	0	
Conjunctivitis	Yes	0	
Covid	Yes— if only symptoms are runny nose, sore throat or slight cough and they feel well enough. No—if they have a high temperature and don't feel well enough	Until they are well enough (avoid contact with others for 3 days)	
diarrhoea	No	48 hours after last episode	
Ear infection	Yes if also have symptoms of high temperature or is severe	Until feeling better	
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Yes	0	
Head lice and nits	Yes	0	
Impetigo	No	Until sores have crusted over	
Ringworm	Yes—once they have started treatment	0	
Scarlet fever	Yes—24 hours after starting antibiotics	Until they start antibiotics	
Slapped cheek syndrome	Yes	0	
Sore throat	Yes—unless they also have a high temperature		
threadworms	Yes	0	
Vomiting	No	48 hours after last episode	

KS2 Carols in Church

Our KS2 children will be performing Carols in Church on Tuesday, 19th December.

Time is yet to be confirmed but we will let you know in the coming weeks.

Rock Steady

The children who have music with Rock Steady will be performing for parents on Tuesday, 12th December at 2.30pm

Nativity Performances

EYFS Nativity

Will take place on:

Monday, 4th December at 2.15pm

Tuesday, 5th December at 9.30am

KS1 Nativity

Will take place on:

Monday, 11th December at 3.30pm

Tuesday, 12th December at 9.30am

Breakfast With Santa

We will be inviting children to join Breakfast with Santa in school on Wednesday, 20th December.

Letters will be sent home in the next few weeks with information on how to book your child's place.

Christmas dinner day

Christmas dinner day will be held on Thursday, 7th December (this is a change to the original date of 6th as we have a number of classes out on a trip) children can wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.

Pinocchio

We are excited to welcome Altru Drama group into school on the morning of Monday, 11th December. Their mission is to offer high quality, engaging performances during the festive season.

We know that many children may not have seen a theatre performance yet and we want to give them an engaging, exciting and memorable experience this year. We are excited to welcome them into school.

We would like to thank the PTFA for funding this event.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

November

24th - Christmas Fayre

December

1st - Advent Mass (11am)

4th - EYFS Christmas Nativity (2.15pm)

5th - EYFS Christmas Nativity (9.30am)

6th - Y4,Y5,Y6 visit to Liverpool International Slavery Museum

7th - Christmas Dinner Day

8th - Christmas jumper/wear it well for Willowbrook day

8th - School Choir to visit the Dementia Café

10th - Park Run (Victoria Park 9am)

11th - Altru Drama performance of Pinocchio (1.30pm)

11th - KS1 Christmas play (3.30pm start)

12th - KS1 Christmas play (9.30am start)

12th - Rock Steady Performance (2.30pm)

19th - KS2 Carol Service (time tbc)

20th - Breakfast with Santa (8am start)

22nd - end of autumn term (school closes for Christmas at 1.30pm)

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, 24th November 2023 the whole school attendance is 96.54%

Reception = 96.3%

Year 1 = 97.41%

Year 2 = 93.7%

Year 3 = 98.15%

Year 4 = 98.15%

Year 5 = 93.33%

Year 6 = 97.8%



St Helens Family Hub and Children's Centres are for families with babies, children and young people from birth until they reach the age of 19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

Family Hubs will be a one stop shop for everything you need to know about bringing up a child in St Helens. Family Hubs and Children's Centres are welcoming, friendly and safe places for families where parents and their children can go to access support, information and services in one place.

Family Hubs will be run by trained professionals who are there to help families in a variety of ways, such as providing advice on parenting, connecting families with other services in the community, and helping families access benefits and financial assistance.

Leaflets with further information about the services on offer are in the school foyer.
You can also get further information from their website

[Family Hubs - Family Hubs \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](http://sthelens.gov.uk)