

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 9th September 2022

Thought for the Week



May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

I would like to wish our new families a very warm welcome to our school family, and welcome back to our existing families. It has been so lovely to see the children in their new classes, settled and working hard already. The children in Nursery and Reception classes have made such a fantastic start to their school life and it has been a pleasure to watch them happily skipping in to school. Children in all classes have had such a positive start to the new academic year and we look forward to what the year will bring.

Welcome also to Mrs. McDonagh who is our new Administrative Assistant in the office., working alongside Mrs. Horton who now takes on the role of School Business Manager.

This year promises to be as exciting and successful as the last one so make sure to keep up to date with events via this newsletter, which is sent out to parents every Friday and is also available on our school website: <http://www.st-thomasofcanterbury.st-helens.sch.uk/>

Teachers will also be using Dojo to keep their parents up to date with class arrangements and events so if you don't have a Dojo account yet, make sure to sign yourself up to this FREE app.

We will also continue to celebrate and share our learning via Facebook and Twitter.

Finally, as always, I will endeavour to be "on the gate" most mornings and evenings, so if you need a quick chat, I am available. You can also contact me via email on stcparents@sthelens.org.uk.

I look forward to working with you all over the new school year.

Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II

This morning we had a very special whole school assembly as we gathered together as a school family to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

The children heard of how Princess Elizabeth came to be Queen and how she has dutifully served our country for such a long time.

We watched a video of the Queen's Coronation from 70 years ago and watched clips from the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, including Paddington.

There was also moment of silent reflection which was very moving, followed by prayers for the Queen and her family.

As we move forward, school will follow the guidance from the Cabinet Office regarding the State Funeral and how schools should observe this very sad occasion.

Times table Rockstars



TT Rockstars is coming to St. Thomas of Canterbury!

TT Rockstars is a fun and interactive way for the children to learn their times tables. Children from Reception to Year 6 will be given a username and password to access this platform both at school and at home and they can practice at their own level of ability.

This will be a great way for the children to learn their times tables off by heart and make progress in their maths skills.

To launch this in school, we are having a dress up day!

On Friday, 23rd September, children and staff are to dress up as a rockstar! (you don't need to buy new costumes, jeans/leggings and tee shirts will be good). We will hold a whole school assembly to launch it together and to make sure all children enjoy learning their times tables facts.

We look forward to seeing all those Ozzy Osbournes, Van Halens and Alice Coopers out there!

Uniform

The children look incredibly smart in their new uniforms—thank you for this.

If, in the future, you need further uniform items (I know how quickly children grow!) we always have a bank of new and nearly new uniform available in the main office foyer. All items are free of charge as this is one of our school's pledges to live more sustainably and in solidarity.

Help yourselves whenever you need to!

PTFA

Our PTFA will have many more fundraising events taking place this year, all for the benefit of our children.

Letters about the Lottery will be coming home soon.

RECEPTION AND NURSERY PARENTS

you are invited to be part of our very successful PTFA and help in any way you can. If you want to find out more, you can speak with me and I can explain more to you. Thanks.

Team work makes the dream work!

After school clubs: staff are busy planning and organising a timetable of after-schools clubs for the Autumn term. Clubs will start week beginning Monday, 26th September and run for 6 weeks. More information to follow.

Parking

We are very lucky to have a car park for parents to use and most of the time it is used with courtesy and patience for other users.

Can I remind parents not to park where they know they shouldn't be (double yellow lines/zig zag lines and box junctions) as usual highway code rules must be adhered to for everyone's safety. Also, please do not block resident's driveways on the nearby housing estates (in particular, St. Thomas Close) as this can cause unnecessary upset and anxiety for our neighbours.

Thank you.

School Environment

A massive thank you goes to Sarah Baron who has been working tirelessly on our school environment throughout the spring and summer (even through the summer holidays).

Sarah is known by the children as one of our Mid-day assistants, but has been working voluntarily on our pathway leading to school and our herb and vegetable patch at the back of school.

We now have kale, sprouts, broccoli, carrots, shard and cauliflower growing in our garden area (to name a few...)

Sarah has done an amazing job and we can't wait to see the flowers grow and taste what has been planted.

Everything Sarah is doing (and has done) is enhancing the Catholic Life of our school and helps us with our Live Simply pledges.

Thank you, Sarah!

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We look forward to holding our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday, 30th September at 9.00am in the school hall.

We hope as many people attend as possible to help raise much needed money for this important charity.

Thank you.

