



Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the new school year! It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new routines. Thank you to all who attended our recent Parent Phonics and Early Reading Workshop, we hope you found it useful. If you were unable to join us, the resources are available on the school website.

Your feedback is always highly valued. We are very grateful to those who completed our annual Parent Survey, the results of which will directly inform our School Improvement Plan. To further strengthen our partnership, I will be establishing a termly Parent Forum, more details will follow soon.

### Parent Survey Headlines:

We were delighted to receive 52 responses, with a broadly equal split between Key Stages:

94% of parents understand and support the school's Catholic mission.

92% agree the school provides a good Catholic education and ethos.

85% say their child feels safe in school.

85% feel staff are positive role models.

83% believe their child is happy in school.

79% believe the school is well led and managed.

### Pupil Survey Headlines

Key Stage 1 (29 responses):

· 100% shared they enjoy school and learning

· 97% said they have an adult at school to talk to if something is worrying them

· 97% feel safe at school

Key Stage 2 (47 responses):

· 100% shared they enjoyed school and learning

· 100% said they have an adult at school to talk to if something is worrying them

· 96% feel safe at school

### School Improvement Considerations and Next Steps

Building on this positive feedback, our next steps include:

Establishing a Parent Forum.

Providing a consistent weekly Tapestry and Seesaw summary of learning from each class.

Continuing with the Week at a Glance parent update.

Launching the school's Instagram page.

Introducing the Junior Duke Programme to further enrich the curriculum and children's life experiences.

In addition, all Trust Primary Schools will continue with the Oracy Voice21 Programme, supporting pupils' speaking and listening skills.

Writing will also remain a key area of focus across Key Stages 1 and 2, with staff working collaboratively across the Trust to strengthen the writing curriculum.

For more information, please see our latest Performance Data on the school website. We are especially proud of the strong outcomes in Early Years, Year 1 Phonics, and Key Stage 2 reading, writing, and maths - all of which are above both National and Hertfordshire results.

I look forward to working in continued partnership with you this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the School Office or by email.

Best wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head



Follow us on  
Instagram

[stthomasofcanterbury.herts](https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.herts)

# Attendance Matters

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers, realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At St Thomas of Canterbury we continue to work hard to maintain our excellent attendance levels and to reduce lateness. Please be reminded that school starts (and the register is taken) at 08:45 am prompt.

## Attendance facts:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the local authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly; this includes taking a child out of school on holiday.
- The local authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.

## SAFEGUARDING AT ST THOMAS'

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies straightaway.

**If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999**

**Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:** The Safeguarding Team oversee and co-ordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe. They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Mrs Wendy Clark

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:** Mrs Michelle Keating, Mrs Emma Overett, Mrs Wendy Sellers

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our school website

We  
Welcome



...four new  
members of  
staff to our  
St Thomas'  
family!



**Miss Neary: Year 1 & 2 Teacher**



**Mrs Barrett: Year 5 & 6 Teacher  
(shared with Mrs W Clark)**



**Mr Lucy: Site Manager**



**Ms Danzey: Learning Support Assistant**



# PUPIL VOICE

**We are very proud of our new school uniform!**

I love the new fleeces- they are fluffier than the brown ones.  
KS2 Pupil

I love the blue, it is my second favourite colour!  
KS1 Pupil

I think the combination of yellow and blue looks fantastic!  
KS2 Pupil

I really like the new uniform because I think it looks smarter!  
KS1 Pupil



After last year's consultation, we are delighted with how smart the children look in the new St Thomas' uniform. It is wonderful to see them taking such pride in their appearance.

We also hope that the updated colours will make it easier for parents to find items in supermarkets and other suppliers.



All unbranded 'old style' uniform had been recycled. We are liaising with a specialist to enable us to recycle branded items.

*We have nominated our Pupil Voice teams for this year.*

*These children have been chosen as excellent role models who will lead projects throughout the school*

## **Chaplaincy Team**



*Danny; Jude B; Leo; Rufus; Zach;  
Dorothy; Aoife; Yori; Jack; Harry*

## **School Council**



*Mason; Wesley; Ava; Noah  
C; Elliott; Lucia; Ellis;  
Spencer; Yori; Lucia;  
Marjorie; Noah P*

## **Sports Committee**



*Orlaith; Aoife;  
Leo T; Thomas;  
Alice; Roman;  
Sienna M;  
Cruse; Jack;  
Luca; Elsie*

# Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your  
peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow  
love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.

Amen



**We will be celebrating in  
school the Feast of St Francis  
on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

# HARVEST APPEAL

harvest  
BLESSINGS



Early Years will be celebrating Harvest Celebration Morning at 09:15 am on 9th October, to which Early Years Parents are invited. Once again we are supporting the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank and we kindly request donations of dried and tinned goods for this worthy cause. Please refer to the Food Bank's website for details of what is currently most needed. <https://www.bishopsstortfordfoodbank.com/> Thank you.





