



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 3rd October 2025



This week's Gospel

***"We are merely servants;
we have done no more than our duty."***

Luke 17:5-10

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

New Reward System Launch

Our new reward system has been a big success this week with children being awarded 'gold coins' for their excellent behaviour and attitude to learning (the 3 R's - respect, resilience and responsibility). The children will save their coins and exchange them for rewards—the more coins collected, the greater the reward! The school council have met this week to decide what rewards they would like.

Well done to all children who have gained their first gold coins this week!

Celebrating Achievements Beyond School

Thank you to all the parents who have dutifully sent their wonderful photographs to share your children's successes outside of school. It has been fantastic to see the genuine emotion in the photographs and see just how much these achievements meant to the children. Remember, you can share ANY achievement, whether they have gained a medal or not. For example, last week we congratulated Sam who had climbed his first mountain. He didn't receive a medal but did receive our congratulations and recognition for this achievement.

If possible, could all photos be sent by Thursday, as any photos sent after this will be included in the following week's round up.

Vacancy for Midday assistant

We currently have a vacancy for a **Midday Assistant**, starting as soon as possible. If you're interested, please click the link below for further details. Alternatively, feel free to come and have a chat with me — I'll be more than happy to share more information with any prospective candidate.

<https://jobs.sthelens.gov.uk/Job/JobDetail?JobId=808&Source=JobtrainSocial>

Would you like to volunteer?

If you have a little time to spare and would like to support our children, we'd love to hear from you! Volunteers play a vital role in helping with reading, handwriting, spelling, and offering general classroom support. Every little bit of time makes a big difference.

If you're interested, please get in touch with me at lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk. Thank you for considering!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Rawlinson

Halloween disco

Halloween Disco Fun!

Our wonderful PTFA are busy preparing for our annual **Halloween Disco**, and we can't wait to see the children enjoying this fun-filled event!

We'd love for the children to come dressed in **fun, age-appropriate costumes**. Fancy dress such as witches, wizards, pumpkins, friendly ghosts and other creative outfits are all very welcome.

To help make the event enjoyable for everyone, we kindly ask that costumes are not too scary, as we have children as young as **3 years old** taking part. Our aim is to ensure that all children feel comfortable and can join in the fun together.

Thank you for your support — we're looking forward to a spooktacular time!

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!**

Safeguarding in school

At school, we regularly teach the children about how to keep themselves and each other safe in a variety of situations. A key part of this is **online safety**, which is becoming increasingly important.

To support parents, we will be sharing a helpful resource called '**Wake Up Wednesday**' on our school website, under the tab *Information for Parents*. We encourage you to take a look, as it offers practical tips and guidance on keeping children safe online.

This will also be a topic for discussion at our next **Parents' Forum meeting** (date to be confirmed).

Growing Together in God's Love



Christmas jumper swap shop!

Mrs. Cain has come up with a brilliant idea to help families this Christmas –

a Christmas Jumper Swap Shop!

If you have any Christmas jumpers (for children or adults) that no longer fit or are no longer needed, why not donate them to school? We'll set up a stall during Parents' Evening where families can pick one up to recycle and reuse – saving money and helping the planet at the same time!

Donations can be sent into school ahead of Parents' Evening, and parents are welcome to browse the stall while they're here.



Mrs. Cain has kindly donated a teddy and Disney jigsaw bundle as a raffle prize for the children!

To take part, children are asked to bring £1 for entry into the raffle from the week beginning 13th October.

The winning ticket will be drawn during our Halloween Disco Day—good luck to everyone!

Parents evening

Parents evening for the autumn term will be held on -

♦ **Wednesday, 15th October from 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.

Appointments will be published on School Spider from Wednesday, 8th October.

A message will be sent to remind you to book a timeslot.

PTFA

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 8th October at the Sticky Wicket bar, Ruskin.

It will start at 8pm and it's a chance to share ideas and make suggestions for PTFA events this year.

All are welcome!

PTFA Lottery

Thank you for all entries received so far. September & October draws will take place before half term. All entries must be returned to school and payments made no later than Friday 10th October.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Jewellery

We have noticed that some children have been coming to school wearing earrings.

A polite reminder that jewellery of any kind should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons.

Please make sure that all jewellery is removed before attending school.

Thank you.

Parking

A polite reminder to please be mindful not to block residents drive-ways when parking to pick up or drop off children.

Important information regarding school communication

As you know, we currently use a number of platforms for school communication.

From December we will no longer subscribe to Teachers2parents, this means that communication will be sent from School Spider. It is important that you download the School Spider app if you haven't already done so in preparation so you do not miss any information sent via the School Spider platform.

You can download the app via the Apple Store or Google Play Store by searching School Spider Parents.

Please select St Thomas of Canterbury and "Create account" using your email associated with the school.

We will continue to use Teachers2parents for general information & text reminders up until the end of November. The newsletter will continue to be sent weekly through School Spider and you will still receive messages from the class teachers via Dojo or Tapestry.

Attendance at school

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

Attendance and punctuality at school is not just for the academic progress your child will make, but is also important for developing personal qualities too, such as:



- ◆ Friendships
- ◆ Social skills
- ◆ Team and school values
- ◆ Cultural awareness
- ◆ Life skills etc

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 3rd October the whole school attendance is 96.5%

Reception = 97.5%

Year 1 = 96.9%

Year 2 = 97%

Year 3 = 96.6%

Year 4 = 94.6%

Year 5 = 93.9%

Year 6 = 98.9%

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.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

October

- 8th - PTFA AGM - The Wicket (Ruskin) 8pm
- 14th - Y2 Collective Worship - 9am
- 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—EYFS & KS1 during afternoon/KS2 after school until 4.30pm
- 17th - PTFA coffee morning (Beckets) - 9am
- 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
- 4th - Year 4 trip to Walker Art Gallery Liverpool
- 5th - Reception class Polar Express Day
- 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**