



St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School
Hadfield Street, Higher Broughton, Salford, M7 4XG
TEL: 0161 921 2060

Email: stthomasofcanterbury.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

Together with God we reach for the stars.



Dear parents and carers,

We are now approaching the end of Lent and all children will attend a special Easter mass during Holy Week. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Passion of Our Lord in the lead up to Easter.

You may have heard that the school had an inspection under Section 48 of the Education Act recently. This is NOT an Ofsted inspection. Instead, a couple of people from the Salford Diocese visited school to observe our religion lessons, watch some of our assemblies and other prayer and worship sessions. They also spoke to children about the Catholic life of the school. We are still awaiting the finished report, but going by what was said on the day, the RE inspectors were very impressed by everything they observed. A huge well done to everyone involved.

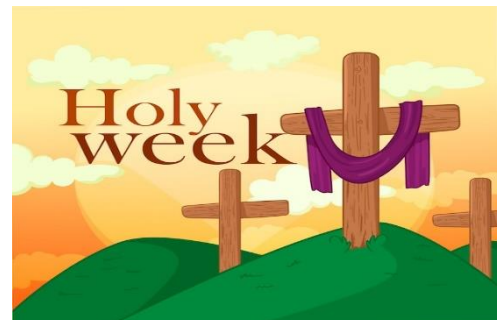
The Year 6 are now more than halfway through their preparations for their important SATs exams in May. Year 6 are working ever so hard and mums and dads can support at home by making sure children complete homework and get plenty of rest - 9pm bedtime is what is recommended for children of this age. It really does make a difference in lessons if children are well rested as they are so much more able to fully concentrate. Some children in Year 6 are attending early morning maths problem solving sessions and these are proving to be popular and extremely useful. This is the time for the final revision push!

This year we have decided to run an Easter school again to help some children in Year 6 achieve their full potential in the forthcoming exams. Parents and children concerned will be notified by the Year 6 teachers. I hope that this underlines the absolute commitment of the school to do all we possibly can to make sure every single child leaves St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary having reached the expected standard. Please can parents make sure that if their child has been selected to attend Easter school that they arrive promptly and ready to learn.

Congratulations to the many, many children who have received a certificate and an Easter Egg this week in recognition of their 100% attendance in the Spring Term. 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.

God bless,

Mr Deane



Attendance News

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

Wk Commencing	KS1	KS2
27 th March	TBA	TBA
20 th March	1CO – 97%	6S – 99.4%
13 th March	2L – 96.9%	6S – 99.4%
6 th March	RL – 98.6%	6J – 99.3%
27 th February	1CO – 97.8%	4S – 100%



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!



December Draw

KS1 Lily RL – Robotic Dinosaur
KS2 Myra 3M – Roblox Voucher

February Draw

KS1 Nathan 1CL – Scooter
KS2 Elizabeth 6S – Hedwig Puzzles

April Draw

KS1 Dominic 1CL – Man City Scarf
KS2 Daniel 5C – Skateboard



Congratulations to all children who have had 100% attendance this term – they will be rewarded with a certificate and Easter Egg – Well Done!



The Acorn children have been working hard learning different fairy tale stories, such as Cinderella, Rapunzel and Hansel & Gretel. The children have made lots of seasonal observations as it turns into spring. They have enjoyed a visit from the newly hatched chicks and having the opportunity to plant sunflowers together and take part in lots of Easter crafts and sensory play. The children have been busy making pancakes to celebrate Pancake Day as well as celebrating Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day together, and learning about the importance of Lent.



What a busy spring term it has been! We started this term looking at a range of traditional tales such as Goldilocks & the Three Bears, Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. More recently, we have been enjoying lots of Fairy Tales for example, Cinderella, Rapunzel and Hansel & Gretel. This is helping us to become fantastic storytellers of our own.



During the spring term, we enjoyed learning about different celebrations including Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day. We have immersed ourselves in these celebrations by creating crafts, singing songs and sampling a variety of food from different cultures.

We have noticed many changes in the environment now that spring is here. A few weeks ago, we had a special delivery into the Early Years... nine chick eggs! We were very fortunate to experience the eggs hatching and were able to care for the baby chicks inside.



Reception

March has been a busy month for Reception and we have been observing and discussing all of the changes that Spring brings! The children have been learning all about how things grow and change in nature. We have had some adorable chicks come to stay with us - it was fascinating to watch them hatch and begin to grow their feathers! Check

out our class page to see a picture of your child holding one of the chicks. They were all so gentle and caring. Another way we have practised caring for nature is by planting and nurturing our own cress plants - it has been fantastic to watch how fast they grow!



