



Dear parents and carers,

Christmas is almost here again after a busy and successful Autumn Term at school. It has been great to see so many mums, dads and friends attending the special Christmas assemblies, plays and Christmas Nativities. You are always welcome in school and the children have performed brilliantly, reminding us of the real meaning of Christmas. As a special Christmas treat all pupils in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 have all enjoyed visiting the theatre to see a pantomime. Thank you also to all those families that supported the Christmas Fair – it was a roaring success!

As you may know, the school has had a visit from an Ofsted inspection team recently. All seemed to go well during the inspection and we are hopeful the report will recognise the excellent standard of education that is offered to all children at St Thomas'. We will share the report in the new year once it is published.

It has been wonderful to see the children playing all manner of organised outdoor games on our newly installed artificial grass pitch. The grass pitch is used every break and lunchtime, and also for after school clubs like netball and football. The table tennis table, new basketball nets and the work of our Sports Coach who comes in every lunchtime to organise games, means every dinner time is an opportunity for your children to extend their sporting prowess.

As always, a sincere thank you to all our children for working so hard this term, joining in with lessons and doing their best. Well done to all our parents and carers who continue to support their children in so many ways; bringing them to school on time every day, spending quality time with your children, talking to them, encouraging them to do their homework, and complete their reading.

At St. Thomas of Canterbury our talented and dedicated teaching staff work hard to make learning relevant, interesting and enjoyable for all the children. If parents are interested to find out more about what their children have been learning at school, I would encourage you to visit our school website where you will find lots more useful information. Updates are also available on our Facebook page.

At St. Thomas of Canterbury we know that a creative mixture of well- chosen, exciting topics and trips, combined with daily, steady hard work on the basics of reading (including daily phonics), writing and number, will give every child the opportunity and support to really succeed in their learning. We thank all mums and dads for their continued support in all of the above – together we will ensure every child succeeds!

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God bless

Attendance News

Congratulations to our weekly attendance winners this term who have celebrated with chocolate and treats for their class.

Wk Commencing	KS1	KS2
5 th September	RL – 98.1%	3D – 97.6%
11 th September	1CL – 99.7%	3C – 99.0%
18 th September	RL – 98.8%	5H – 98.2%
25 th September	RT – 99.4%	6C – 99.4%
2 nd October	1CL – 99.7%	3C – 99.1%
9 th October	2R – 97.2%	4S – 99.4%
16 th October	1CL – 97.5%	6J – 97.7%
30 th October	1CL – 98.7%	6C – 98.7%
6 th November	1P – 97.3%	4S – 99.1%
13 th November	RT – 100%	4S – 99.4%
20 th November	RT – 100%	5H – 100%
27 th November	2A – 96.7%	6J – 95.9%



Termly attendance prizes have been a big hit and well received by the children, remember, 100% attendance for the week earns a raffle ticket for the prize draw!

Autumn Term 100% Attendance

Congratulations to all the children who achieved 100% attendance throughout this school term, they will be rewarded with a certificate and selection box – Well Done!



100% Attendance for The Year

Don't forget – All children with 100% attendance for the full year will be entered into a Prize Draw to win a bike.

It is wonderful to see so many children and their families making such an effort to come to school, on time, every day. We do, as always, thank you for your support with attendance and punctuality.





Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

<p>If in a school year, your child is late every day by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Minutes 10 Minutes 15 Minutes 20 Minutes 30 Minutes 	<p>Your child would have lost approximately...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 Days from School 7 Days from School 10 Days from School 14.5 Days from School 22 Days from School 	<p>or they would have missed approximately...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Lessons 41 Lessons 55 Lessons 82 Lessons 123 Lessons
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You should not take your child on holiday during term time. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.

**Remember
Absence = Lost Opportunity**



Our Acorn children have been learning the story of Jesus' birth. We have been enjoying learning nativity songs and dressing up in role play costumes.



Each week we have practised new songs in our music lessons with Mrs Lloyd from MAPAS.

Children in the Acorn enjoyed their trip to the farm and the panto, and look forward to more trips in the spring term.



Parents have been enjoying our Stay and Play club on Thursdays after school. This club will continue in the Spring Term



What a busy term we have had!

Since starting in September, our Nursery children have spent lots of time exploring their new surroundings and making wonderful new friends.



The run up to Christmas has been a really busy time, but the children have continued to work hard, both in our group activities and our Christmas preparations. Please keep a look out on our Nursery class page as we will be uploading our Christmas performance for you to enjoy as a family.

We have been so impressed by the progress the children have made this term. We are really looking forward to seeing them thrive in the new year.





We have had a very busy first term in Reception.

The children have settled well into the new routines of Reception life, where we learn new and exciting things every day.

The children are enjoying participating during group time, where we are becoming increasingly more confident in sharing our ideas and taking account of what others say too!



Our topic focuses this term have been 'people who help us' and 'pets', and the children have been eager to explore these themes during book talk and continuous provision activities. We have also been working hard in phonics, and we are now able to apply our new skills when reading and writing words and short sentences. We have also been working on our self-help skills, and we have been practising using zips, buttons, and using a knife and fork during meal times.

