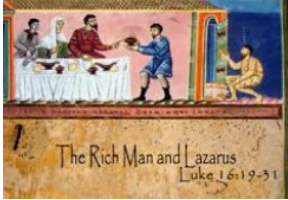




St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 26th September 2025



This week's Gospel

"Remember that you in your lifetime received good things, and Lazarus in like manner received bad things; but now he is comforted here."

Luke 16: 19-31

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Thank You for Joining Our Meet the Teacher Evening

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday. We were delighted with the excellent turnout, which truly reflects the strong partnership between home and school. We hope you found the sessions both informative and helpful in supporting your child's learning journey.

For anyone who was unable to attend, all key information will be made available on the class pages of our school website in the coming days.

Times Table Rockstars Is Back!

Mr. McCue has re-launched *Times Table Rockstars* for the new academic year, and the children are already buzzing with excitement. Pupils in Key Stage 2 can now take part in the fun new feature, *Battle of the Bands*—a fantastic way to practise and master their times tables while enjoying some friendly competition.

Remember, *Times Table Rockstars* can also be accessed from home, so please check that your child knows their username and password so they can continue the challenge outside of school.

New Reward System Launch

This afternoon, during Celebration Assembly, we are excited to launch our brand-new reward system, which will begin on Monday morning. Children will now have the chance to earn gold coins for consistently demonstrating our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience (the 3 R's). The coins can be saved up and exchanged for rewards—the more coins collected, the greater the prize! This system not only celebrates positive behaviour but also helps children understand the value of saving, the importance of perseverance, and the benefits of deferred gratification, all while living out our school values.

Celebrating Achievements Beyond School

A big thank you to all the parents who have shared photos of their children's special achievements outside of school—we are so impressed by the incredible range of talents and accomplishments. The photos are fantastic, and we're excited to continue celebrating these moments as part of our school community.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Rawlinson

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

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

- **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.

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!

Growing Together in God's Love

PTFA Christmas Card Project

Every child should by now have come home with their Christmas designs and order form. If you would like to purchase any Christmas cards or other products with your child's design on, please visit cauliflowercards.co.uk

You will need the form with your child's codes. Once you have placed your orders, **please return the form** (with your child's artwork glued to the form) **to the office** (not via schoolbags please, as they can go astray or be forgotten about). The last day for returning artwork to school is end of day on **Wednesday 1st October**.

Your products will be delivered back to school by December. The more orders placed, the more money we raise for school!

Thank you for your support with our project.

PTFA Lottery

If you wish to take part in our lottery fundraiser, please complete the form on the letter that was sent home last week. If you require spare letters, please ask at the office. Can we please ask for forms along with payment to be made by **Friday 3rd October**. Anyone can enter, as many times as you like. Entrants must be 18 or over. Thank you for your support!

PTFA Events & Dates for the diary:

- Wednesday 1st October PTFA Christmas card designs/forms returned to office if orders placed
- Wednesday 8th October PTFA AGM, 8pm, Sticky Wicket bar, Ruskin - all welcome!
- Thursday 16th October PTFA Rec, KS1 & KS2 Discos
- Friday 17th October PTFA Coffee Morning- all welcome

Beckets Afterschool & Breakfast Club Bookings

Can we please request bookings for the afterschool and breakfast club be booked in advance as much as possible.

We are noticing that there are a lot of bookings being made the night before.

Whilst we appreciate last minute bookings are required sometimes, it really does help the staff prepare if they have an idea of the number of children attending in advance.

Thank you.

Census Day Meal—Thursday, 2nd October

On Thursday there is a special fund space themed menu for children to enjoy for school census day.

We would encourage as many children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 to try a school meal on this day, especially if they usually bring packed lunch.

Please pre-order using School Grid.

The number of children taking a universal free school meal on census day has an impact on next year's funding.

There are more details provided in the flyer attached to this email.

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.

Year 5 & 6 Boys Football

Well done to our Year 5 & 6 boys footballers who proudly represented the school in the first ever league competition, held at De La Salle.

The boys played tremendously well with skill, enthusiasm and fantastic sportsmanship and team spirit throughout. They were a credit to the school — being respectful to all other teams and supporting one another brilliantly. I am very proud of them all.

The league continues on Monday, 6th October.

junior parkrun – where everyone is



welcome

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

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
- 16th - PTFA Halloween Disco - more information to follow
- 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
- 18th - PATHS information session for Nursery & Reception Parents time TBC
- 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

Attendance at school

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

For week ending Friday, 26th September 2025 the whole school attendance is 97.75%

Reception = 97.1%

Year 1 = 96.1%

Year 2 = 98.5%

Year 3 = 98.1%

Year 4 = 97.3%

Year 5 = 98.5%

Year 6 = 98.2%