



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Friday, 20th March 2026



This week's Gospel theme: Compassion

"Roll the stone away," he said. Then he cried out, "Lazarus, come out!"

John 11:1-45

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Our Gospel theme this week is compassion. Compassion is at the heart of our school community, and it is something our children demonstrate every single day. In fact, each and every Celebration of the Word (worship) always links with the message of being kind.

Whether it's helping a friend who is feeling upset, including others in games at playtime, or showing kindness through thoughtful words and actions, the children's care for one another truly stands out.

We regularly see the children offering help and support without being asked, celebrating each other's successes, and showing understanding when others find things challenging. These small but meaningful acts show a sense of empathy and respect, and they make our school the wonderful place it is for everyone.

I am incredibly proud of the way our children embody compassion in all that they do.

London Marathon

Talking of compassion....As you will know by now. I will be taking on the London Marathon on Sunday 26th April. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I have chosen to dedicate my run to raising money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital—a place that truly embodies compassion in everything it does.

Throughout my teaching career, I have seen first-hand the difference Alder Hey makes. They have supported and cared for many wonderful children I have had the privilege to teach, always treating each child and their family with kindness, dignity, and understanding. Their compassion goes far beyond medical care; it brings comfort, hope, and reassurance during the most challenging times, including for families within our own St Thomas of Canterbury community. The work they do changes lives in the most meaningful way.

If you are able to support this incredible charity, please consider making a donation using the link below. Thank you for helping to share in their compassion.



I am so grateful to everyone who has already donated—your kindness and generosity have truly meant a great deal.

A massive thank you to you all.

<https://2026tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/lyn-rawlinson/post/21694587>

Key Stage 2 Easter Service

The children of Key Stage 2 will be retelling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection through song, Scripture and prayer at church on Friday, 27th March at 11.00am.

All children will be attending the service so any help to walk the children safely to and from church will be greatly appreciated.

Please do join us for this special Easter service.

School Photographs

A reminder that the deadline date for school photograph orders both on-line and to return to school is **9am on Monday, 23rd March 2026**

Please do not return any orders to school after this date. Orders can still be made on-line after this date but a late order fee will be charged.

Thank you.

Nursery & Reception Easter Bonnet Parade with Stay and Pray

Nursery and Reception children would like to invite their families to a very special Easter Bonnet Stay & Pray

Taking place on:

Wednesday, 1st April at 9am



Parents Evening Meetings

Will be held on:

Monday 30th March from 1.30pm - 6pm.

The timeslots will be published on Monday and will be available to book via School Spider.

(parents who have already met with their child's class teacher need not make another appointment)

Year 6 Residential

Year 6 will be travelling to the Conway Centre on Anglesey on Monday and staying until Wednesday. Whilst there, they will be taking part in outdoor activities such as climbing, high ropes, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding to name but a few.

We wish them a very happy and exciting time away and look forward to hearing about their adventures when they return.

End of spring term

Please be aware that the last day of the spring term is

Thursday, 2nd April 2026

Children will finish school at 1.30pm.

Please note there will be no after school club on this day.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection', however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to these groups.

AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportharmfulcontent.com.

TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



See full reference list on our website

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Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

March

- 23rd - School photo orders will be collected in the morning
- 23rd - Year 6 Residential - Conway Centre (leave school at 10am)
- 25th - Year 6 return from Residential (back at school around 3pm)
- 26th - PTFA Easter Bingo
- 27th - KS2 Easter Service (11am)
- 27th - Year 5 final swim session
- 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**
- 13th - Return to school start of Summer Term 1
- 14th - Acorn Farm visiting school for Nursery & Reception
- 24th - PTFA Quiz Night - LSH Rugby Club
- 28th - Year 3 visit to World Museum Liverpool
- 28th - Personal Awareness Session for Year 6 delivered by Carl Finney (Judo Education)

May

- 1st - Year 5 visiting Tatton Park
- 4th - May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
- 16th - Year 4 First Holy Communion
- 22nd - May Procession (11am)
- 22nd - Break for Whit Half-term (3.20pm)

Attendance

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

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



For week ending Friday, 20th March 2026 the whole school attendance 96.3%

Reception = 97.2%

Year 1 = 94.8%

Year 2 = 97.6%

Year 3 = 97.7%

Year 4 = 98.9%

Year 5 = 96.3%

Year 6 = 96.5%

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!