

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

# February

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a restful half term.

Reflecting back through the month of February, our Chaplaincy Team enjoyed their Retreat alongside other schools in the Trust. The day centred around the Jubilee Year of Hope whereby the children engaged within a range of activities and had time to reflect and develop their faith (see pages 2 and 3).

Sunday 16th February recognised Racial Justice. We have highlighted the significance of this with the children and continue our curriculum focus on Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity.

A huge "well done" to all the children who took part in the recent Dance Recital last half term, our thanks to Miss Roux for leading this. The children showcased their talents confidently performing to their parents.

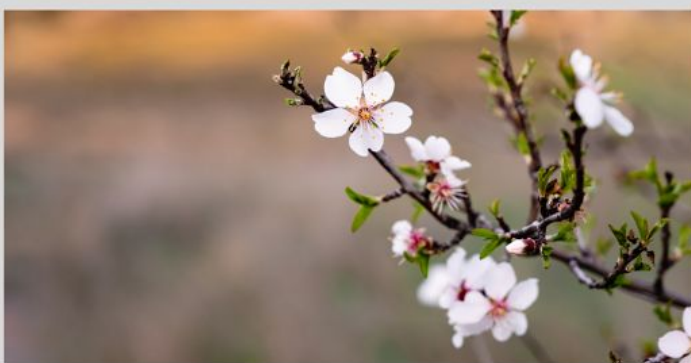
Lent is fast approaching; we have planned Pancake Races on Shrove Tuesday 4th March, followed by Mass at the Church on Ash Wednesday (see timings on page 10).

A reminder that Thursday 6th March is National World Book Day. This day highlights the importance of reading and the love of books. Once again we invite all children to come to school dressed as a book character and to share their favourite book. (Those attending the choir rehearsal can bring a costume to change into after lunch). There will be prizes for each class and all children will receive a World Book Day voucher. To note, between 19th and 26th March we will be holding the Scholastics Book Fayre.

Finally, you will shortly be receiving an invitation to book your Parent Consultations. These are scheduled for: Wednesday 5th March (Year 6), Tuesday 11th March and Thursday 13th March (Nursery to Year 5).

Best wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head



## House Points

ST GEORGE

814



ST PATRICK

686



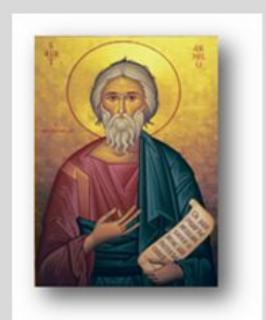
ST DAVID

655



ST ANDREW

479



House Points are given to children to encourage positive behaviour, promote a sense of community and to motivate them to work together towards a common good by earning points for effort, participation, and positive actions.



# Catholic Life of the School

The Year of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, was launched in January with special assemblies and discussions.

In February the St Thomas Chaplaincy Team joined other others in the Trust on a Chaplaincy Retreat, see photo below...



## WHAT IS A JUBILEE?

“JUBILEE” IS THE NAME GIVEN TO A PARTICULAR YEAR. A TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND WITH ALL OF CREATION.



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE



The Chaplaincy retreat was a fantastic opportunity to launch our Trust celebrations for the Jubilee Year of Hope. It was wonderful to have all nine schools represented, joining together as pilgrims of hope, pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love.

# PREPARING FOR THE LENTEN SEASON...



## CCS Lent Appeal

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>



### Lent Appeal 2025

This year our school is supporting the Catholic Children's Society Lent Appeal



All the money raised will go to local disadvantaged children and their families

Registered Charity No. 210920

### Become Pilgrims of Hope



Thank you for your support!

ON FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY WE WELCOMED MATT FROM THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY IN TO SCHOOL FOR A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY TO LAUNCH THE LENT APPEAL. NEXT WEEK, ALL FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE A CCS COLLECTION BOX, AND THE CHAPLAINCY TEAM WILL BE IN TOUCH SOON WITH FURTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS.



# Franciscan Values Awards

## Congratulations to our Spring 1 winners:

Early Years/Key Stage 1:

Lacie Mae-for kindness and being a lovely member of  
Early Years.

Key Stage 2:

Roman-for excellent manners and politeness.



