



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 5th December 2025



This week's Gospel theme: Advent Week 2

"Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight."

Matthew 3:1-12

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

We had another exciting start to the week on Monday morning to mark the start of a very busy, festive week....

And what a wonderful week it has been! To the delight of children (and grown-ups!), our staff made a surprise appearance dressed as elves to mark the start of Advent and all the fun and excitement the season brings. A huge thank-you to all the staff for taking part and for helping to make our school such a special place.

EYFS have now completed their Nativity performances, and they did a tremendous job re-telling the story of Jesus' birth through song, dance and acting. Every child was a superstar — well done to you all!

We also enjoyed our autumn term Rock Steady concert, which was brilliant as always. It was wonderful to see the children performing with such confidence, and the progress they have made is fantastic. Well done to all our rock-star bands!

Children from Years 5 and 6 visited the Parish Church in the town centre to take part in the annual Christmas Sing project, joining children from across the borough to share carols and festive songs with their families. This was our first year taking part and certainly won't be our last — it was a truly special and festive experience. Well done to all the children who represented our school so beautifully.

To round off the week, a group of children visited the Gerard to sing for members of the weekly dementia café. They brought smiles, a few happy tears and many treasured memories to their audience, who loved singing along with them.

It has been a fantastic week for our children and staff alike — one filled with joy, music and festive moments we hope will be remembered for a long time to come.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Year 4 Sacramental Preparation

On Wednesday, the children in Y4 made their First Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation). Thank you to Fr. Henry who took the time to come to school to help the children on their journey.

Thanks to the parents who attended the short meeting on Tuesday, where the plan for Sacramental preparation for this year was explained. There are still booklets in the office for parents to collect - so if you do not have booklets 2 & 3 please do call in to collect from the school office.
Thank you.

Important information regarding school communication

From next week we will no longer be sending text message reminders and information from Teachers2Parents, 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 will have received an email invite over the last couple of weeks.

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.

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

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

Reminder

School closes on, 19th December at 1.30pm.
Please note there will be no after school club on this day.

School reopens for Spring term on Tuesday,
6th January 2026

Poppy Appeal

We have received a message of thanks for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year.

The total raised was £239.30

Growing Together in God's Love

Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas dinner day will be held on

Thursday, 11th December

The deadline date for ordering was **Tuesday 2nd December**. You will be unable to order after this date.

Children who haven't pre-ordered a Christmas dinner will need to bring a packed lunch on the day.

We are also inviting the children to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.

KS2 Carol Service

Our KS2 children will be performing their Carol Service and Nativity in Church on:

- **Friday, 12th December at 2pm**

Parents and grandparents are invited to attend.

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 was sent home with the children earlier this week.

If you would like your child to attend please book through School Money.



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.



Christmas Parties

The Christmas parties have been arranged during the afternoon on the following dates:

KS2 - Tuesday, 17th December

KS1 - Monday, 15th December

Nursery & Reception - during the morning of **Wednesday, 17th December**

Altru Drama

Altru Drama group will be in school on **Wednesday, 17th December** performing 'Little Red Riding Hood' for all the children in the afternoon.

Their mission is to offer high quality, engaging performances during the festive season.

We know that many children may not have seen a theatre performance yet and we want to give them an engaging, exciting and memorable experience this year. We are excited to welcome them into school.

We would like to thank the PTFA for funding this event.

Growing Together in God's Love

Message from PTFA

The total raised at the Christmas Fayre was £2403.23, which is a fantastic achievement.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, with donations for non-uniform days in the run up and to everyone who helped behind the scenes, whether that was setting up on the day to making crafts and cakes to sell.

Special thanks to the parents, grandparents and staff who offered to run a stall- we couldn't have the fayre without these people volunteering- thank you!

Important Dates for your Diary

December

- 10th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (2.30pm)
- 11th - KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) Nativity - (9.30am)
- 11th - Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day (must be pre-ordered by 2nd December on School Grid)
- 12th - Reception class Polar Express Day
- 12th - KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6) Nativity/Carol Service in Church - 2.00pm
- 15th - Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas party
- 16th - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas party
- 17th - Breakfast with Santa (8am)
- 17th - Wear it Well for Willowbrook Hospice
- 17th - Reception & Nursery Christmas party
- 17th - Altru Dram performing 'Little Red Riding Hood' for the whole school
- 19th - End of Autumn term (school finish at 1.30pm)

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, 5th December 2025 the whole school attendance is 94.10%

Reception = 95.8%

Year 1 = 95%

Year 2 = 95.2%

Year 3 = 95.9%

Year 4 = 95%

Year 5 = 96%

Year 6 = 95.3%