

St Thomas of Canterbury

APRIL

NEWSLETTER



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the very warm welcome I have received since joining St Thomas'. I have already been made to feel very much part of this special community and I am extremely grateful for the kindness and support shown by children, staff and families alike. My office has been full of lovely pictures and cards from the children which has been so welcoming.

It has been a real pleasure to begin getting to know the children. I have been so impressed by their enthusiasm, good manners and the way they live out the values of our school and Catholic ethos each day. Spending time in classrooms and around the school has been a wonderful way to see their learning, confidence and personalities shine through.

As we continue through this term, we do so in the joy of Easter, a season of hope, renewal and new life. This feels especially fitting at this time of the year, and it has been lovely to see the children reflecting on the meaning of Easter in their worship and learning. It has also been wonderful to see the arrival of the warmer weather and brighter days. The sunshine has brought a lovely energy to the school, and it has been a pleasure to see the children enjoying their time outdoors.

We are also now moving into the month of May, a special month in the life of the Church, dedicated to Our Lady, Mary. This gives us a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect and continue to nurture the faith that is at the heart of our school community.

I look forward to working together with you all in the months ahead as we continue to support every child to flourish in faith, learning and happiness.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend
God bless,
Mrs Worton-Geer
Executive Headteacher

Catholic Life of the School

Easter Season

We continue to celebrate the joy of Easter, the most important season in the Church's year. Through the Resurrection, Jesus conquers sin and death, offering new life, hope, and the promise of salvation to all. The Easter season lasts for 50 days and invites us to live as people of the Resurrection—renewed in faith, committed to love, and active in bringing hope to others. It is a time to reflect on how Christ's victory shapes the way we live, treat others, and respond to the world around us.

Risen Jesus, We rejoice that you are alive and with us. Make us messengers of Easter joy and hope for all the world. Amen.



MAY The Month of Mary

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who holds a unique and honoured place in the life of the Church. Mary is the model of discipleship: she listens to God's word, trusts in His plan, and responds with faith and generosity. Her "yes" to God shows complete openness and courage, and her example invites us to grow in humility, prayer, and service. Devotion to Mary helps us to deepen our relationship with Christ and to reflect on how we respond to God in our own lives.

On Friday 1st May we will have a special procession and crowning of Mary. The children are invited to bring a flower to dedicate to Mary. This is a special opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer and reflection, honouring Mary in a simple and meaningful way.

SAFEGUARDING

This term, we will be focusing on safety by carrying out important emergency drills. We have already completed our fire drill, helping to ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of an evacuation.

During the fire drill, pupils and staff practised leaving the building efficiently and assembling safely at designated points.

Later this term, we will also be conducting a lockdown drill. This will help prepare us for situations where it may be safer to remain inside the building. The drill will be introduced and explained to pupils in a calm, age-appropriate, and sensitive way, ensuring they understand its purpose without causing unnecessary concern. Staff will support them throughout, reinforcing that these practices are precautionary and designed to keep everyone safe.

MEET TECHOSAURUS, THE NSPCC'S NEW ONLINE SAFETY DINOSAUR!



Children are growing up in a time where screens are everywhere and the internet plays a big part in their lives, even from a very young age.

This can be beneficial, they can learn new things, connect with friends and family, and have fun. But it's important to have conversations on how to explore the online world safely.

That's where Techosaurus, comes in!

We understand that talking about online safety can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. The NSPCC have created Techosaurus specifically to make these conversations as easy as possible for you and your child.

Techosaurus is aimed at little ones who are starting to use technology and the internet, and keeps the conversation around online safety positive. Techosaurus will help your child to form healthy online habits, routines and behaviours from a young age, and build basic knowledge and skills related to online safety.

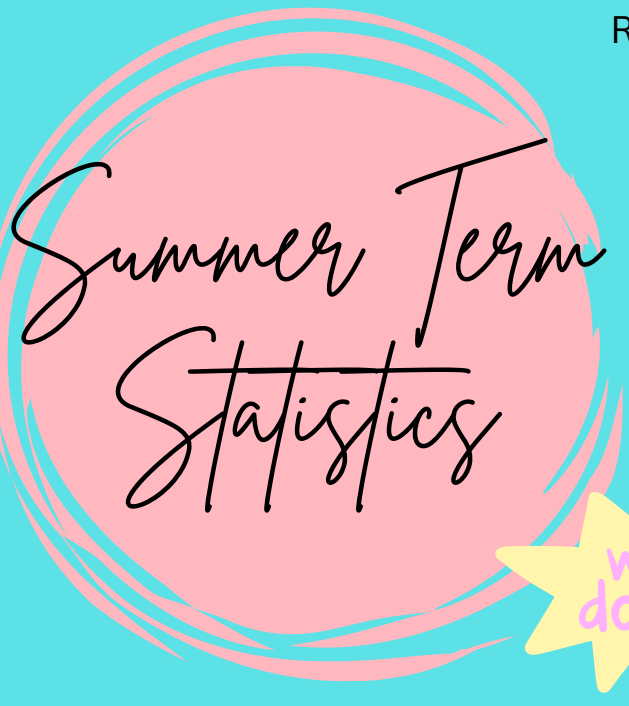
You can find out more and view the Techosaurus resources here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>

Attendance

GOOD ATTENDANCE IS A VITAL PART OF KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE, HAPPY, AND ABLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR BEST. BEING IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY SUPPORTS NOT ONLY LEARNING, BUT ALSO CHILDREN'S WELLBEING, FRIENDSHIPS, AND SENSE OF ROUTINE.

