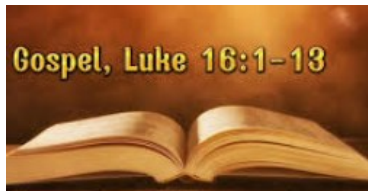




St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 19th September 2025



This week's Gospel

"The one who can be trusted in the little things can be trusted in the great."

Luke 16:1-13

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

We've had a wonderfully productive week, full of activity and excitement. It's hard to believe we are only three weeks into the new academic year, and already there is so much to celebrate and share with you.

There's plenty more to come, so please keep an eye on this newsletter and our school website for the latest updates, events, and important information. We also encourage you to share this newsletter with your wider family—especially those who help with drop-off and pick-up—so everyone stays connected and informed.

Warm regards,
Mrs. Rawlinson

Meet the Teacher Evening

Wednesday, 24th September
3:30pm in the School Hall

We warmly invite all parents and carers to our annual *Meet the Teacher* evening on **Wednesday, 24th September**.

The evening will begin at **3:30pm in the hall**, where Mrs Rawlinson will give a short introduction before parents are invited to visit classrooms and hear from class teachers.

Each classroom talk will be repeated, so you can attend more than one if needed:

- **Talk One:** 3:45 – 4:00pm
- **Talk Two:** 4:15 – 4:30pm

Important information shared on the evening will be posted on Class Dojo for those who are not able to attend on the evening. We look forward to welcoming you!

PATHS information session

We are now in our second year of using PATHS as a resource to support children's emotional well-being. There is an information session for parents on Tuesday, 18th November to explain more about the programme and how parents can use the strategies at home. This session is for our new parents in Nursery and Reception and for those parents who could not attend last year. Time to be confirmed in next week's newsletter. Save the date!

High school applications

A number of parents have asked about the process of applying for high school places for September 2026. The online portal is now live and the closing date is 31st October. Please make sure to have completed the application by then.

Parents are notified of allocations on 2nd March 2026.

De La Salle Open Evening

Thursday, 2nd October 4.30—7.30pm

De La Salle will be hosting an **Open Evening** for parents of children in Years 5 & 6. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the school, tour the departments, meet staff and students, and ask any questions you may have.

There will be a **Headteacher's Welcome** in the main hall at **5:00pm** and again at **6:00pm**. No pre-booking is required.

Merchant Taylor School

Merchant Taylor are offering an open morning on:

Saturday 11th October 2025.

This event is for children in Years 5 & 6 and is open to the whole family. If you require further information please contact: admissions@merchanttaylors.com.

Meet the School Nurse

This week I met with our school nurse, who is very keen to work with families to provide support in a variety of ways. A recent survey of Reception and Year 6 parents across St. Helens highlighted common concerns around continence and emotional well-being. Other areas such as poor sleep, diet, dental health, and low mood were areas of concern of parents across St Helens. These issues and any others you may have can be discussed with the nurse.

To help support our families, the school nurse has kindly offered the following times when she will be available to meet with parents:

- **Tuesday 23rd September** – 8:30–9:30am
- **Tuesday 14th October** – 2:00pm (during Open Afternoon for prospective parents)
- **Wednesday 15th October** – 2:00–5:00pm (during Parents' Evening)
- **Tuesday 11th November** – 4:00pm (during Open Afternoon for prospective parents)
- **Tuesday 2nd December** – 2:45–3:45pm
- **Monday 30th March** – 8:30–9:30am
- **Monday 15th June** – 2:45–3:45pm

If you have **any concerns or worries**, please do come along to one of these sessions — no appointment is needed.

Afterschool Activities

Our staff-led afterschool clubs are now in full swing, and we've had a fantastic response from the children! This term's clubs include:

- **Young Voices**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Reading**
- **Debate Club**

A huge thank you to all staff for giving up their time to provide these wonderful opportunities — they make such a difference to our children's school experience.

Celebrating Achievements Outside School

At the moment, children who achieve something special outside of school are invited to bring their trophy, certificate, or medal into assembly to share with everyone. This Friday will be the **last time we do this in person**, as we are moving to a new way of celebrating.

