

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, 22nd October 2026



This week's Gospel Value

Gratitude

In this week's Celebration of the Word, we thought about the word 'gratitude' and all of the things we have in our lives that we should be grateful for.

Upcoming Events

Cinema trips

The children will be visiting the cinema during next half term. Mrs Rawsthorne has secured free tickets as part of the Intu Film Festival which runs during November.

Y1, Y2, Y3 will watch Hoppers on 17th November

Y4, Y5 & Y6 will watch Super Mario on
18th November

Thank you to the PTFA for making this trip possible by paying for the coach transport, meaning there is no cost to parents.

A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness shown in donating to our local foodbank as part of our Harvest celebration this week.

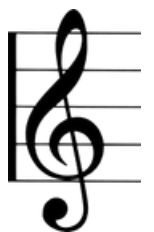
These acts of kindness help bring to life the values of Catholic Social Teaching, helping our children understand the importance of compassion, service, and prayer for those in need.

Well done to the children for their exceptional behaviour, reading and singing during our Harvest Mass today.

As always, thank you to the adults in helping us to escort the children safely there and back. Your time and assistance is greatly valued by everyone.
Thank you.

Music

Our Foundation Subject focus this week has been Music, with children developing their musical skills, exploring different sounds and enjoying opportunities to sing, play and perform. Ask your child what they have enjoyed learning about in Music this week. After half term, our focus will move to History.



Beckets' Out of Hours Club

To help us manage staffing, we kindly ask parents to book out-of-hours clubs as far in advance as possible. On the day bookings are for emergencies only. Money should be on the account to cover the session cost along with the £2.50 late booking charge.

Advance bookings help us plan numbers effectively and provide the best experience for everyone.
Thank you.

Christmas Fayre Raffle Prizes Needed

We will have a raffle during the Christmas Fayre and are currently sourcing raffle prizes. If any parents, family or friends are able to offer a prize, or know of any businesses who could, we'd be really grateful. Ideally, prizes would be products or vouchers that can be raffled, or businesses could donate vouchers for shops, restaurants, cafés or pubs.

Any prizes can be left at the school office.
Thank you for your support.  

Year 4 Sacramental Booklets and preparation

Our Year 4 children will soon begin their Sacramental journey as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Forgiveness (First Confession) and the Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion).

This year the preparations will run as they did last year. Last year proved to be very successful as it involved parents and school working together in preparing the children for this important stage in their faith journey.

To explain and to give further information, there will be a short meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children on
Monday, 2nd November at 3pm in the school hall.

HENRY 5-11 IS GOING ONLINE!

Our FREE Healthy Families: Growing Up programme is coming to you online!  

 Starting 2nd November 2026

 10am-12 noon

 6 weeks

 Online & FREE!

Join us from the comfort of your own home and explore simple, practical ways to support a healthy, happy family. 

FREE slow cooker or air fryer for every participant who completes the programme.

Spaces are limited – Book your place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/healthy-families-growing-up-online-programme-tickets-1998876941741?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

EYFS Appeal for Resources

We would be really grateful for any of the following items you may have finished with at home:

- Whisks
- Wooden spoons
- Wicker baskets
- Wooden bowls
- Metal bowls
- Metal/ Plastic cups and plates
- Weighing scales
- Old fabric/material
- Old hats, scarves, ties, handbags, purses, wallets, etc
- Old costume jewellery such as bracelets, beads, watches, rings
- Old technology such as cameras, clocks, torches, remote controls, mobile telephones, etc
- Children's umbrellas
- Dress up costumes
- Old suitcases
- Tape measures
- Tarpaulin
- Tin cans (please make sure there are no sharp edges)
- Log slices
- Battery operated fairy lights, torches, battery operated candles
- Plastic storage boxes with lids
- Cable reels
- Garden stones or gravel
- Carpet tubes
- Rolls of wallpaper
- Toy garage

Many thanks for all your help!
Mrs Horrocks and Mrs Woodward

New Intake 2027

If you have a child due to start school or Nursery in September 2027 and are considering St. Thomas of Canterbury as one of your choices, then please come along to our new admission meetings. These will give you all the information you need to help you make your choices and give you a flavour of what school life is like here at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Prospective parents are warmly welcome to visit school on:

· Tuesday, 3rd November at 9.30am

Tuesday, 17th November at 4pm

Wednesday, 18th November at 4.30pm

If you know of anyone with a child due to start school please pass these dates on to them.

Attendance

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

For week ending Thursday, 22nd October 2026 the whole school attendance is 95.9%

Reception = 99.5%

Year 1 = 94.1%

Year 2 = 96%

Year 3 = 98.5%

Year 4 = 91.7%

Year 5 = 94%

Year 6 = 97.7%

PTFA NEWS: TOGETHER WE SHINE!

🎄 Christmas Fayre — we need your support! 🎄

Our Christmas Fayre is fast approaching!

Join our planning meeting on **Wednesday 4th November, 7pm at The Abbey**. We need as many attendees as possible to help deliver the event to its usual high standard.

Without enough volunteers, the fayre may have to be scaled back considerably — and it is usually our biggest fundraiser of the year.

We hope to see you at the meeting! 🍷 🍷

A heartfelt thank you

A huge thank you to **Siobhan Kays & Lucy Gibson**, who are stepping down from their current PTFA roles this year. Thankfully, they will still be very much part of our PTFA family!

Your time, energy and commitment over the years have made a huge difference to school life and, most importantly, to the experiences and opportunities our children have enjoyed.

So many activities, events and special moments have been possible because of your hard work and dedication. **Thank you for everything you have done, and continue to do, for our school.**

👻 Halloween Disco — what a success! 👻

£588.82 raised for our school! 🍷

We're absolutely delighted! Thank you to all the parents, PTFA members and volunteers who gave up their time to organise, set up, run and tidy away after the event. 🍷

Important dates for Your Diary.

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
- 16th – Odd Socks Day – Anti Bullying Campaign
- 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

- 1st – Rock Steady Concert (2.30pm)
- 2nd – Advent Mass (11am in Church)
- 4th – Choir to visit Dementia Cafe for Carols (9.30am)
- 7th – KS1 Nativity (time TBC)
- 8th – EYFS Nativity (Reception & Nursery) 9.15am
- 9th – KS1 Nativity (time TBC)
- 9th – EYFS Nativity (Reception & Nursery) 2pm
- 14th – Altru Drama – Alice in Wonderland Performance
- 15th – KS2 Christmas Service (time TBC)
- 16th – Breakfast with Santa (8am)
- 18th – End of Autumn term 2 (1.30pm finish)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DEEPPFAKES

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of \$893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopeganglers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College