March has also been packed with special occasions for the children to learn about and celebrate. For Lent we have been discussing ways in which we can

grow to be more like Jesus, the children have each written a Lenten promise on a leaf and added it to our class Lenten trees. We have also been getting crafty for Mother's Day making cards to say thank you to our amazing mums. For St Patrick's Day, the children enjoyed learning all about the patron saint of Ireland and dressing up in green, white and orange. There was even a little bit of Irish dancing going on!



Year 1

This term, Year One visited Clitheroe Castle to bring their learning about castles and knights in History to life! Whilst at the motte and bailey castle, we listened to stories about legends and worked together to build our own sand motte and bailey castle. We also took part in knights training with swords.



Year One have also been visiting Father Alphonsus at St Thomas of Canterbury church to further their knowledge about sacraments. Father Alphonsus spoke to the children about the Baptisms and Holy Communions. He even showed Year 1 the chalice and ciborium used during the Holy Communion.



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2023, Year One arrived at school dressed as their favourite book characters, and everyone looked fantastic! We also visited the school library and read our favourite books with our friends.





We've had another jam packed term in Year 2! In Religion, we have been learning all about Lent and the lead up to Holy Week and role played the Palm Sunday procession; creating some fantastic pieces of group artwork to show all of our learning. We've also enjoyed having the PE coach this term and have been practising our ball skills to put them into practice with some fun, competitive games. We have really enjoyed our History topic on The Great Fire of London this term, we have found out lots of interesting facts about why the fire spread so quickly and we even created our own version of what London should have looked like after the Great Fire of 1666. On world book day, we



made our own masks to celebrate our favourite books, it was such fun to see everybody's creations!



In R.E. lessons this term we have been looking at Lent and why Lent is an opportunity for giving. We have read scriptures from the gospels of Matthew and Luke and performed them. Lots of children in the year group attended Reconciliation in preparation for their first Holy Communion which will be held in May. We have collective worship every day in class and we would like to invite all parents/guardians to come and join us every Thursday morning.



Year 3 went also on an exciting school trip to Martin Mere Wetland Centre where they saw otters and an amazing variety of different

species of birds. They learnt about the importance of the environment and looking after the world around them. We had a great world book day! Thank you to all the children and families for taking part. We looked amazing! Keep reading and enjoying your favourite books.





Year 4 have had a wonderfully busy term! In our religion lessons, we have been focusing on Stewardship and exploring the key question 'How can we be a steward of God's earth?' Year 4 were inspired by the work of Greta Thunberg and we

decided to hold our very own environmental protest. During playtime, we took to the playground to share the important message about how vital it is to look after our common home. The children have been learning about the Vikings in history, deepening our knowledge about France in geography, and exploring different habitats in science. During our art lessons, the children have been sculpting their very own dragon eyes in the style of the environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy and this week in DT, we will be making a toastie using our knowledge of food groups. Year 4S also went to the library around World Book Day and each received a free book. Well done Year 4, what a fantastic term! Check out our class page to see even more about what we have been learning!



Well what an action-packed time we've had so far in year 5! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Maya Civilisation in History and even designed and made their own Mayan mask in art! The R.E. chaplains have continued to grow in confidence,

delivering collective worship sessions to their peers, parents and other year groups. All children have shown their enthusiasm and strong faith during these lovely times of prayer.



In preparation for their transition to high school, both year 5 classes had a fun day at All Hallows, where they join forces with other primary schools and carried out some fun-filled team-building activities.





This term, the Year 6s have been studying our new artist, Uri Dushy, to create pieces that show changes over time. Their interpretations ranged from the evolution of animals, the life cycle of living things and how vehicles have varied over the years.

We have also enjoyed an array of activities to become 'communities of change' by learning to care for our common home, writing a petition for the government to help the climate crisis, and collecting plastic waste to take to the recycling centre.



The Year 6's have been working incredibly hard in preparation for the upcoming SATs. They are making outstanding progress and we are proud of their achievements so far.

Reminders

Thursday 6th April will be a non - uniform day, a £1 donation to our school fund is requested. All money raised will be used to purchase new books for the school library.

School will close on Thursday 6th April at the usual time of 3:15pm and will reopen to all children on Monday 17th April at 8:55am.

Year 6 SATS week will start on Tuesday 9th May 2023.

We need your help!

Help us raise FREE donations to raise much needed funds for the school.

If we can get as many supporters registered by 12th April, then we'll get a £1 bonus donation for each person – please use the following link to register;

<http://efraising.org/l1AoQmjduT>

Raise FREE funds for St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School

Register and raise FREE donations every time you shop online

By using easyfundraising every time you shop you could be to raising a **FREE** donation for us. It's completely free and easy to use and a great way to support the school.

easyfundraising will donate **£1** for every new supporter that registers by 12th April! All you need to do is register below, it take just a few minutes. Help us reach the best possible bonus!

Register today!



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