From next week, if your child has achieved success in an out-of-school activity — whatever it may be — please email a photograph to lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk. I will then create a PowerPoint presentation to share during assembly, so that all children can still be recognised and celebrated for their achievements.

Thank you for your support in helping us celebrate the many wonderful things our children do beyond the classroom!

New Reward System

This week's staff meeting focused on celebrating children's successes and exemplary behaviour both in lessons and around school. We discussed how best to recognise each child's positive learning behaviour and attitude to school life, particularly showing **respect, resilience, and responsibility**.

As a result, we are excited to be introducing a **new reward system**. Over the coming weeks, children will be awarded **golden coins** for demonstrating positive attitudes and behaviours. These coins can then be saved up and exchanged for special rewards.

Not only will this system celebrate and encourage positive behaviour, but it will also help children understand the value of saving and the benefits of **deferred gratification** in a world where physical money is used less often. This will be explained fully to the children next week.

Growing Together in God's Love

School Meals

Please remember to pre-order your child's school meals on the School Grid system on a weekly, monthly or daily basis, whichever suits you best.

Any on the day orders need to be on the system by 8.55am.

Thank you.

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

New intake for September 2026

If you have a child due to start school or Nursery in September 2025 and are considering

St. Thomas of Canterbury as one of your choices, then please come along to our new admission meetings. These will give you all the information you need to help you make your choices and give you a flavour of what school life is like here at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

- **Tuesday, 14th October at 2.00pm and**
- **Tuesday, 11th November at 4.00pm**

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school please pass these dates on to them.

Nursery Admissions for 2026

We are now allocating 30 hour and 15 hour funded places in our Nursery for September 2026 for children who turn three before

31st August 2026

We also still have a few places available from January 2026 for children who turn three before December 2025

If you would like any further information regarding nursery places, funding entitlements or to pick up application forms, please contact the school office on telephone number

01744 621380

Attendance at school

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

For week ending Friday, 19th September 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.9%

Reception = 97.9%

Year 1 = 100%

Year 2 = 98.5%

Year 3 = 97.7%

Year 4 = 96.5%

Year 5 = 97.8%

Year 6 = 96.7%



Year 6 Footballers

Well done to our Year 6 footballers who proudly represented the school in the first inter-school competition of the year, held at Rainhill High School.

The children played with enthusiasm and showed fantastic **sportsmanship and team spirit** throughout. Although the results didn't go our way this time, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to the school — being respectful to all other teams and supporting one another brilliantly.

We are very proud of you all — well done, Year 6!

junior parkrun is a free, fun, friendly, weekly, community event organised by volunteers of all ages for children aged 4 to 14.

2k junior parkrun events take place on Sunday mornings and are for the whole community to come together to walk, jog, run and volunteer. Join in on the fun at junior parkrun!

junior parkrun

Junior Parkrun

Many of you will know that I am a very keen (though not very fast!) runner, and I love taking part in Parkrun most weekends. I've seen first-hand the benefits of being outdoors, exercising, and having fun with others.

Parkrun UK has launched an exciting initiative encouraging primary schools to become **Parkrun Primary Schools** — and we're delighted to share that **we have now registered!**

Our next step will be a whole-school assembly to encourage children to get involved in **Junior Parkrun**.

Junior Parkrun takes place every Sunday....

- **Where:** Victoria Park, St Helens (meet at the Bandstand)
- **When:** Every Sunday morning at 9:00am
- **Who:** Children aged 4–14 (they can run, jog, skip, or walk the 2km course)

It's lots of fun, a wonderful community event, and a fantastic way to encourage children to be physically active.

We'll share more information over the coming weeks — watch this space!

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

September

- 23rd - School Nurse Drop In - 8.30am to 8.30am
- 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)
- 14th - School Nurse Drop In - from 2pm
- 15th - Parents afternoon/evening - 1.30pm to 6pm (school hall)
- 15th - School Nurse Drop In - 2pm to 5pm
- 17th - PTFA coffee morning (Beckets)
- 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)
- 11th - School Nurse Drop In - from 4pm
- 28th - Christmas Fayre (3.30pm)

December

- 2nd - EYFS (Reception & Nursery) Nativity - time TBC
- 2nd - School Nurse Drop In - 2.45pm to 3.45pm
- 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