



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 24th April 2026



This week's Gospel theme: Follow

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

John 10:1-10

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Just a few days away to the London Marathon and its starting to feel very real now!

To date (as of Thursday at 10.30am) we have raised £1,962.00 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital—almost 4 times my original target! I am absolutely over the moon with this and would like to thank each and every family for their kind donations towards this good cause that is very close to your hearts for so many reasons.



I will be travelling to London on Friday and return to school on Tuesday afternoon (I have a meeting with the archdiocese on Tuesday morning!) I look forward to sharing my news with you on my return. But for now, thank you for all your support!

Internet Safety

On Wednesday, our local PCSO officers came into school to speak to Key Stage 2 pupils about online safety. The children understood the messages shared and asked some very clever questions about the topic. The officers have agreed to come back to school to speak to parents about how you at home can help keep children safe online. I hope as many parents attend as possible as this is such an important discussion to have around children's safety and wellbeing. Once the date has been arranged with the police, we will let you know. In the meantime please do speak to your children about online safety and regularly monitor their online activities.

Teaching Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for teacher/SENDCo.

Please follow the link for further information and feel free to share with anyone who may be interested in this exciting opportunity. Thanks.

[St Helens Borough Council | Jobs | Search here for your perfect career - Job Information | Apply for Teacher - SENDCO](#)

ADDvanced Solutions News

Please use the link below for the summer term newsletter of information and events from Advanced Solutions—helping the health and wellbeing of neurodiverse people.

[ST HELENS Summer 2026 - What's On Guide](#)

Parents Forum

The next parents' forum meeting will take place on **Monday 18th May at 4:30pm.**

During the meeting, there will be opportunities to:

- Find out about and discuss the questionnaire results
- Learn more about the renewed OFSTED framework and gradings
- Bring your own agenda items for discussion

Parental contributions to school life are always greatly valued, and it would be wonderful if you are able to attend with a shared focus on school improvement. Thank you in advance for your support.

School Council Cake Sale

The School Council will be holding a cake sale next Wednesday to help raise funds for our school. We would really appreciate any contributions. Cakes can be shop bought (need to be in original packaging) or home made. If sending in home-made cakes, please include a list of ingredients.

All items must be nut free.

Please send any cake donations into school on Wednesday morning.

Cakes will be sold for between £1 and £2.

The money raised will go towards buying more gifts for our Gold Coin Shop (school reward system) and helping to update our orienteering course.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ganson



Staff Car Park

Please do not drive through the main gates onto the staff car park at anytime. This includes when dropping off or picking up for Breakfast or Afterschool Club. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Attendance

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



For week ending Friday, 24th April 2026 the whole school attendance is 97.7%

- Reception = 99.1%
- Year 1 = 98.1%
- Year 2 = 98.5%
- Year 3 = 98.8%
- Year 4 = 94%
- Year 5 = 98.5%
- Year 6 = 96.7%



MAY HALF TERM

Birchley St Marys Catholic Primary School, Birchley Road, Billinge



ADVENTURE & SPORTS CAMP

Tue 26th - Fri 29th May

Mon 1st - Fri 5th June

Standard day; 9-4pm

Extended day; 8.30am-5pm

Olympic themed Activities

With over 20 years of experience running fun, high-quality activity camps, our dedicated and professionally trained team goes far beyond term-time learning. Join us this Feb Half Term for a lively mix of Sports and Adventure, including Nerf Zone, Bubble Sports, Inflatable Fun, Dance, Water Games, Scooter-boarding, Treasure Hunts, Hut Building, and plenty more.



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4K
ROUTE

Run for fun...
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St Helens Colour Run

Saturday 4th July 2026

Arrive from 11.15am & Start 12pm
Victoria Park, St Helens, WA10 2UE

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS



YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT



YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT



The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT



YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS



YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS



If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER



Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Growing Together in God's Love

Important Dates for your Diary

April

- 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
- 1st - Year 1 Grandparent afternoon—History of toys
- 4th - **May Day Bank Holiday - school closed**
- 11th - Y6 SAT's week
- 16th - Year 4 First Holy Communion (Mass starts at 12.30pm, arrive in Church at 11.30am for photos)
- 18th - Nursery new intake September 2026 parents meeting (3.30pm)
- 19th - Reception new intake September 2026 parents meeting (3.30pm)
- 22nd - May Procession (11am)
- 22nd - Break for Whit Half-term (3.20pm)

June

- 8th - Return to school start of Summer Term 2
- 12th - Year 5 & 6 visit to Edge Hill University
- 12th - Year 4 start weekly swimming lessons at Queens Park (5 sessions)
- 15th - Reception Vision Screening
- 15th - School Nurse Drop in Session—2.45-3.45pm
- 16th - Academy Photography in for Leavers Photo's
- 19th - 1st Non-uniform day for Summer Fayre donations
- 19th - Year 1 & Year 2 trip to Knowsley Safari Park
- 25th - Sports Day - EYFS – 9 to 10.30am, KS1 10.30 to 12noon, KS2 from 1.30pm
- 26th - 2nd Non-uniform day for Summer Fayre donations
- 29th - Start of De La Salle transition week for Year 6 (Monday –Thursday)

July

- 3rd - PTFA Summer Fayre—3.30pm
- 10th - Year 6 Leavers Mass - 11am in Church
- 10th - Last swim session for Year 4
- 10th - Year 6 Leavers Party—6pm LSH
- 19th - **End of Summer Term : break for Summer holiday at 1.30pm**