



# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 5th September 2025



## This week's Gospel

**"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me  
cannot be my disciple."**

**Luke 14:25-33**

## A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

### **A Warm Welcome Back!**

What a wonderful first week we have had in school! It has been such a joy to welcome the children and their families back after the summer break.

A very special welcome goes to our new families who are joining the St. Thomas of Canterbury community. It has been a privilege to see all the children settling so well into their new classes and working hard already. Our Nursery and Reception children have made a fantastic start to their school journey, happily coming in each morning with big smiles.

Across the school, children have shown such a positive attitude and we are excited for all that this year has in store. With lots of exciting learning opportunities and events ahead, it promises to be another successful year.

To help you keep up to date:

- Our weekly newsletter is sent out every Friday and can also be found on the school website.
- Teachers will be using **Class Dojo** to share class news and updates. If you haven't already, please sign up to this free app to stay connected.
- We will also continue to celebrate and share our learning on **Facebook** – don't forget to follow us!

Finally, I will do my best to be 'on the gate' most mornings and afternoons. Please feel free to stop for a quick chat if you'd like. You can also reach me via email at

[lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk).

I look forward to working closely with you all and sharing another happy and successful school year together.

Warm regards,  
**Mrs Rawlinson**



**New school year reminders!**

- **We are a nut free school.** Please DO NOT send anything containing nuts to school for lunch or snack time. A number of children have severe allergies to nuts so please be very mindful when purchasing food to send into school.
- Car parking—we are very fortunate to have the facility of a parent area car park but please be courteous to other road users and be patient at all times. Please park in a parking bay only, do not stop on the left hand side of the entrance to school as this restricts access and causes a backlog onto Rainford Road. Also please do not park across residents drive-ways on St. Thomas Close.
- ♦ The car park beyond the gates is for staff only, Parents are not allowed to use the staff car park at any time. Parents must use the parent car park before the school gates.

**Meet the teacher**

**Wednesday, 24th September at 3.30pm in the school hall**

Parents/carers are invited to our annual 'meet the teacher' evening on the 24th September. The evening will begin in the school hall where Mrs. Rawlinson will introduce the evening and give a talk before parents go off to visit classrooms with their child's class teachers. Each talk in the classrooms will be repeated for parents to visit more than one class.

The evening will begin at 3.30 in the hall.

Talk one in classrooms 3.45—4.00pm

Talk two in classrooms 4.15—4.30pm.

Looking forward to welcoming everybody.

The purpose of meet the teacher sessions is find out about routines, expectations and curriculum for each year group. If you need to speak about a more personal matter, please make a separate appointment so that staff can give you the time and attention required. Thanks

**Parents evening**

Parents evening for the autumn term will be held on:

♦ **Wednesday, 15th October at 1.30 - 6.00pm**

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and any specific targets they have.

## Growing Together in God's Love

### **Beckets 'Out of Hours Club'**

Sessions should be booked and paid for in advance via the school money app so that we can manage numbers.

If an occasion arises where you need to book on the day, money should be put onto your account to cover the session as well as the late booking fee prior to contacting school to make the booking.

A reminder that on the day bookings for the Out of Hours Club are for emergencies only.

Any arrears should be cleared prior to using the club.

#### **The charges are below:**

Breakfast Club from 7.50am - £5.00

After School Club from 3.10/315pm up to 4.30pm - £6.25

After School Club up until 5.30pm - £8.00

Late Booking Fee (on the day bookings) - £2.50

**Please do not drive through the school gates to drop off or pick up children.**

**The car park is for staff only, parents must use the parent car park before the school**

### **IMPORTANT:**

#### **Law regarding term time absence from school**

You may be aware that the law has now changed regarding penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school. This change came into effect from 19th August 2024.

A letter documenting these changes is attached below

Please ensure that you read and keep this letter for future reference.

#### **Application for leave of absence during term time.**

From August 2024, the Department for Education issued statutory guidance on school attendance meaning the law was changed regarding holidays during term time.

The head teacher can only grant leave of absence in **exceptional** circumstances.

Parents applying to remove their child from school during term time must give advance notice and should provide evidence to support the application. (Evidence may include a letter from an employer, or in the case of the Armed Forces or Emergency Services a Superior Officer).

The Head teacher will then consider the application and decide whether to authorise the request or not, based on the evidence given.

**Excellent attendance is crucial if children are to fulfil their academic potential. We strongly urge parents not to take children out of school for a holiday during term time.**

As a school, we will continue to be proactive in tackling persistent lateness and absenteeism.

Letters to highlight concerns will be sent home to individual parents as a way to improve attendance and punctuality. **It is important we work together for the benefit of the children in our care.**

**If you still wish to apply for leave of absence for your child please complete the form on the reverse of this letter.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mrs L. M. Rawlinson**

## Growing Together in God's Love

### **Important Dates for your Diary**

#### **September**

24th - Meet the teacher 3.30pm in hall (session 1 @ 3.45pm/session 2 @ 4.15pm)

#### **October**

14th - Reception & Nursery 2026/27 parents afternoon(2.00pm school hall)

15th - Parents afternoon/evening - 1.30pm to 6pm (school hall)

20th - Whole school flu vaccinations

21st - Reception & Year 6 height & weight screening

**23rd - End of first half-term**

#### **November**

3rd - Return to school

11th - Reception & Nursery 2026/27 parents evening (4.00pm school hall)

#### **December**

2nd - EYFS (Reception & Nursery) Nativity - time TBC

3rd - EYFS (Reception & Nursery) Nativity - time TBC

9th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (9am)

10th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (2.30pm)

11th - Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day

12th - KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6) Nativity/Carol Service in Church - time TBC

15th - Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas party

16th - Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas party

17th - Breakfast with Santa (8am)

17th - Nursery Christmas party

17th - Altru Dram performing 'Little Red Riding Hood' for the whole school

18th - Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party (date may change)

**19th - End of Autumn term**

**NB: Dates will be added to the diary as we go through the term**

#### **Attendance at school**

Good attendance at school is not just valuable —  
it is essential.

**For week ending Friday, 5th September 2025 the whole school attendance is 98.6%**

Reception = 100%

Year 1 = 99.5%

Year 2 = 99%

Year 3 = 98.5%

Year 4 = 94.5%

Year 5 = 100%

Year 6 = 99%