



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 9th January 2026



This week's Gospel theme: New Starts

"This is my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on him."

Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson



Happy New Year to all our children and their families.

I hope you had a lovely Christmas with your family and friends.

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week, refreshed and ready for their learning, along with the new experiences and opportunities that 2026 will bring.

As we begin a new term, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families and children who have joined our school this week. We hope you quickly feel at home and enjoy being part of our school community.

There is so much to look forward to this year, so please make it your New Year's resolution to keep up to date with school life by reading our weekly newsletter — it's the best way to make sure you don't miss out on important information and exciting events.

Here's to a happy, successful and memorable 2026.

By working together, we can make this another positive and exciting year for everyone.

Year 4 Sacraments—Parental information session

As the children in Year 4 continue their preparations to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist in May, there will be questions to address to ensure the smooth running and success of the day.

Therefore, there will be a parental information session on Wednesday, 11th February at 3.30pm (will last no longer than 30 mins, depending on amount of questions there are).

During the meeting, Mrs. Rawlinson will explain the logistics of the day, what children are expected to wear and how the children will be involved during the mass.

There will be opportunity for parents to ask their own questions also which will be helpful to others as well.

I hope to see Year 4 parents there in order to make Saturday, 16th May a special day for the children and their extended families.

Looking ahead into spring and summer terms

Staff have planned class 'stay and pray' sessions for parents to attend with their child.

The dates for each class are:

Nursery and Reception - tbc

Year 1 - Was today—well done to our Year 1 children who led the worship so confidently and reverently.

Year 2 - (already done one - next one in July)

Year 3 - Thursday, 12th March 2026

Year 4 - Wednesday, 11th March 2026

Year 5 - Thursday, 29th January 2026

Year 6 - Tuesday, 24th February 2026

As it is a 'Stay and Pray', the parents and/or grandparents who drop off are welcome to attend and the sessions will be at 9.00am (once registration is complete).

Advance notice—World Book Day

This year we will celebrate World Book Day on Friday, 6th March.

Our theme is going to be Little Miss and Mr. Men .



How you interpret this is up to you! You can be as creative and inventive as you wish.

(For easy and cost saving ideas, use ChatGPT!)

There will be activities and reading tasks in school throughout the day linked to the Mr Men, making it a fun day for the children. We will finish the day with a whole school assembly to celebrate the joy and excitement books and reading gives to us.

Growing Together in God's Love

PTFA

We have a date for the PTFA quiz night confirmed. It's on Friday 17th April at LSH Rugby Club. Letters will be sent out nearer the time.

Thank you to all who ordered from the Cauliflower Cards Christmas Project.

We received a final commission total of £292.75.

Primary School Admissions 2026-2027

A reminder that the closing date for Primary School Admissions for academic year 2026-2027 is Thursday, **15th January 2026.**

If your child is due to start Reception in September 2026, please ensure your application has been submitted online before this date.

Attendance and punctuality at school

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



Lateness

We kindly remind parents and carers about the importance of ensuring children arrive at school on time. Arriving late not only disrupts the start of your child's day but also impacts the learning of their classmates. The morning routine sets the tone for the day, and being on time helps children settle, engage with their peers, and begin lessons without stress or distraction. Please aim to have your child at school by 8.40-8.45am, ready to start their day. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting a positive learning environment for everyone!

Attendance

For week ending Friday, 9th January 2026 the whole school attendance is 96.6%

Reception = 99.4%

Year 1 = 94%

Year 2 = 97.6%

Year 3 = 99.5%

Year 4 = 90.4%

Year 5 = 97.2%

Year 6 = 97.7%

Important Dates for your Diary

January

- 28th - Year 5 attending Crucial Crew (am)
- 29th - Year 5 Stay & Pray (9am)

February

- 5th - Young Voices Concert at Co-op Live
- 6th - Reception Hearing Screening
- 13th - Break for February half-term at 3.20pm
- 23rd - Return to school start of Spring Term 2
- 24th - Year 6 Stay & Pray (9am)
- 25th - Oral Health Community Dental Survey for 5 year olds
- 26th - Year 1 visiting Ecclestone Library
- 27th - Year 5 swimming 1st session (each Friday afternoon until 27th March)
- 27th - Year 6 Conway Centre final instalment due date

March

- 2nd - Whole school photographs with Academy Photography
- 6th - World Book Day - Theme: Little Miss & Mr Men
- 11th - Year 4 Mothers Day Stay & Pray (9am)
- 12th - Year 3 Mothers Day Stay & Pray (9am)
- 23rd - Year 6 Residential - Conway Centre (leave school at 10am)
- 25th - Year 6 return from Residential (back at school around 3pm)
- 27th - KS2 Easter Service (11am)
- 27th - Year 5 final swim session
- 30th - School Nurse Drop In (8.30-9.30am)
- 30th - Parents afternoon/evening (starts 1.30pm)

April

- 1st - EYFS (Nursery & Reception) - Easter Bonnet Parade with Stay & Pray (9am)
- 2nd - End of Spring Term: break for Easter holiday at 1.30pm