We have also had a busy few weeks preparing for Christmas. We have been learning all about the Christmas story, and we are exciting to perform a version of this for our grownups.



What a busy autumn term it has been!

One of the highlights has most definitely been our 'Animals Take Over' workshop, to enhance our learning of the five animal groups in science, where the children were able to handle real animals, including a snake, frog, and chinchilla!



More recently, we enjoyed our visit to Salford Arts Theatre to watch Aladdin, which was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils!



Thank you to everyone who came to watch our special nativity last week. The children were superstars and we are so proud of them! Our stay and play afterwards was a huge success.

Well done Year 1, you have worked so hard this term and we are very proud of you all. Now you can enjoy a well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays! Merry Christmas from the Year 1 team.





Year 2 have had a very busy term!

We've been practising our ball skills each week in our PE sessions and are becoming very skilled! In art, we have been sketching and painting in the style of Stephen Wiltshire and Paul Cezanne.



The children have worked so hard rehearsing songs for our Christmas concert and we were so proud of how the children performed! We also loved our trip to Salford Arts Theatre to watch Aladdin. We have been lucky enough to be visited by local archaeologists and poets too! Well done Year 2, you have had

a wonderful first term.

Have a very merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back next year!



It's been a fabulous, jam-packed term for Year 3!

3D have been swimming every Friday with some very positive feedback from the instructors. We held a disco to raise money for Children in Need, it was a brilliant afternoon and we raised over £200 - Well done to everyone



Year 3 led a beautiful assembly this term, performing a poem 'I wanna be a bear by Joshua Seigal'

This term, we have worked with 'Arts Insight' to produce a Christmas production, which we then performed to our parents/carers. Thank you to Laura and Ross from Arts insight for helping us achieve this in just 2 days!



Year 4

Year 4 have hit the ground running this term!

Our RE lessons have been focusing on Jesus' family tree, confirmation, and advent. The children have been busy learning about the Ancient Egyptians in History, the lines of latitude and longitude in Geography, and States of Matter and Electricity in Science. During our Art lessons, we have been painting flowers in the style of Post-Impressionist artist Suzanne Valadon, and in DT this week, we will be making Christmas light-up toys using circuits.



Highlights of the term include raising over £250 for Mind in Salford thanks to our festive film night, and our poetry performance in assembly. Check out our class page to see even more about what we have been learning!



Year 5

It has been such a busy Autumn term for Year 5!

We began our year by visiting Salford Museum and Art Gallery, where the children immersed themselves in all things Victorian. A visit from poet Matt Goodfellow, inspired the children to compose their own 'rebel writing'.



Trips to the library and Mosque have provided the children with an opportunity to go out into our local area. The Year Fives have also been busy creating masterpieces inspired by L.S Lowry, and building Victorian themed toys in DT.





What a start to the autumn term we have had in year six! Kicking off the school year, we had a wonderful trip to RHS Bridgewater; exploring the beautiful 153 acres of gardens and investigating spores under a microscope to discuss how plants evolved over time.



Since then, we have had a fantastic time immersing ourselves in the lives of World War II evacuees: from role-playing the billeting process to writing home to our imagined families from the countryside, we relished the opportunity to see life through their eyes!

Later in the term, we explored the use of digital media to manipulate our animal drawings (inspired by David Shepherd), resulting in some jaw-dropping pieces of vibrant artwork, which can now be seen adorning the walls of the year six classrooms.



Now for a well-deserved Christmas break to rest and refresh, ready to take on the New Year and upcoming SATs preparation!

Reminders

School will close on Friday 15th December at the usual time of 3:15pm and will reopen to children on Wednesday 3rd January at 8:55am.

The closing date for Nursery and Reception applications for children starting in September 2023 is 15th January 2023. Applications are to be made via the Salford Admission Portal using the following link; <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-admissions/primary/>

All the staff at St Thomas of Canterbury wish you a wonderful and joyous Christmas, and a Happy New Year.



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St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School - Salford are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page by clicking the following link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stocps> Or by scanning the QR code.



Children and young people aged four to 16 who are eligible for benefits related free school meals can access a range of fun free activities this winter.

Funded by the Department of Education, Salford's Holiday Activity and Food programme is a package of support for children and young people on benefits related free school meals. The programme provides free access to activities and food during the Christmas period.

Whether it's arts and crafts, dance, sports or drama, Salford's #HAF2023 programme has something for everyone! A wide range of organisations have come together to deliver a range of activities across Salford allowing children and young people to access age-appropriate sessions in their local community.

Find out more at www.salford.gov.uk/HAF



Childcare Choices:

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare.

As a reminder, If you are a working family with a 3 or 4 year old, you may be eligible to claim a 30 hour funding code. Currently, we are able to offer your child a free full-time place in school, however, if you are eligible for a 30 hour funding code, school will be able to claim the additional funding to further benefit the children in our care.

Further details regarding eligibility, and how to apply, can be found using the following link <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/how-to-apply-for-30-hours-free-childcare/>

If you are eligible, and receive a funding code, please email the code over to stthomasofcanterbury.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

To ensure your code does not expire, it will be necessary to reconfirm your details every 3 months through your childcare account via the childcare choices websites.