

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 15th December 2023

Advent week 3



**"Joy is very infectious, therefore,
always be full of joy."
St. Teresa of Calcutta**

This week's Gospel Value has been:

Joy (Advent week 3)

The next Gospel Value will be:

Love (Advent week 4)

Mrs. Rawlinson's messages

What a busy week we have had:

- Rehearsals for KS2 Church service
- Drama company performance of Pinocchio
- KS1 Nativity - Off to Bethlehem
- Children singing in the local care home
- Y5 Collective Worship
- Junior Parkrun last Sunday

Many thanks to everyone involved, especially the staff for making all these wonderful things happen for our children. There is still so much to look forward to next week with:

- Christmas party days
- Breakfast with Santa
- KS2 Church service

I'd also like to thank our wonderful parents and families as well, for working so closely with school and ensuring the children are wearing the right costumes/clothes on the right days!

Finally, as you may be aware, I am a member of the St Helens SVP committee. I know sometimes Christmas can be difficult for some people, so if you are in need of help and support you know you can contact me at any time of year. Thanks.

KS1 Nativity—Off to Bethlehem

Our children in KS1 (Years 1 & 2) performed their Nativity for families and friends on Monday and Tuesday this week and they did so brilliantly.

They helped to spread some Christmas cheer with their fantastic acting, drama, singing and reading in their version of 'Off to Bethlehem'.

Both days were very well attended and I know those who were there enjoyed it as much as I did.

Well done, children. So proud of you all.

Breakfast With Santa

For children who are attending
Breakfast with Santa on Wednesday,
20th December.

Please come to school at 8am.

Entrance is as usual from your
playground classroom door.

KS2 Carols in Church

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

Parents and grandparents are welcome to
join this special service.

We look forward to seeing many of you
there.

Our Chosen Christmas Charities

Last Friday we asked that the children wear something festive on their heads or to wear a Christmas jumper in return for a donation. The children raised a total of £160 which we will split between our two chosen charities:

Willowbrook Hospice & Mary's Meals

Thank you.

St Thomas of Canterbury Book Fair and Sponsored Read

I am delighted to tell you that you we have earned lots and lots of free books following our very successful book fair with Usborne books and sponsored Ready Steady read!

We have earned a grand total of **£1231.95** which will be used to purchase Usborne books for the school library.

Thank you for making this event such a success.

PTFA News

- We raised a total of £159 on Wednesday by selling sweets and crafts on the playground at home time.
- We would also like to mention the parents night out which was held at Boc Boc on 2nd December. It was a great evening and a raffle was held on the night, raising £115 for the PTFA. Many thanks to one of our mums, Rachel, for organising it all.
- PTFA will be supplying all the children with a drink and a snack next week at their Christmas parties.

On-line Safety Tip

This week's tip is:

"Stay safe online by following the 3 C'S - Content, Contact and Conduct. Make sure you are accessing appropriate content. Be wary when contacting online and make sure that your conduct and how you treat others is how you would like others to treat you." **Alfie T**

Parent tip:

Have you backed up your data on an external device in case it is lost?

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

December

- 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 - Nursery Christmas party
- 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, 15th December 2023 the whole school attendance is 96.28%

Reception = 99.26%

Year 1 = 96.17%

Year 2 = 98.89%

Year 3 = 94.81%

Year 4 = 95.19%

Year 5 = 94.07%

Year 6 = 95.56%

Consultation on School Admission Arrangements & Coordinated Schemes 2025/26

St Helens Council has a duty under the [School Admissions Code](#) to consult on the admission arrangements of Community & Voluntary Controlled schools and the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

Two primary schools in St Helens are making changes for 2025/26.

Please find a link below to the proposed admission arrangements and proposed schemes for the 2025/26 academic year...

[Pupil place planning and schools organisation - St Helens Borough Council](#)