Important Dates for your Diary

(more dates will be included as the term progresses)

September

23rd - Times tables Rockstars launch day (children and staff to dress as a rock star)

26th - After school clubs start (school staff led)

27th - SVP Mass at the Cathedral

30th - MacMillan Coffee Morning

October

10th - Parents forum at 5pm in hall

19th - Parents' evening (face to face)

20th - Harvest celebration

21st - School closed for children (staff INSET)

Parents Forum

As part of our mission and school improvement planning, a Parent Forum meeting is held termly, whereby all parents are warmly welcomed to come and have a chat/discussion in an open forum with Mrs. Rawlinson, the focus being on gathering the viewpoints of parents in order to continue to improve on school and school life.

Previous topics have included:

- * uniform
- * Communication
- * Homework
- * Website
- * Parking

The next Parent Forum meeting will be on
Monday, 10th October at 5pm.

Meetings usually last one hour.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Stay and Pray

To mark the start of our new school year, class teachers have invited parents to 'Stay and Pray' and join the children with a class Collective Worship.

Year 6 have already joined with their parents for Stay and Pray on Thursday.

The remaining class dates are as follows:

Year 5: Friday, 16th September (9.00am)

Year 4: Thursday, 15th September (9.00am)

Year 3: Thursday, 15th September (9.00am)

Year 2: Thursday, 15th September (9.00am)

Year 1: Wednesday, 14th September (9.00am)

Reception: Thursday, 15th September (2.45pm)

Collective Worships in the morning will last no longer than 15 minutes.

Reception class will be at 2.45pm

Parents are to enter and leave via the office.

Celebration page



**Stars
of the
week!**

**Well done to our stars of the
week.**

**The award this week is for being
the 'best you can be' in our first
week of a new school year**

Reception: All of Reception Class

Year 1: Zoe Tucker & Jack Middleton

Year 2: Gracie Tasker

Year3: Ollie Kelly

Year 4: Isabelle Davies

Year 5: Bella Bayley

Year 6: Harry Monteith & Brody Clarke

St Thomas of Canterbury Mums on the Run!

Did you know that St Thomas of Canterbury has a social running group especially for mums?

We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.15pm at the school car park, and cover around 5km whilst having a good chat!

Everyone is welcome, no matter what your level of fitness. We're very friendly and always make sure nobody is running on their own, so even if you haven't run in years come and get involved!

N.B. This group is not affiliated with any organisation. No one person is responsible. Everyone is responsible for their own safety / belongings etc.

Growing Together in God's Love

School Meals

Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are eligible for a universal free school meal. If preferred your child can bring in a packed lunch, however please inform the office if they change from taking a school meal to a packed lunch. Please note that in-order to manage meal numbers we ask that children stay with their chosen option for a least a half-term.

School meals for children in Y3 to Y6 are payable unless eligible for a free school meal. This year the cost of a school meal is £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) which is payable in advance by the Monday.

Payments are to be made via our on-line payments system 'school money'

Thank you

Out of Hours Club

Booking for the breakfast or afterschool club is accessed through school money.

Bookings should be made in advance and must be paid for at the time of booking. Please note that you will be unable to book on this system for emergency care i.e. on the day.

The procedure for emergency out of hours care is as follows:

- credit your account via school money for the relevant cost of the session plus an extra £2.50 for the late booking fee.
 - Text the out of hours club on 07434360183 to let them know your child will be attending.
- Mrs Murphy will input the booking along with the late booking fee on the system and text a message back to ok, this will be done around 3pm as the out of hours club staff are not in school during the school day.

Charges for breakfast and afterschool club are as follows:

Breakfast club: Cost is £5, which includes breakfast - Drop off from 7.50am onwards

Afterschool club: There are 2 session bands as follows:

From 3.10/3.15pm - up to 4.30pm, including snack - cost will be £6.25

Pick up after 4.30pm up to 5.30pm - cost will be £8.00

New Parents

School Money—Cashless System

Our new reception parents will receive a welcome text and email message over the next few days to enable you to access our school money on-line payments system. If you have any problems logging on please contact the school office.

As we are a cashless school, all dinner money, milk money, after school & breakfast club monies and any trip monies etc. will require payments to be made on-line.

Polite Reminders

- Gates will be open from 8.40am—8.55am and children will be expected to be in class and settled by 9.00am.
- Reception, Years 1 & 2 finish at 3.10pm
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 finish at 3.15pm.
- Full uniform to be worn and if the weather is warm, summer dresses or school shorts can be worn.
- Parents please do not use the staff car park when dropping off or picking up children. This includes when using the out of hours club, after school or morning activity clubs and nursery.
- All items of uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Thank you.