



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 10th January 2025



This week's Gospel

Feast of The Baptism of the Lord

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Luke 3:15-16



A message from Mrs Rawlinson

I'd like to wish all our parents, carers, extended families and the children a very happy new year. I look forward to working with you throughout 2025 to make it a successful and memorable year for us all.

When the children returned on Tuesday, we started our new year with a 'Celebration of the Word' (this is now the new terminology for Collective Worship) and we heard how the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem to find Jesus in the stable with Mary and Joseph. We learnt about the gifts that the Magi offered to Jesus and considered what gifts we can offer to each other. The children were so thoughtful in their responses - kindness, love, peace, time, smiles, respect to name but a few. The children recognised and understood that these gifts are so important, anyone and everyone can give them and they cost absolutely nothing! Their responses were so lovely and thoughtful; a true reflection of the wonderful children we have here at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The weather has certainly been a challenge this week. Many thanks to you all for your co-operation in keeping everyone safe in such adverse weather. Fingers crossed that the weekend will see some change in the weather so that the ice can finally melt away. Massive shout out to Mr. Martin who has worked so hard in those conditions, gritting and shovelling, to help keep us all safe. Thank you Mr. Martin!

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new children and their families who have joined our nursery this week. It has been so lovely to see the children settle into their new class so quickly and so happily.

Here's to a happy, healthy and successful 2025.

Friday Masses at Church

This term we have planned that each class will attend (not lead) Mass at least once during the term.

The order/dates of classes will be as follows:

Year 3—date to be arranged

17th January - Reception and Y6 (buddies)

31st January - Years 1 + 2

7th February - Year 4

14th February - Year 5

Families are more than welcome to join us, but please note that the children will not be actively involved as they would be in a whole school Mass.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- ⇒ We are a nut free school. Please do not send anything that contains nuts in lunch-boxes or for snack.
- ⇒ Doors open at 8.40 am and close at 8.50am in the morning.
- ⇒ Parents are not allowed to use the staff car park under any circumstance—including breakfast and after school club.
- ⇒ Patience is key when using the parent car park.

Growing Together in God's Love

A message from SVP All Saints Conference and St
Helens District Council



20th December 2024 Dear Families of Reception & Y3,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the SVP All Saints Conference and St. Helens District Council for your very generous donation. To explain the type of help we offer to families and children, we have listed below some of the work the SVP has been doing over the past 12 months.

We continue to support children and families of sixteen local senior and primary schools across St. Helens as well as individuals and families we encounter through parish contacts, social services and our National Office. We have included below some of the comments from schoolteachers and Pastoral Managers received this month, to highlight how your generous donations are being used to help those in need:

“With SVP money, over the last 12 months, we have continued to develop our school library with new books - something which we could never have achieved without the donation each year from SVP for books. Children have enjoyed accessing new and upcoming literature which has led to a real excitement around reading. We have been able to really utilise our library for key events too, such as World Book Day and readathons. School has also trialled reading book clubs at lunch too!

We now have a peaceful memorial area - a place away from busy school life for our children to reflect and access bereavement work.

We have been able to support a struggling family with taxis to school while they awaited accommodation from the council.

We have worked with SVP to support a struggling family with four children with food, beds, wellies and clothes.

We have supported approximately 20 children with Aldi Orange gift vouchers / Smyths toy store vouchers while topping up gas and electricity for another family.

We have also Gifted two families £50 each to support with food at other points in the year”.

The SVP has also funded 150 Christmas Food Parcels providing a Christmas lunch to 638 people. The parcels were packed by a Mini Vinnies group of one of our local primary schools and distributed by SVP members.

This work is only possible by the generous donations from people like yourselves.

Yours faithfully

SVP All Saints Conference and St Helens District Council

YEAR 6 PARENT MEETING

There will be an information evening for Year 6 parents on Wednesday, 29th January starting at 4.30pm in the Y6 classroom.

Mr. Hale will be discussing End of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs) and talking about the forthcoming residential to the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

It is important you attend to receive all the necessary information for both the KS2 tests and the residential and to give you opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

YEAR 4 Sacramental workshop

The Y4 children and their parents are invited to the next workshop in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Forgiveness and Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Booklets 4 & 5 will be completed during the next meeting to be held on Monday, 13th January at 5pm.

Social media and school

Over the last term we have been monitoring the use of X and have decided to no longer use this platform for school use. News and photographs of whole school celebrations will be shared via Facebook (which is used by more of our school families anyway) and class celebrations, news and updates will be via Dojo.

PTFA Lottery

The lottery draws for November and December took place during assembly on 6th December

Well done to the winners!

November

1st prize £40 No. 49 Alek Michalec

2nd prize £20 No. 31 Mr & Mrs Whitby

December

1st prize £75 No. 52 Tracey Burdett

2nd prize £43 No. 34 Mercedes Nash

PTFA playground sale

The PTFA held a playground sale after school on 9th December with left over stock from the Christmas fayre. £124.75 was raised.

Thank you!

Growing Together in God's Love



NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

Community Pharmacy England, who represent community pharmacy owners in England, have created a suite of resources for use by schools; you can use any that would suit your methods of communication with parents/carers to raise awareness of this important service. Resources include:

- Downloadable posters which can be displayed in reception/waiting areas or staff rooms.
- Downloadable flyers which could be included in school bags or left in reception/waiting area.
- Digital screen options which could be played if you have a digital screen in your reception/waiting area.
- Template news stories that could be included on your school website or in newsletters; and
- Template letter to email out to parents/carers highlighting the Pharmacy First service.

All these resources are available at cpe.org.uk/infopharmacyservices



Attendance at school

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 10th January 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.56%

Reception = 94.76%

Year 1 = 99.05%

Year 2 = 99.52%

Year 3 = 97.62%

Year 4 = 97.7%

Year 5 = 99.05%

Year 6 = 95.24%

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

January

- 13th - Y1-Y6 Fencing starts at 8am (running for 5 weeks)
- 13th - Y4 Sacramental Workshop 3 (5pm School Hall)
- 16th - Y5 trip to Edgehill University
- 20th - Bikeability Training—different group each day throughout this week
- 29th - Y6 SATs & Conway Residential Parents information meeting (4.30pm)
- 30th - Y5 attending Crucial Crew Event

February

- 4th - Reception Hearing Screening
- 14th - end of Spring term 1 (break for February half-term)
- 24th - Staff Inset Day
- 24th - Young Voices Concert
- 25th - School Re-opens (doors open at 8.40am)
- 28th - Year 5 start swimming sessions (runs for 6 weeks)

March

- 3rd - Whole school photographs (Academy Photography)
- 5th - Ash Wednesday Mass in Church (11am)
- 19th - Y4 First Confession in Church (6pm)

April

- 2nd - Y6 Residential (The Conway Centre) leave at 10am
- 4th - Y6 return from Residential
- 7th - Y4 Sacramental Workshop 4 - (5pm School Hall)
- 11th - Stations of the Cross Mass in Church (11am)
- 11th - end of Spring term (school closes for Easter at 1.30pm)