



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Friday, 17th July 2026

This week's Gospel theme:: Growing

"We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family."

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

A Fond Farewell to Our Year 6 Children

Today has been a very emotional day as we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children on their final day at primary school.

We celebrated together with a special leavers' assembly, where we enjoyed a slideshow of memories from their time at St. Thomas of Canterbury, sang some of their favourite songs, and presented each child with a special gift. The celebrations continued with shirt signing, laughter, and lots of fun as they made their final memories together.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you and wish you the very best of luck as you begin the next exciting chapter of your journey. You are more than ready for secondary school, and we know you will embrace every opportunity with confidence, kindness, and determination. Each of you has unique talents and qualities that make you truly special—continue to let your light shine brightly wherever you go.

Although your time at St. Thomas of Canterbury has come to an end, you will always be a valued part of our school family. We hope you will keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on. We look forward to hearing about all your future successes and adventures.

Good luck, Year 6—we will miss you, and we know you will continue to make us proud.

Year 6 SATS

Massive congratulations to our Year 6 children who have now received their SAT results after a short delay.

They have performed absolutely brilliantly and we are all so proud of each and every one of them.

Well done.

Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMAT's)

The consultation period has now finished.

All questions received will be collated and answered in due course.

Thanks for your responses.

A Heartfelt Thank You

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to our parents and families for your thoughtful gifts, generous kindness, and lovely messages at the end of the school year.

Your support, appreciation, and kind words mean so much to us and are truly valued. It is a privilege to work in partnership with such a caring and supportive school community.

Growing Together in God's Love

PTFA

Through PTFA events this year we have managed to raise an incredible £7000 for school this year which has been and will continue to be spent for the benefit of all children.

This has included the Altru Drama performances, cinema coaches, Crocky Trail Y6 coach, online maths resources to name a few.

Without this funding the children would miss out on lots of things that enhance their time at primary school so if you can help give some time to the fundraising the school and children would really appreciate.

Thank you for all the support with PTFA events this year.

School Meals

The school meals charge for September for children in KS2 who are not entitled to a free school meal will be £3.20 per day.

Please see information below regarding new free school meal eligibility.

Changes to free school meals from the 2026 to 2027 academic year

What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026 to 2027, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

Targeted FSM: for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium).

Other educational entitlements such as the Holiday Activities and Food program (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will also continue to be based on targeted FSM.

Expanded FSM: for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)

Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria.

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 will also continue to be entitled to free school meals under the universal infant free school meals policy regardless of family circumstances.

End of transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:

Some children may **no longer be eligible** from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit

Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status

What you need to do

If your child currently receives free school meals:

In most cases, you do not need to reapply

The local authority will check your eligibility automatically using the details already held and inform you of any changes to your FSM eligibility

In some cases, your child's local authority may contact you to confirm your details

If your child is starting a new school in September, they will be in touch to confirm whether you need to confirm your details or reapply.

If you are unsure, please contact the local authority for advice.

If your child does not currently receive free school meals

You may now be eligible under the expanded criteria

You will need to apply through your local authority via the following link: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>