



# St. Thomas of Canterbury

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### November 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we reflect back upon a very busy November, we first recognised Anti-Bullying Week in a Whole School Assembly with the theme "Choose Respect." Each child wrote their own Anti-Bullying pledge to highlight this important event.

To commemorate Remembrance, Year 5 & 6 led a very poignant Act of Worship highlighting the significance of the event and an opportunity to pray and reflect upon the many thousands of people who lost their lives in World War One and World War Two and indeed any other war and conflict (see pages 2 and 3).

Thank you for attending our recent Parent Consultations, we had an excellent response with parental attendance and valuable feedback.

As part of our continued collaboration across the Trust and commitment to School Improvement, staff representatives from each school have been involved with Oracy Voice21 Project and writing moderation. All of our teachers have been involved within Trust Subject Leader Clusters to share and develop effective classroom practice.

All Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils entered the Trust Writing Competition, poetry was the theme for this term.

We are fast approaching the Liturgical Season of Advent and we are excited to announce that Father John Cunningham will be celebrating Mass in the St Thomas of Canterbury recently reopened Church, this coming Monday 2nd December at 2:00 pm - all parents are very welcome. With the Liturgical colour purple in mind symbolising preparation, each child has made a purple decoration for our whole Christmas tree. In addition, the children and staff have also been given a purple ribbon to remind them of their Advent promise, a huge thank you to Miss Newton for preparing these.

Best Wishes,

Mrs M Keating,

Executive Head

## House Points

ST DAVID:

811

ST GEORGE

1085

ST ANDREW

797

ST PATRICK

1043



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

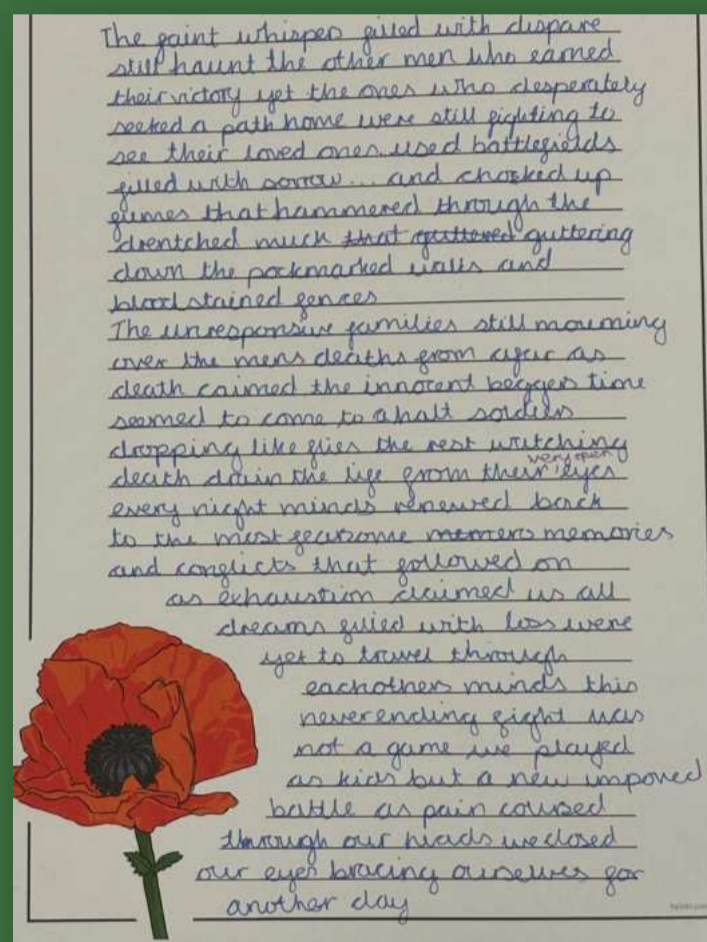


# Catholic Life of the School: Remembrance



The Catholic Church designates November as a special month to pray for and remember those who have died. The month began with the feast of All Saints (1st November, and the feast of the Holy Souls (2nd November). Within this month, we also commemorated Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom honours the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices that were made in past wars.

Thank you to Year 5/6 who led us in a very poignant liturgy on Remembrance Day



Loving God,

we remember now in prayer our dearly departed. May they rest in peace with you and experience the eternal joy of heaven. Heal our grief, merciful Lord, strengthen our hope that we, too, will one day share in the resurrection of your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.



# Catholic Life of the School: Remembrance



+ Remembrance Day Poem by Olivia Hart  
 + Lest We Forget +

They fought for their lives,  
 just to keep their country safe.  
 The slippery base of the trenches,  
 laid the battle fields down,  
 with the rain bound to pour into towns.  
 Their lives were lost,  
 as they fought for us.  
 The despair of their families,  
 wishing, praying, hoping just to see them again...  
 The tears that lead to victory,  
 the darkness was sickness.  
 As they heard the thumping of the steep steps,  
 worrying, thinking their lives were lost.  
 Thud, boom!  
 Gone...  
 Their hearts filled with sorrow,  
 they never saw another tomorrow.  
 The trenches took them, the war zones broke them.  
 As most wake up for another day, some were filled with sorrow due  
 to death-taking pain.  
 Death rose over them, life swallowed them.  
 Dirt piled up, the war zones were filled with grief and loss.  
 Soldiers dropping like flies, you can hear their distant cries,  
 The conflict between countries will never be forgotten, as they  
 lost their lives fighting for us.  
 We will remember the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.  
 At the going down of the sun, we will remember them.

