

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 16th September 2022

Thought for the Week



"When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future."

HM Queen Elizabeth II

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Our Stay and Pray sessions have been such a highlight of the week, the children have really enjoyed and benefitted from the Collective Worship and it has been lovely to see parents joined in Collective Worship with the children.

Throughout this year, we will endeavour to bring school and families even closer (now that we can as there are no restrictions) and invite you to as many Collective Worship and whole school assemblies/Collective Worship/celebrations as possible. To have parents involved in school life is something I am passionate about but unfortunately haven't been able to fully implement as I would have liked for obvious reasons, until now. So, make sure you keep up-to-date with all the dates you need via this newsletter, Dojo and our school website.

On Thursday morning, three of our Mini-Vinnies visited St. Helens Town Hall to sign the Book of Condolence for the Queen on behalf of our school family. Flowers were also laid at Queen Victoria's statue in remembrance and thanksgiving. The children represented our school so maturely on such a poignant occasion—thank you.



Monday, 19th September is, as you know, a Bank Holiday to mark the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth. School will be closed on this day and will be open as usual on Tuesday, 20th.

There is another meeting about the future of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church on Monday evening at 7.30pm in the parish hall. I have been informed the meeting is still going ahead as planned. All are invited and I hope to see you there. Thank you.

Just as our Mini-Vinnies are very active in school living out our school values and Catholic Social Teaching, I too am involved in the SVP (St. Vincent De Paul organisation). If you, or anyone you know is in need of help and/or support, let me know. The SVP mission is to turn concern into action through providing support and fellowship whilst tackling the causes of poverty in all its forms. (sick, bereaved, financial, loneliness etc)

New intake for 2023/2024

If you have a child due to start school in September 2023 and are considering St. Thomas of Canterbury as one of your choices, then we have new admission meetings coming up, offering a chance to look around our school and speak with the head teacher, Mrs. Rawlinson.

Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

Thursday, 13th October at 2.00pm

and

Tuesday, 18th October at 3.30pm.

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school, please pass this information on to them. Many thanks.

Times table Rockstars

Times Table 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.

Look out for the pictures of the children on Twitter!

MacMillan Coffee Morning

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

We will be asking for cake donations closer to the date.

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

Thank you.

Parents Forum

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

Meetings usually last one hour.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

If you have any agenda items or anything you wish to discuss at the meeting, you can email me on

stcparents@sthelens.org.uk

After school clubs

The after school clubs organised by teaching staff will begin week commencing Monday, 26th September for a total of 6 weeks, finishing on Friday, 11th November.

The clubs are as follows:

Name of club	Who for?	Days	Time	Staff member
Reading	Year 6	Monday	3.15-4.00pm	Mrs. Woodward
Choir	Years 3 & 4	Monday	3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Houghton and Mrs. Ganson
Choir	Key Stage 1 Years 1 & 2	Monday	3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Barry
Rugby	Years 5 & 6	Tuesday	3.15—4.00pm	Mr. Hale
Guitar	6 children max. (must have own guitar)	Thursday	3.15—4.00pm	Mr. Ellis
Machine sewing	5 children max. (Year 5 & 6 only)	Thursday	3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Ellis
Performing Arts	Key Stage 2 Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Thursday	3.15—4.30pm	Miss. Hitchen
Outdoor learning	Year 1	Thursday	3.15—4.00pm	Mrs. Connolly Miss. Farrell
Football	Key Stage 2 Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	Thursday	3.15—4.00pm	Mr. McCue

Mini—Vinnies, Eco Club and School Council will also be running throughout the autumn term during the school day.

Letters will be sent home on Monday for you to request a place in the above clubs. Where there is a limit to numbers, names will be drawn 'from a hat' and that club repeated to give others a chance to attend.

Outside providers: Rock Steady and Healthy Active Lifestyle sports (with Adam) are already up and running. Judo will be for 5 weeks on Wednesday mornings.

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

3rd - Start of Black History month

10th - Parents forum at 5pm in hall

13th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 2pm

18th - New intake meeting for prospective parents 3.30pm

19th - Parents' evening (face to face)

20th - Harvest celebration

21st - School closed for children (staff INSET)

31st - School closed for children (staff INSET)

November

1st - Flu vaccines

December

7th - EYFS Nativity

9th - Christmas jumper day

14th - KS1 Nativity

15th - KS2 Nativity

21st - End of Autumn term

Celebration page



Well done to our stars of the week.

The award this week is for taking an active role in our Collective Worships

Reception: Elliott Barclay

Year 1: Holly Gibson

Year 2: Jessica Bagdonavicious

Year3: Grace Cunliffe

Year 4: Frankie Woolf

Year 5: Marnie Hart

Year 6: Caitlin Barker

School Councillors 2022—2023

Congratulations to our new board of school councillors, who have been elected by their class mates:

Reception: Sienna, Arthur and Violet

Year 1: Jock, Holly and Rory

Year 2: Coco, Bridget and William J

Year 3: Rose, Olivia and Grace

Year 4: Verity, Esther W and Zachary

Year 5: Joel, Georgia and Aoife

Year 6: Jacob, Harry C and Pearl

This is such an important role in the school and the children will be working with their class mates, staff and governors in discussing ways to further develop and improve on what we do every day.

I look forward to working with them all.

PTFA

We are continuing our lottery club this year to raise monies for the benefit of our children.

As many family members as you like can sign up to take part in the monthly cash draw for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize !

Children should have brought home a letter this week containing further details.

Please return the payment slip attached to the letter by Friday, 29th September ready for the September & October draws.

Thank you,

Useful Websites for help with Child Care Costs

Parents who use our Out of Hours Club may be eligible for help with the cost. Please see below for some useful links on the Governments tax free childcare scheme and other childcare benefits that you may be eligible for.

www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/tax-free-childcare/

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/help-with-school-costs/

Flu Vaccinations

The flu immunisation team are in school on Tuesday, 1st November.

An email went out to parents this week with a letter from the St Helens Immunisation Team which contains an e-consent link.

If you want your child to be vaccinated you must complete the form via the e-consent link.

Please note that children without this consent will not be given the vaccination.

If you have any problems accessing the link, please refer to the letter and contact the team for help.

Thank you.