

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 8th December 2023

This week's Gospel



**"Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight"**

Mark 1:1-8

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Peace (Advent week 2)

The next Gospel Value will be:

Joy (Advent week 3)

Mrs. Rawlinson's messages



One of my ambitions as a Head teacher is to get as many children involved in physical activity as possible. To have children enjoying sports, fresh air and being physically active is not only beneficial for physical health but also for mental health too.

I have always enjoyed swimming and walking and in the last 4 years, have now developed a love of running. Parkrun has helped me on this journey and is now something I look forward to every weekend.

Junior Parkrun occurs every Sunday morning all across the country and I have volunteered a few times at the St. Helens Junior Parkrun. It is great to see the children taking part at whatever level they are at as it is an all inclusive community. Children can run, jog, walk and can even do so with an adult in tow if they so wish.

This Sunday I am hoping to have as many children from our school taking part in Junior Parkrun at Victoria Park at 9.00am Sunday morning.

It is a free event as is open to all children aged 4-14 years. All you need is a barcode which you can get from the Parkrun website.

I will be at the bandstand for 8.30am (and I have goodies for the children too!)

I hope to see you there!

EYFS Nativity—Whoops A Daisy Angel

Our children in Nursery and Reception class performed their version of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' for their families at the start of this week and they were amazing! Well done to each and every child for their brilliant performance. Thank you to our EYFS staff for working hard in preparing the children so well.

There were lots of smiles during both performances—well done to you all.

KS1 Nativity

Will take place on:

Monday, 11th December at 3.30pm

Tuesday, 12th December at 9.30am

KS2 Carols in Church

Our KS2 children will be performing Carols in Church on Tuesday, 19th December at 9.30am.

Parents and grandparents are welcome to join us.

A message from The Akehursts....

Did you know...December and January are the most significant months for road traffic accidents (both car versus car, AND car versus pedestrian accidents).

This increase comes about because of a change in weather conditions making roads more dangerous, dark nights effecting visibility, and a sense of urgency that comes about as Christmas and New Year approaches.

As a family, we know this all too well. Sam in year 3, his dad was crossing the road on 23rd December 2020 when he was struck by a delivery driver checking his notifications. Phil sustained a catastrophic brain injury and we were told he would not survive.

Thankfully, he did survive but required 5 months in hospital and 3 major surgeries. Although he is recovering slowly but steadily, we still live with the consequences of that accident every single day.

Please, take your time as you go about your day; both when driving and walking. I see so many people "nipping" across the road as cars are approaching when there is a crossing right in front of school. It is better to arrive somewhere a little late and safe, than not at all. Text messages and phone calls can wait whilst you're driving. And make sure you are more visible when out on walks.

Keep you and your family safe.

Xxx

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](#)

On-line Safety Tip

This week's tip is:

"Make sure to tell your parents if any website or app asks for your date of birth as a way of logging in. It's important that you give the correct date to protect yourself from possible inappropriate content."

Esther W

Parent tip: Have you set up two step verifications on your accounts to help keep them secure?

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.

Breakfast With Santa

Children are invited to join Breakfast with Santa at 8am in school on Wednesday, 20th December.

If you would like your child to attend please log into your school money account and make the £4 payment by Wednesday, 13th December.

Rock Steady

Reminder that the Rock Steady performance scheduled for Tuesday, 12th December has been changed to 2.30pm on 9th January 2024

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

01744 621380

End of Autumn term

Please be aware that the last day of the autumn term is Friday, 22nd December.

Children will finish school at 1.30pm.

Please note there will be no after school club on this day.

PTFA Lottery

Congratulations to our November and December Lottery Winners

November Lottery winners are:

1st place - No.54 Jen Pilling

2nd place - No.52 Janet Weldon

December Lottery winners are:

1st place - No.60 Rachel Scott

2nd place - No.15 Paul Burdett

PTFA will be selling sweets and crafts on the playground on Wednesday, 13th December after school.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

December

- 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)
- 14th - Y4 & Y5 choir to perform at Care Home
- 15th - Y6 final swimming session
- 18th - Y1 & Y2 Christmas parties (during the afternoon in school)
- 19th - KS2 Carol Service in Church (9.30am)
- 19th - Y3 & Y4 Christmas parties (during the afternoon in school)
- 20th - Breakfast with Santa (8am start)
- 20th - Reception & Y6 Christmas parties (during the afternoon in school)
- 21st - Y5 & Y6 Christmas parties (during the afternoon in school)
- 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 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, 8th December 2023 the whole school attendance is 96.65%

Reception = 99.63%

Year 1 = 94.64%

Year 2 = 95.19%

Year 3 = 97.41%

Year 4 = 91.85%

Year 5 = 99.63%

Year 6 = 98.15%

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

And from next year even more help is on the way:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as '**wraparound care**'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the Childcare Choices website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion

Parent Survey

We have been asked by the St Helens Early Education Entitlement Team to share the link below for parents to complete by 15th December 2023.

The parent survey will help gain information from parents for the 1st phase of the expansion please note that this **will not** replace the current 2-year-old offer (Passport for 2s) it will run alongside the new 2-year-old offer for working parents.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TGCLEM/>