Congratulations!



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



# RACIAL JUSTICE



## PILGRIMS OF HOPE: OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER TOWARDS RACIAL JUSTICE

This year, Racial Justice Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, 16 February 2025. The theme, Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice, invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and the wider society.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, said: "2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday. "This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice- past, present and future – by asking: 'How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?' "Just as pilgrims must prepare for their journey and be properly equipped, we, too, need all that is necessary to propel us towards racial justice - the mind of Christ; examination of our progress and of the challenges that remain; a willingness to learn from one another together; and prayers for and on the journey. "It is my hope that our Racial Justice Sunday 2025 resources will not only assist but inspire the People of God to continue walking and praying together on the path to racial justice."

**In school, we marked Racial Justice Sunday through prayer, reflection and discussion. As a school community, we are on a journey together towards a fairer, more inclusive world.**

Lord, You have made each of us special and unique, yet we are all part of one big family. Thank you for our friends, our school, and for the diverse cultures and traditions that make our world beautiful. You taught us to love one another, to be kind, and to stand up for what is right. Help us to welcome everyone, to treat others with fairness, and to make our school a place filled with friendship and respect. Help us to listen, to learn, and to speak up when we see injustice. Especially in this Year of Jubilee, guide us in building a future where everyone is treated with love, dignity and kindness.  
Amen.



# DANCE CLUB WITH



# MISS ROUX!



## AVAILABILITY

The Dance Club runs after school every Monday and is open to everyone from Reception to Year 6! You will be able to book your child's place in the summer term at the end of March for £5 per session through Arbor

# SPORTS

## NEWS



### THRILLING DRAW ENDS IN PENALTY HEARTBREAK FOR THOMAS TIGERS

On Thursday, February 7th, the Thomas Tigers faced off against St. Mary's Ware at the Hertford FC ground. Both teams put on an outstanding performance, and after a thrilling match, the score stood at 4-4 at full time. As it was a cup game, the match went to penalties, where, unfortunately, the Tigers were narrowly defeated 3-2 in a heart-wrenching finish.



### AWESOME ATHLETICS

On Wednesday 26th February, Year 5/6 attended the Hertford and Ware Sports Partnership 'Sportshall Athletics' event at Wodson Park. It was a fantastic morning, with everyone competing, cheering each other on and enjoying themselves. We were absolutely delighted with the children's attitude and performance, which resulted in a 2nd place for the boys, and 4th for the girls (who were only 2 points shy of 3rd!).



## Other news...



A team of Year 3/4 are participating in a Rapid Fire Cricket Event on Monday 3rd March. Selected pupils were notified by letter. We look forward to seeing how they get on!



**Classroom  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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*Science Week*  
**COMING SOON!**

*Science Lessons every day!*

*Enter our Science Fair competition - prizes to be won!*

*Apply to be a 'St Thomas' Science Ambassador'*

*Visit the science shop to buy your own science kits*

*Take on the role of a forensic scientist and solve a crime!*



**10th - 14th  
March  
2025**

**Further details to follow soon...**

# Notices and reminders



Pancake Races

Tues 4th March

2-2:15: Early Years

2:15-2:30: Year 1/2

2:30-2:45: Year 3/4

2:45-3:00: Year 5/6

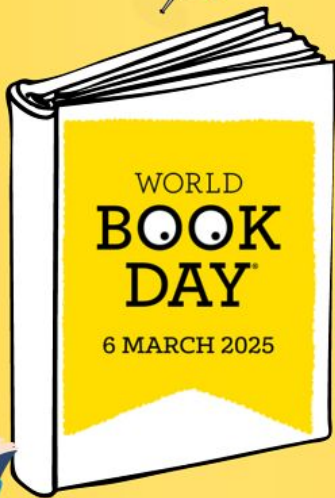
Parents welcome to spectate!



Ash Wednesday Mass (Yr 1-6)  
Weds 5th March 2:00 pm

(in Church)

Parents and families  
warmly welcome



Rescheduled PTA Disco:

Thursday 6th March 3:15-

4:30pm



Prayer Service for Year 3/4

Fri 7th March

Parents and families

warmly welcome



Science Week!

10th - 14th March

