

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 1st March 2024



This week's Gospel

"Take all of this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."

John 2: 13-25

Mrs. Rawlinson's message

You will know by now through various news platforms that, since the pandemic, attendance in schools has been a concern in all regions across the country. This is also true for St. Helens. However, I have great news! As a result of our strong links between home and school and the wonderful support we have from our parents and families, we are currently in the top 10% of similar schools for attendance! This is a great achievement and we are truly delighted with this.

Thank you to our parents and families for your continued support in maintaining our high standards and making St. Thomas of Canterbury the amazing place it is for our children.

Let's keep aiming for the best attendance possible.

I have not been able to be on the gate as much recently as I have been supporting Year 4 in the mornings with their morning routines and tasks (mainly playing Boggle which has been a big hit - a great game to improve spellings!) I will endeavour to be at the gate in the evenings as much as possible. If you do need to have a chat with me, please contact me on lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk to arrange a meeting.

We are fast approaching World Book Day and I'm sure parents will be glad to hear that this year we are going to celebrate it a bit differently to avoid the pressure of finding costumes etc.

Instead, we are going to have a World Book Week!

This does not mean you need costumes for every day, in fact you do not need costumes at all. I did see this quote on social media and made me stop and think:

So, we have decided to do things differently to make it easier for parents but just as fun for children.

We are having a week long celebration of books and reading through our 'Masked Reader' game.

"If your child's World Book Day costume costs more than a book,
STOP!

Make something from a cereal box
or old T-shirt and go buy a book!"

Various members of staff will read an extract from their favourite children's book whilst wearing a disguise and using a voice changer app to disguise voices. Clues will be given and displayed around school together with photographs of each Masked Reader. Children need to guess 'who's behind the mask' before we do the big reveal on Friday when we get to chant 'take it off, take it off' to reveal the hidden reader. To make it even more exciting, the children who have correctly guessed each masked reader's identity will enter a class raffle. Winners of the raffle will get to visit The Book Stop Book Shop in St. Helens to choose a book as a prize. We are continually working to ensure children are reading for pleasure and becoming enthusiastic readers for life. Hopefully this will encourage our children to read new and exciting genres to increase their range of books to read, therefore having a bigger impact than getting dressed up for a day. Any feedback after the celebration will be welcomed.



World Book Day Activities



During the week, we have a range of activities and visits happening.

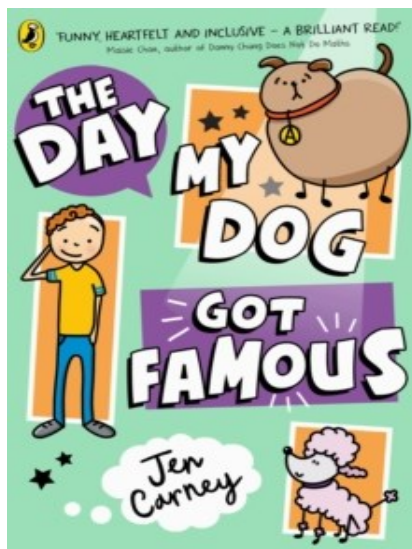
The Masked Reader... masks are ready and waiting! We will record ourselves reading a paragraph from our favourite books, wearing our masks! We can play the video in assembly so that the children can guess who the readers are...

Y3 and Y4 are visiting Ecclestone Library during the first two weeks in March

KS1 and Reception are having a visit from Joanne Duffy at 2pm on Monday 4th March, to talk about how they can use the Library

Best-selling children's author Jen Carney will be visiting our school on Wednesday 13th March. She will be speaking to Y4 and Y5 at 2pm to tell them all about her brand new book:

The Day My Dog Got Famous



She will be available for other children to meet her after school and there will be a range of her books available to purchase and to have signed by the author. Please promote her works in class.

Growing Together in God's Love

Register for the quiz or watch the live lesson (all links on the WBD website):

GREAT WORLD BOOK DAY FOOTY & BOOKY QUIZ 2024

07/03/2024 | 9:30 am | Online

Join us and our partners the National Literacy Trust on World Book Day for up to 45 minutes of interactive quiz, featuring top ballers from the Premier League, Football League and the Women's Super League, cutting it alongside authors at the top of their game.

[Register now](#)

BBC LIVE LESSON

07/03/2024 | 11:00 am | Online

Designed in partnership with World Book Day and featuring special guest authors, the programme will focus on reading for pleasure for 7-11 year-olds.

[Visit World Book Day Live Lesson Page](#)



Watch Mc Grammar and use the resources to write songs with the children:

MC Grammar's World Book Day Songs

Enjoy MC Grammar's songs and explore our resources to work with children to create their own book recommendation songs and raps.




