

# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

## January NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

The month of January has whizzed by, I have been so impressed with how quickly the children settled back into the new term.

The term began with our Trust Inset, where teaching staff across our Trust joined together in a range of continuing professional development including exploring the Hertfordshire Therapeutic approach to behaviour management and curriculum subject leadership. We also had our first ever SEND Conference for teaching assistants and all staff had time to reflect on the Pope's Apostolic Letter. The strength in unity and collaboration across the Trust, to drive school improvement for the benefit of all children, is very apparent.

On the feast of Epiphany (6th January), the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica closing, signified the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope. As pilgrims of Hope, it has been a year of reflection and focus as we grow in faith together.

On page 4, you will see examples of how we value and celebrate inclusion, through exploring a greater understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity. This will be a particular focus over the coming term.

Finally, with Safer Internet Day approaching on 10th February, please do take the opportunity to attend our parent workshop (2nd February), to find out more about how to keep your child safe online. See page 5 for further details.

Best wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head Teacher

## House Points

**St David**  
416

**St Patrick**  
534

**St Andrew**  
305

**St George**  
326

# Catholic Life and Mission



We had a lovely celebration of the Epiphany when we returned from the festive break, gathering as a school community to reflect on the visit of the Three Wise Men and the light they followed. As always, we thank Father John for leading the Mass.

## Early Years Prayer Service

Early Years held the first prayer service of the year on the theme of: “Sharing God’s Love”



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE – LIVING THE JUBILEE LEGACY

The Jubilee Year of Hope formally concluded on 6th January 2026, but its spirit is not confined to a date. This month schools were invited to carry forward the Jubilee legacy by embedding hope, justice, and compassion into their everyday Catholic life and mission.

See below for our beautiful ‘doves of hope’ display...





## NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL DAY AT ST THOMAS'

Last week we celebrated what makes us unique by coming to school in clothing and hairstyles that reflect who we are. It was a fantastic opportunity to embrace individuality, start conversations, and celebrate differences—from personality and appearance to neurodiversity.

During a whole school assembly, we explored neurodiversity and the classroom resources available to support different learning needs, as well as the importance of empathy, tolerance, and understanding others.

Each class took part in an exciting online music session led by Electric Umbrella, featuring their learning-disabled performers and professional musicians. This vibrant half-hour of inclusive music-making celebrates acceptance, individuality, and the joy of diversity. Following on from this the children had additional PSHE sessions where they designed their unique personal learning profile making choices about which universal provision, they would like to trial using to support their learning. In future all children at St Thomas' will be encouraged to self advocate for that they need in order to learn best!

To find out more about Electric Umbrella, please visit: [No Such Thing as Normal Day – Electric Umbrella](#)



**We raised £186 which will go towards classroom resources to support all learner needs.**





# Discovery

In preparation for Safer Internet Day on 10th February, we are delighted to welcome the Three Discovery Team into school on Monday 2nd February to deliver a series of free workshops for all classes. These creative digital sessions are designed to help young people build confidence and practical skills with technology, supporting both our Computing curriculum and eSafety learning.

Workshop themes for each year group are as follows:

Reception: Digital Poster Making

Years 1 & 2: Cartoon Making

Years 3 & 4: Stop Motion Animation

Years 5 & 6: Movie Making

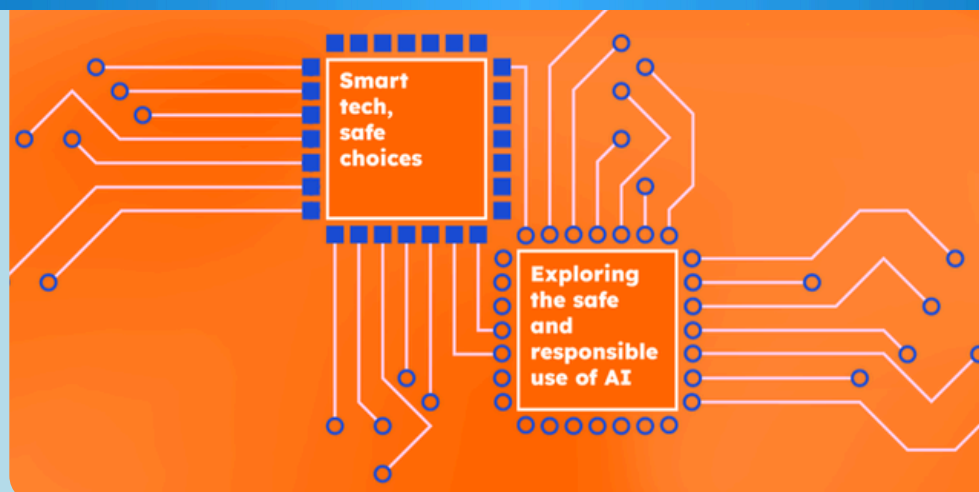
We are also very pleased to invite you to an Online Safety Workshop for parents and carers, run by Three, taking place on **Monday 2nd February from 3:30–4:15pm**.

This informative session will focus on how to keep children safe online, including:

- Practical tips for supporting your child's digital safety
- Features and tools available on devices to help manage online activity
- An overview of parental controls on popular platforms and games, including Roblox which has recently been highlighted in the media for the importance of using its safety settings effectively

The workshop aims to help families feel more confident navigating the online world with their children and to provide simple, effective strategies you can use at home. We hope you will be able to join us for this valuable session.

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026 WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY 2026, WITH CELEBRATIONS AND LEARNING BASED AROUND THE THEME 'SMART TECH, SAFE CHOICES – EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI'. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE SENT OUT SHORTLY.



# Attendance

As we begin the new year, we want to encourage a fresh start and a renewed focus on excellent school attendance. Regular attendance plays a vital role in helping children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. However, we also appreciate that there are currently plenty of germs going round. If you are unsure whether your child is too ill for school, you can refer to this useful NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Punctuality is just as important as attendance. Please be reminded that our school day begins between 8.30 and 8:45, and arriving during this time ensures children start the day calmly, take part in morning routines, and are ready to learn alongside their peers. Late arrivals can be unsettling for children and may cause them to miss key instructions or morning learning activities. Thank you for supporting your child by ensuring they arrive on time each day.

## January Attendance Stats

Year N: 12 students, Present attendance 95.1%  
Year R: 14 students, Present attendance 93.4%  
Year 1: 14 students, Present attendance 91.9%  
Year 2: 16 students, Present attendance 92.6%  
Year 3: 14 students, Present attendance 95.4%  
Year 4: 15 students, Present attendance 97.5%  
Year 5: 14 students, Present attendance 89.3%  
Year 6: 13 students, Present attendance 92.3%



## Reminder for Parents/Carers

If your child experiences any significant injury at home, please let the school know as soon as possible. This helps our staff provide appropriate care, monitor any changes, and clearly understand whether an injury occurred outside of school.

If a child arrives with an unexplained injury, we will follow up with a phone call to ensure we have the necessary information to keep them safe and supported.

Thank you for your cooperation.





# REMINDERS AND NOTICES

SAVE THE DATE



## PARENT EVENTS NEXT WEEK:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 15:30 - Three Discovery Workshop for Parents
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 09:00 - Parent Forum (First Meeting)
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 14:45 - KS 1 Prayer Service
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 19:00 - PTA Quiz Night

## REMINDERS:



- Remember to check the "Next Week at a Glance" and Spring Term Diary Dates for forthcoming events
- A reminder that the PE kit should be in school every day
- Children should be wearing smart black school shoes in school. We have noticed some children wearing more casual shoes / trainers. Please see [link](#) to our uniform page; if any parents are having difficulties financing this, please do contact the school