

St Thomas of Canterbury



November Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we reflect on a very busy November, our month began with Anti-Bullying Week, recognised in a Whole School Assembly under the theme *Power for Good*. Every child wrote their own anti-bullying pledge on a brick to add to a wall of kindness, to remind us of different ways to use kindness as our superpower.

In addition, the PTA organised and helped to lead a whole-school Bounce fundraiser, with every class taking turns to bounce on a giant bouncy castle throughout the morning. A grand total of well over £1000 was raised to fund a number of new PE resources to enhance our PE curriculum – a huge thank you to all involved!

To commemorate Remembrance, Year 5 and Year 6 led a very poignant Act of Worship. We were pleased to welcome Major Alun Powell, who reinforced the significance of this national event. Together, we prayed and reflected on the many thousands of people who lost their lives in war and conflict (see pages 2-4).

We recently enjoyed an exciting whole-school LEGO Workshop designed to inspire creative and constructive minds! Early Years had a special Duplo focus and created the most amazing international landmarks (see pages 5,6 and 7).

Thank you for attending our recent Parent Consultations. We were delighted with the excellent level of parental participation and greatly appreciate the valuable feedback shared. As part of our ongoing Trust-wide collaboration and commitment to School Improvement, staff representatives from each school continue to develop Oracy through CPD with the Voice21 programme.

We now approach the Liturgical Season of Advent, and we are pleased to announce that Father John Cunningham will be celebrating Mass with Years 1–6 at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Monday 1st December at 2:00 pm. All parents are warmly invited to join us. To reinforce the Liturgical colour purple, as we prepare for the birth of Christ, each child has created a purple decoration for our school Christmas tree. Children and staff have also been given a purple ribbon to remind them of their Advent promise. A sincere thank you to Miss Newton for preparing these for us.

Best wishes, Mrs M Keating



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

Catholic Life



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 (Nov 1st), and the feast of the Holy Souls (Nov 2nd). Within this month, we also commemorate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom honours the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices that were made in past wars.

God our loving Father, during November, the month of the Holy Souls, you helped us to honour those who have died. Hear us as we continue to pray for loved ones who have moved on from this world to join you in heaven. Through our prayers, may we know that your love unites all your children, in heaven and on earth, now and forever.

Amen.

**November is the Month
of the Holy Souls**

Remembrance





On Remembrance day, Year 5/6 led a moving Remembrance Liturgy, guiding our school community in honouring those who have served and reminding us of the importance of Remembrance Day and the month of November as a special time of remembrance in the Catholic Church. The liturgy featured beautiful artwork and handmade paper poppies created by the children, as well as thoughtful Remembrance cinquains. We were also hugely honoured to be visited by Major Alun Powell, a veteran with over 35 years of service. As well as being guest of honour at our liturgy, he also spent time doing a Q&A in Year $\frac{3}{4}$ and EYFS.



Anti-bullying week 2025



During anti-bullying week we explored how kindness is our superpower. The whole school started the week with an anti-bullying assembly, we had special sessions from the NSPCC for Y1/2 and Y5/6 and all classes focused on bullying and the power of kindness in their PSHE lessons. Every pupil has written a kindness pledge on a brick template for our wall of kindness display.



NSPCC 'SPEAK OUT, STAY SAFE' WORKSHOPS

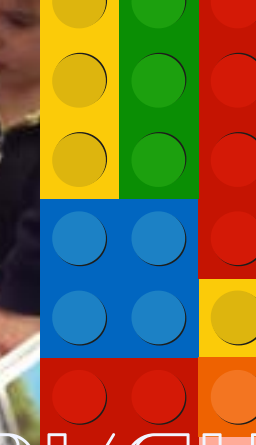


During Anti-bullying week, Y1/2 and Y5/6 had in person workshops with the NSPCC as part of our participation in the NSPCC's Speak out, Stay safe programme. Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme that aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect.

PTA SPONSORED BOUNCE



A huge thank you to everyone for your sponsorship-we raised over £1000 that will be put towards new playground and sports equipment.



LEGO WORKSHOP DAY



Pupils from Years 1 to 6 took part in an exciting whole-school LEGO workshop, kindly funded by our wonderful PTA. Our EYFS children joined in too, linking the session to their Geography topic by using Duplo to build well-known landmarks. Throughout the day, children created LEGO self-portraits, worked collaboratively to build the tallest towers, and designed models of their favourite animals. Their creativity, problem-solving and teamwork skills shone through, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the children, and the workshop linked brilliantly to our Design & Technology curriculum.







SPORT UPDATES

A group of our Key Stage 1 children recently attended a fantastic sports festival run by the Hertford and Ware Sports Partnership. They took part in a wide range of activities, including dance, archery, kurling and bocchia, and approached each event with great enthusiasm. The children had a wonderful time trying new skills and working together!





Year 2 Football

St Edmund's College

Year 2 were invited to a football festival hosted by St Edmund's College. It was rather chilly but they worked brilliantly as a team and everyone participated fully. They were even given goodie bags to take home. A huge well done to Hudson and Clement who were both selected as player of the match.





Our first order of Junior Duke booklets have been given out to the children. Mrs Clark will shortly be sending further information on which of the challenges will be covered at school, but feel free to get going!

If you missed the order deadline, it isn't too late to join the fun as a second order will be put in next week. Please pay via Arbor.



Reminders and Notices



Nursery and Reception Admissions:

The closing dates for Applications (to start in September 2026) are as follows:

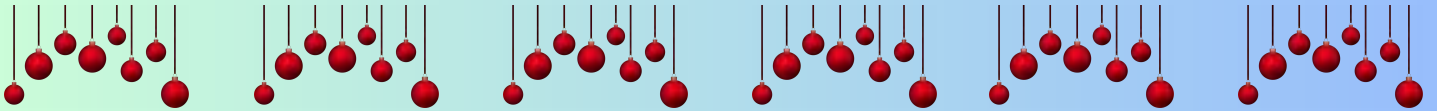
Nursery Applications: 13th December 2025

Reception Applications: 15th January 2026

A reminder that parents of Nursery children need to re-apply for Reception

Clubs for Spring Term:

Look out in mid December for notification of the spring term clubs, and book your child's place on Arbor and via the links as usual. Unfortunately, the Monday and Friday Early Morning Clubs will no longer be running due to the low uptake. Lots of other fun clubs running though!



**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 3:30 - ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY PTA
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Thank you for your kind donations so far. There is still plenty of time to purchase Raffle Tickets, fantastic prizes to be won!

Bring your family and friends to our fun packed Fayre this Friday!

- The PTA have very kindly contributed towards **Mr Marvel** (Early Years and Year 1) and **the Panto** (Years 2 to 6), taking place on **Wednesday 10th December**. Please make your payment through Arbor.
- **Christmas Lunch** (*please add this to your calendars as it was not listed on the Autumn Term Diary Dates sheet sent at the beginning of term*) will be on **Wednesday 17th December**, please ensure you have confirmed your order via Select
- **Christmas Performances** - please refer to the recent letter sent for details and book your tickets by returning the form as soon as possible!