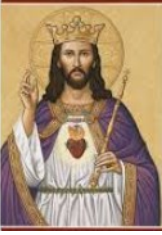




St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 21st November 2025



This week's Gospel theme: Mercy

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Luke 23:35-43

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Our Parents' Forum on Monday evening was both informative and valuable. We had productive discussions on a range of topics, including uniform, sacramental preparation, communication tools, school meals, and online safety. Parental perspectives play a vital role in school improvement, and I am truly grateful for the time and thoughtful contributions offered by those who attended.

It has been a particularly busy week in school, so I have not yet had the opportunity to act on the points raised. However, I will endeavour to do so over the coming weeks and will share any resulting changes in due course.

Thank you for your continued support.

Also, thank you for your generosity in the support/donations given to the PTFA in preparation for our forthcoming Christmas fair. We look forward to seeing you at next week's event.

Temporary Change in Use of Dojo

It has come to my attention that there has been a 'glitch' in the use of Dojo in the last 2 weeks.

I have decided to pause the use of Dojo in school until the glitch has been sorted.

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, then you can either email me (lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk) or phone the school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Year 4 Sacramental Workshops and preparation

There will be an information session on **Tuesday, 2nd December at 3.30pm** for parents of Y4 children who wish for their child to make their First Confession and First Holy Communion this year.

I am aware that not all parents will be able to attend this date so a letter will be sent home to clarify the points discussed at the meeting.

I

If you have any questions regarding the 'With You Always' programme please email me with your queries.

Thank you.

Growing Together in God's Love

Christmas Raffle

Children should have brought home a book of raffle tickets earlier this week. The raffle helps to raise money for the Christmas Fayre and a full list of prizes will be shared next week.

If you would like to enter the raffle and be in with a chance of winning one of our fantastic prizes, please complete all stubs and return, with payment, to the school office by Thursday 27th November.

There are plenty of spare books in the office if you would like more.

Thank you.

Cake Donations

On Friday 28th November, we'd be grateful for any homemade or shop bought cakes (nut free please) for the cake stall.

Pre-loved Donations

From Monday 24th November, pre-loved toys, teddies and kids books can be donated any day on the run up to the fayre.

Thank you.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who has donated again this week. It's very much appreciated.

A reminder that the Christmas Fayre will be held next Friday, 28th November, starting at approximately 3.40pm. The staff are helping us on a lot of the stalls and they need time to see the children out then make their way to their stalls.

Thank you for understanding. We hope to see you all there.

If any parents or grandparents are free to help on any stalls please let us know.

Santa's Grotto

Santa's Grotto slips with allocated times have been sent home with the children, please check bags.

All time slots are now taken so we are unable to take anymore bookings.

After School Club - 28th November 2025

There will be no after school club on Friday, 28th November due to the Christmas Fayre taking place.

Nativity Performances

EYFS Nativity

Will take place on:

Tuesday, 2nd December at 9.30am

Wednesday, 3rd December at 2.15pm

KS1 Nativity

Will take place on:

Wednesday, 10th December at 2.30pm

Thursday, 11th December at 9.30am

Breakfast With Santa

We will be hosting Breakfast with Santa again this year. The event will take place in school on Wednesday, 17th December, starting at 8am. A letter will be sent home with the children in the coming weeks with more information.

Wear it Well for Willowbrook Hospice

We are also inviting the children to wear their Christmas jumpers and or festive headwear on 17th December for the 'Wear it Well' appeal for Willowbrook Hospice. We just ask that the children bring in a £1 donation and we will send the money raised to Willowbrook Hospice.

Growing Together in God's Love

NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme

Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse.

Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children aged 6-7 and 9-11. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

KS2 children will have their assembly on Tuesday and KS1 will be on Wednesday. Years 2, 5 and 6 will then have a workshop in class during the morning of Tuesday, 2nd December.

Please read the letter attached to this email from NSPCC for more information.

Job Vacancy at St Thomas of Canterbury Church

There is an administration job vacancy at St Thomas of Canterbury Church. The position will include inputting cash data, answering the telephone, inputting baptisms and deaths in the register.

The role is for 6 hours over 2 days (3 hours per day) on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, although days can be flexible.

If interested please contact Father Nevin on email address

h.nevin@rcaol.org.uk

Parking Polite Reminder

Please do not drive through the school gates when dropping off or picking up children, this includes when using breakfast or after school clubs.

The car park beyond the school gates is for staff and visitors use only.

We would appreciate this message being passed onto any grandparents who may drop off and pick up children.

We are lucky to have a parents car park, however there are limited parking spaces, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times. This means that there may not always be a spot available when you arrive. We kindly ask parents and carers to allow a little extra time and be prepared to park slightly further away from the school if needed. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe and ensures a smoother start and end to the school day.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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 information regarding school communication

From December we will no longer subscribe to Teachers2parents text messaging service, this means that communication will be sent from School Spider.

Please ensure that you download the School Spider app if you haven't already done so and create an account 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.

Parents who have the app but are not registered on School Spider have been sent an email invite earlier this week. If you are having trouble logging on, please check if you have received this email, you will then need to follow the link to register first.

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.

NB: The School Money platform will continue to be used for payments and for Out of Hours Club bookings.

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, 21st November 2025 the whole school attendance is 96.4%

Reception = 99.6%

Year 1 = 91.9%

Year 2 = 100%

Year 3 = 98.1%

Year 4 = 92.3%

Year 5 = 96.4%

Year 6 = 96.1%

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

November

- 28th - Advent Mass (11am)
- 28th - Christmas Fayre (3.40pm)

December

- 2nd - EYFS (Reception & Nursery) Nativity - 9.30am
- 2nd - School Nurse Drop In - 2.45pm to 3.45pm
- 2nd - Sacramental Workshop for Parents (3.30pm)
- 3rd - EYFS (Reception & Nursery) Nativity - 2.15pm
- 4th - Year 4 trip to Walker Art Gallery Liverpool
- 5th - Young Voices to visit Dementia café
- 10th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (2.30pm)
- 10th - Year 4 First Forgiveness (6pm Church)
- 11th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (9.30am) - **date changed from 9th December**
- 11th - Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day
- 12th - Reception class Polar Express Day - **date changed from 5th December**
- 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 - Wear it Well for Willowbrook Hospice
- 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 (school finish at 1.30pm)

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

Nursery Admissions for September 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

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