God, give them  
 peace  
 please +



**"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them."**

# Catholic Life of the School: Charity



On 20<sup>th</sup> November, we all wore red to support ACN (Aid to the Church in Need) This is a campaign aimed at breaking the silence about Christians who are suffering throughout the world. During the day we prayed together, asking God to strengthen and encourage those who suffer following Jesus.

## RED WEDNESDAY

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:31**

# Catholic Life of the School: Charity



Thank you for supporting Children In Need. The children came into school on 15th November in their spoty clothes and we raised an incredible £296.00!



# Catholic Life of the School: Charity



This year our chosen Trust charity is 'The Catholic Children's Society' and throughout the year, all Trust Schools will be participating in fundraising activities that will support children within the Diocese of Westminster.

Thousands of local children and families are facing a Christmas without presents, food or basic essentials. This Christmas, we will be participating in the CCS Children's Gift Appeal. We are asking for new gifts (not second hand please) to be donated and dropped into school by Monday 2nd December. The gifts will be kindly collected and dropped to the CCS headquarters in London by volunteers from St Mary's Catholic School.

If you would like to donate, please see the gift suggestions below...



# PE and SPORT

## Thomas Tigers

Thomas Tigers had a fantastic win against Tewin Cowper School winning 4-3. We will now have a break from training and will resume in the second half of the Spring Term. The final training session will be Friday the 29th of November.



## Key Stage 1: Every1 In Festival

Mrs King took a team of children to a sports event run by the Hertford and Ware Sports Partnership. They had a great time at the festival and took part in some amazing events such as relays with balls, golf, dodge ball, yoga, archery and a Bollywood dance!



## Santa Run

On Friday the 13th of December, the whole school will take part in a sponsored Santa run to raise money for a local charity, Herts Young Homeless. Every day young people in our community are made homeless, and by helping support them this Christmas, the children of St Thomas' can make a difference. Further details about sponsorship to follow.



**hyh**  
Herts Young Homeless

# School Events & Activities

Congratulations to Joe, Penny G, and Isabelle who had their poems chosen to be put forward for our **Termly Trust Writing Competition**. All three winners go through to the next Trust round. We will announce the results before the end of term!



## Anti-Bullying Week

This year's theme was: 'Choose Respect'. The children wore odd socks to celebrate our uniqueness and made their Anti-Bullying pledges, as well as participating in special Anti-Bullying focused PSHE lessons.



## Police Visit

Reception and Key Stage 1 had a very exciting visit from our local community police. They even got to try on some of the uniform!



# Year 3/4 Celtic Harmony Trip

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a fantastic day at Celtic Harmony Camp where they travelled back in time and immersed themselves into a day of Stone Age learning!

The children enjoyed watching a fire demonstration, scavenger hunt looking for food, built shelters, and took part in a trading activity.



## Reminders & Notices

### • **Nursery and Reception Admissions - September 2025:**

The closing date for Nursery Applications is 13th December 2024 and for Reception Admissions it is 15th January 2025

### • **Spring Term Clubs**

Going forward, please sign your child / children up for all clubs (including third party / private clubs) through Arbor. Please **also** complete and return to the Office additional registration sheets for SOS and Italian club which contain BACS payment details. (You will also need to enrol your child to Tiger Cheer via the online link available through Arbor). To register your child for a club, log into Arbor and sign up for the club by clicking on your child's name under the Activities bar. A reminder that all clubs run on a "first come, first served" basis

### • **Lunch Ordering**

Please remember to order your child's meal through Select! Tuesday 10th December is our Christmas Lunch Day for all children. Please place your child's Christmas Lunch order via Select as usual

### • **Payments**

A reminder to please settle any outstanding payments through Arbor

The PTA would like to thank you for all your support and kind donations so far this year. We are busily preparing for some festive fun and a visit from Father Christmas at next Friday's Christmas Bazaar and look forward to seeing you there!

There is still plenty of time to purchase Raffle Tickets, this year we are holding two raffles - there is a very special big prize to be won this year via your golden ticket!

Funds raised will go towards various projects around the school helping to improve the environment in which our children can flourish.



A date for the diary!  
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER AFTER  
SCHOOL  
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
PTA  
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!



# Diary Dates



Date	Event
Monday 2nd December 14:00	Advent Mass at Church - parents welcome
Wednesday 4th December 09:15	SEND Coffee Morning
Wednesday 4th December	Year 5/6 PJ Day for Mary's Meals (see email from Mrs W Clark)
Friday 6th December	Christmas Jumper Day - please make a donation to Save the Children
Friday 6th December 09:15	Year 3/4 Advent Act of Worship - parents welcome
Friday 6th December 15:15	PTA Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday 10th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch - children invited to wear Christmas jumper
Tuesday 10th December 09:45	Early Years Nativity - parents invited
Wednesday 11th December	Mr Marvel performs some magic for Early Years and Year 1
Wednesday 11th December	Pantomime Trip (Years 2 to 6) Hertford Theatre
Thursday 12th December 14:00	Trust Carol Service (further information to follow)
Friday 13th December	Sponsored Santa Run for Herts Young Homeless
Tuesday 17th December	Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Christmas Presentations
Thursday 19th December 09:15	End of Term Awards Assembly
Friday 20th December 13:30	Break up for Christmas
Monday 6th January 2025	Inset Day - School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday 7th January 2025	Pupils return to school



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