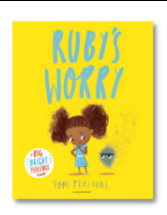
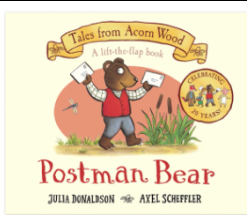
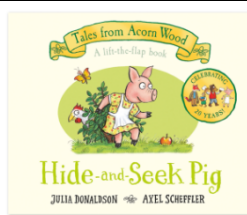


https://youtu.be/u4LO_Nnod-M

Listen to the World Book Day song:

<https://youtu.be/ZpTkjssrL4k>

Share a Story videos (more on the website):

 <p>Share a Story Corner: My Dad is a Grizzly Bear</p>	 <p>Share a Story Corner: Bee & Me</p>	 <p>Share a Story Corner: Ravi's Roar</p>
 <p>Share a Story Corner: Ruby's Worries</p>	 <p>Share a Story Corner: Tales from Acorn Wood: Postman Bear</p>	 <p>Share a Story Corner: Hide-and-Seek Pig</p>

In addition to these ideas, there are more sessions available at Ecclestone Library and there is a pack to use which is full of ideas!

Any questions, please come to see me. Mrs Cain

Parents Evening

Reminder: parents evening will be held on Wednesday, 13th March and appointments can be booked via school spider from 8.30am, Monday 4th March .

There will also be a questionnaire for parents to help with school improvement.

Your contributions will be gratefully received.

Parents Forum

Parents forum is to be held on Monday, 11th March at 5.00pm and we have lots to discuss:

- ♦ PE kit
- ♦ New curriculum feedback
- ♦ Reading at home
- ♦ Spelling
- ♦ Therapeutic Room
- ♦ AOB - if you have something you wish to be discussed, please let me know.

All parents are welcome to attend. Meetings usually last for an hour.

Junior Parkrun at Victoria Park

In the autumn term we held a 'St Thomas of Canterbury takeover' of Junior Parkrun at Victoria Park and it really was such a wonderful event. The children (and adults) who took part had a great time and were rewarded with special treats at the end of the run!

I promised there would be three of these takeover days throughout the course of the year, so the next agreed date for our school takeover is Sunday, 24th March.

It would be great to see even more of our children taking part for the spring term Parkrun. All you have to do is go to the Parkrun website, register your child and get a barcode. Bring the barcode along with you to the run and that's it!

Junior Parkrun is a free, weekly event.

You can run, jog, walk or skip the 2km - whichever way you do it, it is fun!

Please get Sunday, 24th March in your diaries and I hope to see you there!

School Photographs - Monday, 4th March 2024

Academy, the school photographers will be in school on Monday, 4th March. They will be taking all the children's individual photographs, as well as sibling photographs during school time.

However, if you would like a photograph of your child with a sibling who does not attend our school or nursery then please come to the school hall at the earlier time of 8.30 a.m.

NB: all children should come to school in their school uniform.

If your child has PE on Monday they will be required to change into their PE kit/tracksuit, so should bring this with them to school.

Thank you.

Reminder

Nursery and Reception children would like to invite their families to a very special Collective Worship to celebrate Mothers' Day.

This will take place on Friday, 8th March at 2.30pm.

Year 3 Library Visit

Year 3 visit to Ecclestone Library will now take place on Tuesday, 5th March. Please ensure your child has a suitable coat for the weather on the day as they will be walking.

PTFA

Congratulations to our Lottery winners

January winners

1st prize: 47. Angela Jerram

2nd prize: 8. Paula Rafferty

February winners

1st prize: 46. Elaine Measures

2nd prize: 9. Kate Wilkinson

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to
Marnie Hart and

Evelyn Dennett who have
both passed their Orange
Music Hub Award with

Excellence.

Well done girls!



End of spring term

Please be aware that the last day of the spring term is

Thursday, 28th March 2024

Children will finish school at 1.30pm.

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

Thank you.

Rocksteady Performance

The Rocksteady performance has been re-arranged as Oliver (tutor) is unable to attend on 26th March.

The concert will now take place on Tuesday, 19th March at 2pm.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

March

- 4th - Whole school photographs (Academy Photography)
- 5th - Y3 visit to Eccleston Library (1.30pm) - change of date
- 8th - Reception Mother's Day Assembly (2.30pm)
- 11th - Parents Forum Meeting (5pm)
- 13th - Parents Afternoon (1.30pm - 6pm)
- 15th - Stations of the Cross (11am)
- 19th - Rock Steady Performance (2pm) - change of date
- 20th - Y4 First Forgiveness (5pm)
- 21st - PTFA Easter Bingo (4pm)
- 24th - Junior Parkrun (Victoria Park)
- 25th - Y6 Residential (The Conway Centre) leave at 10am
- 27th - Y6 return from Residential
- 27th - Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade - time TBC
- 28th - end of Spring term (school closes for Easter at 1.30pm)

April

- 10th - School Re-opens for Summer term (doors open from 8.40am)
- 22nd - Nursery/Reception Living Eggs (chicks) delivered

May

- 1st - Y3 visit to Liverpool Museum (re-arranged from 7th March)
- 3rd - Y1/Y2 visit to Liverpool Museum (re-arranged from 1st March)
- 22nd - Y5 Trip to Tatton Park
- 24th - End of Summer term 1 (school closes for Whit half-term)

Attendance

For week ending Friday 1st March 2024 the whole school attendance is 96.29%

Reception = 98.10%

Year 1 = 95.07%

Year 2 = 97.54%

Year 3 = 97.14%

Year 4 = 93.33%

Year 5 = 95.71%

Year 6 = 97.14%