

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School Newsletter

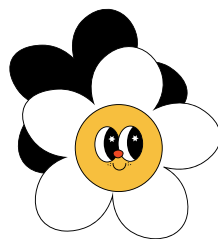
Friday, 25th September 2026

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Every Friday during whole school assembly, we celebrate the children's achievements both in school and beyond.

We love to share photos of accomplishments from outside of school, which may include, but not limited to, activities such as:

- Football
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Participation in groups like Brownies, Guides, or Squirrels



Or any other accomplishment you consider worthy of sharing.

Please send in your photos along with a brief explanation of the achievement to the following email: lyn.rawlinson@sthelens.org.uk

We look forward to celebrating your children's successes together!

The Gospel theme of the week

Generous

This week we thought about the word 'generous'; what it means to be generous and what we should be generous with. We know to be generous with our time and our things. Please discuss this word further whilst at home.

Please remember:



We are a nut free school.

All food, snacks and drinks brought into school should be completely nut free.

Thanks for your co-operation in this important matter.

Meet the teacher

Thank you to all of you who attended our recent Meet the Teacher event. It was a pleasure to welcome you into our school community and share insights into the educational journey your children will be embarking on this year. We hope you found the evening both useful and informative, providing you with a clearer understanding of our curriculum and the exciting experiences awaiting your children. Your support and involvement are invaluable to us, and we look forward to working together to ensure a successful and enriching school year for our children. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Important dates for Your Diary.

September

28th - Whole School Flu immunisations

30th - Height & Weight Screening for Reception & Y6

October

13th - Reception/Nursery Intake 2027 parents open day (9.30am)

15th - PTFA Halloween Disco

21st - Parents afternoon (from 1.30pm)

22nd - End of Autumn term 1 (3.20pm finish)

November

2nd - Return to school start of Autumn term 2

3rd - Reception/Nursery Intake 2027 parents open day (9.30am)

11th - Information session for January 2027 Nursery intake (3.30pm)

13th - Own clothes day for donations to Christmas Fayre

17th - Y1-Y3 Cinema Trip

17th - Reception/Intake 2027 parents open day (4pm)

18th - Y4-Y6 Cinema Trip

19th - Y4 Liverpool World Museum Trip

20th - Own clothes day for donations to Christmas Fayre

25th - Y2 World of Glass Trip

27th - PTFA Christmas Fayre (3.30pm)

December

14th - Altru Drama - Alice in Wonderland Performance

18th - End of Autumn term 2 (1.30pm finish)

Out of Hours Club

'Beckets'

The Out of Hours Club is pleased to announce a new phone number—07434406894—which parents should use for same-day bookings and messages concerning the breakfast or afterschool club. Mrs. Murphy will respond to messages when she arrives at school at 3pm. We encourage you to book out of hours sessions in advance through School Money, which helps us effectively manage attendance numbers.

New parents should have received a registration link earlier this week following the resolution of recent technical issues.

We sincerely thank all parents for their patience and understanding during this time.

PTFA Christmas Card Design Project

All the children should now have brought home their Christmas card design/order form. If you wish to order any items e.g cards, gifts, labels, please order online and return your child's form/artwork to school by Wednesday 30th September. Please hand in to a staff member or via the office. Any family members can place an order online as long as they have the school code and child's unique code.

Thank you.

Attendance

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

For week ending Friday, 25th September 2026 the whole school attendance is 96.8%

Reception = 93.3%

Year 1 = 97.9%

Year 2 = 100%

Year 3 = 99.2%

Year 4 = 97.8%

Year 5 = 94.2%

Year 6 = 95.7%



Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Tuesdays at Parr Children's Centre and Central Link Family Hub
See details and times below

14 July at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

8 September at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

10 November at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

28 July at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 September at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

24 November at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 August at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

13 October at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

8 December at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

25 August at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

27 October at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 December at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

We work with children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental difficulties, who need an assessment to gain a better understanding of their needs.

Parr Children's Centre, Ashtons Green Drive, St Helens, WA9 2AP

Central Link Family Hub, Westfield Street, (off Peter Street), St Helens, WA10 1QF

If you need more information you can contact us on **01744 415 608** or email: mcn-tr.sthelensneuropathway@nhs.net



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTED
13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 80 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Ian Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College