# **SPORT** **UPDATES**

It may be in early in the term but we have already attended two fantastic sports events this term: The Wodson Games (Year 6) and a Sports Development Day for Year 3/4



**Exciting new clubs have started at St Thomas' - it is not too late to join!!**



**Sign your child up now (and pay a pro rata fee!)**

## St Thomas of Canterbury Active Morning Club

**St Thomas Active Morning Club:**

<https://forms.gle/dguH6JtF79eKSQs7A>

### Session Details

For Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

- **Day:** Mondays
- **Time:** 7:45am – 8:45am
- **Dates:** 29th September 2025 – 15th December 2025
- **Exclusions:** No club on 27th October
- **Duration:** 11 weeks
- **Cost:** £88.00 (£8.00 per session)

*(Flyers with link also sent out via email)*

**Medals and stickers to be won!!!**

**Sign your child up now (and pay a pro rata fee!)**



**St Thomas After-School Football Club:**

## St Thomas of Canterbury After School Football Club

[https://forms.gle/ JBZC DJRgeFUbEWhC8](https://forms.gle/JBZC DJRgeFUbEWhC8)

*(Flyers with link also sent out via email)*

### Session Details

For Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

- **Day:** Mondays
- **Time:** 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- **Dates:** 29th September 2025 – 8th December 2025
- **Exclusions:** No sessions on 27th October
- **Duration:** 10 weeks
- **Cost:** £72.00 (£7.20 per session)



**Sign your child up now!**

**St Thomas' Get Active Morning Club with Kitteridge All Sports:**

<https://www.kitteridgeallsportsltd.com/schoolclubs>

*(Flyers with link also sent out via email)*

**K.A.S.**  
**KITTERIDGE ALL SPORTS SCHOOL CLUBS**

GET-ACTIVE SPORTS CLUB

**AUTUMN TERM**  
(W/C 08.09.25)

**SESSIONS INCLUDE:**

- Warm-up Activities
- Indoor ball games
- Energised 4 the day ahead
- Inclusive games 4 ALL

**WHO CAN JOIN?**  
Boys and girls  
Year 1-6  
All skill levels welcome

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
FRIDAY MORNINGS  
7.45am - 8.45am  
[www.kitteridgeallsportsltd.com](http://www.kitteridgeallsportsltd.com)

**DODGEBALL**  
5D'S  
**DODGEBALL SCHOOL CLUBS**

Get ready to Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive & DODGE!!!

**AUTUMN TERM**  
(W/C 08.09.25)

**SESSION STRUCTURE:**

- Warm-up Activities
- Throwing & Catching
- Tactical understanding
- Matchplay to finish!!

**WHO CAN JOIN?**  
Boys and girls  
Yr 4-6  
All skill levels welcome

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
Friday Afterschool  
3.15pm-4.15pm  
[www.5dsdodgeballclub.com](http://www.5dsdodgeballclub.com)

**Sign your child up now!**

**St Thomas' Dodgeball Club with Kitteridge All Sports:**

<https://www.5dsdodgeballclub.com/school-clubs>

*(Flyers with link also sent out via email)*

# Join Our PTA!



# Join US

**Co Chairs:** Mrs Warden; Mrs Chandler

**Vice Chair:** Mrs Slabber

**Treasurer:** **Vacancy**

The funds we raise make learning more engaging and enjoyable, and the memories created will stay with your children for a lifetime. There are so many ways to get involved – from helping at an event, taking notes at a meeting, gathering raffle prizes, or coordinating a coffee morning. Even 30 minutes of your time once a term would make a huge difference. If every parent gave just half an hour, imagine what we could achieve together!

- Get involved in events, share your ideas, and help shape fundraising!
- Meet other parents and be part of a supportive, like-minded community!
- Show your children the power of teamwork and community spirit!
- Create lasting memories through events like Christmas Fayres, Colour Runs, Discos, Film Nights, and Fun Quizzes!



**We need a Treasurer for the PTA! Please contact the PTA or the School Office if you would like to put yourself forward for this role.**



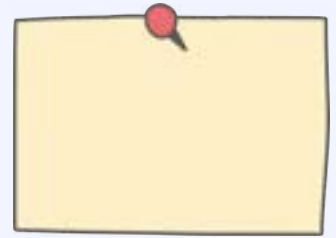
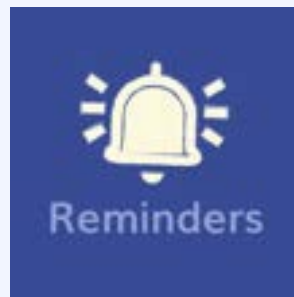
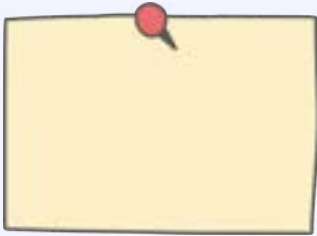
## Upcoming Events - further details to follow!








**What:** PTA Autumn Disco

**When:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (3:30 - 5:00 pm)

**What:** Christmas Fayre

**When:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December (3:30 - 5:00 pm)



-  We are holding two Open Mornings in November (11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 09:00 am) for Nursery and Reception admissions in September 2026. Please email Mrs Sellers [admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk) of your preferred date, along with your contact number and child's name. Admission applications open on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 25 and close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 26.
-  The deadline for Secondary applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October, see website for details: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-and-upper-schools/secondary-and-upper-school-places.aspx>
-  Please return your Photograph / Image Consent Forms by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September latest. Our new photography company are coming to take the children's individual and sibling photos on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. They will also be taking some photos of the children for the website on this day so please ensure forms are returned in plenty of time to record your consent.
-  On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Aspens Catering are holding a "Where's Wally (Burger/Veggie Burger" theme day lunch with the opportunity to win a VIP lunch with the Head! Please encourage your child to have a school lunch on this day!
-  No Nuts and Coconuts - A reminder that we have a strict "No Nuts" and "No Coconut" policy at our school. Please ensure all snacks and lunch boxes are completely nut/coconut free; we have several children in the school with epipens who are at high risk of anaphylaxis.
-  A reminder that no food or sweets are brought into school to celebrate Birthdays. We have adopted this policy to avoid the risk of allergic reactions, respect cultural and dietary needs, promote healthy choices, and reduce pressure on families during a time of rising living costs. Instead, we encourage other meaningful ways to mark your child's Birthday at school, such as donating a book to the class library; bringing in a sticker for each child; choosing a special classroom job or privilege for the day
-  Please ensure all clubs and trips are settled promptly through Arbor. If you have any difficulties making the payments, please contact the School Office.