WE ASK PARENTS AND CARERS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY AND ARRIVE ON TIME EACH DAY. IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL OR UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL PROMPTLY.

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH ATTENDANCE, WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU—PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH. WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP ENSURE EVERY CHILD FEELS SECURE, SUPPORTED, AND READY TO LEARN.

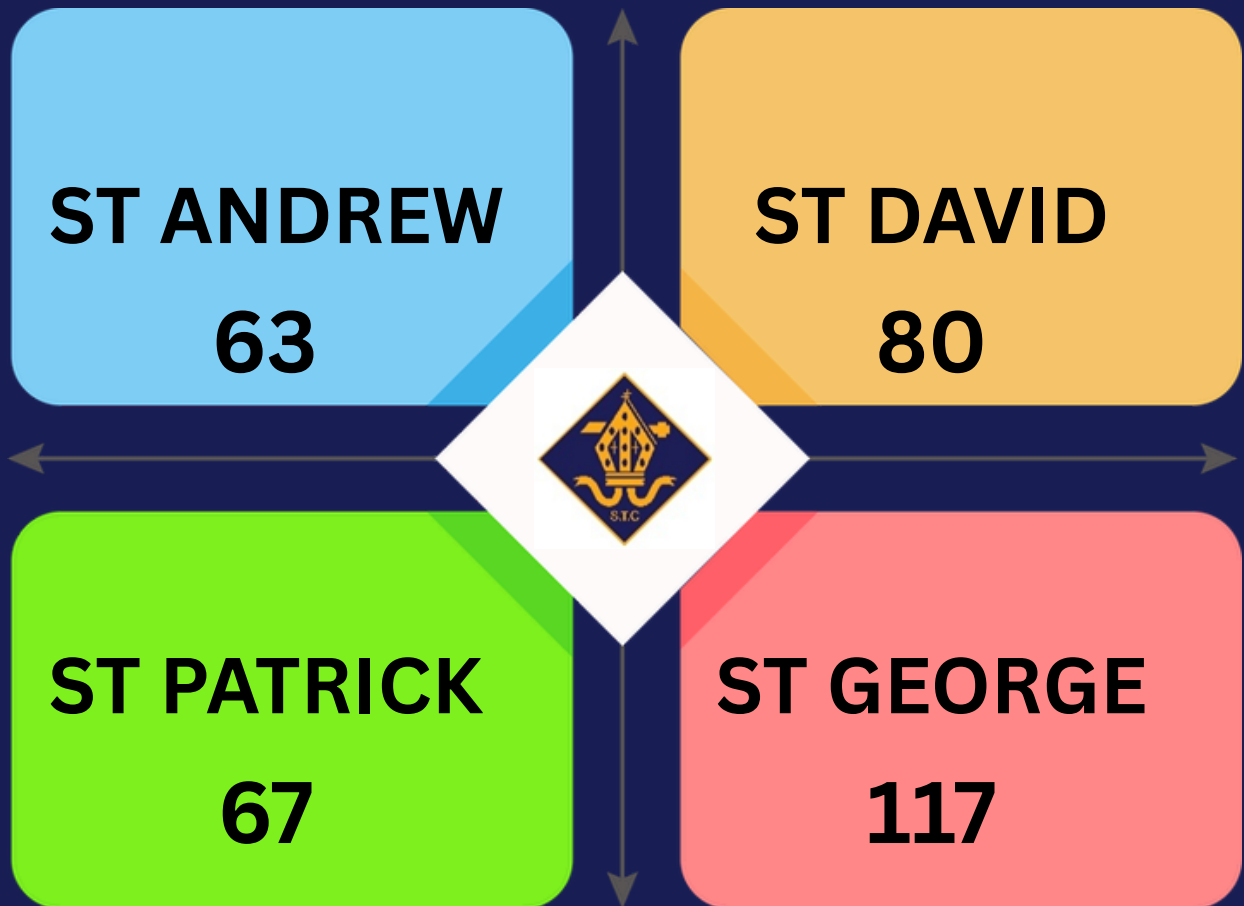


YEAR R: PRESENT ATTENDANCE IS 94.7%
YEAR 1: PRESENT ATTENDANCE IS 94.5%
YEAR 2: ATTENDANCE IS EXCELLENT AT 99.5%
YEAR 3: PERFECT ATTENDANCE AT 100%
YEAR 4: PRESENT ATTENDANCE IS 94.2%
YEAR 5: ATTENDANCE IS GOOD AT 97.1%
YEAR 6: PRESENT ATTENDANCE IS 98.1%

Holiday Requests

Please be reminded that term-time holiday requests are rarely authorised, with approval limited to only the most exceptional circumstances. Unauthorized holidays of 10 or more sessions (5 days) over a 10-week period will result in a penalty notice fine of £160 per parent, per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

House Points



**Congratulations to
St George's House!**



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY:

This year, one of our key school improvement initiatives has been the introduction of a new geography program called Kapow. This program emphasises outdoor learning and fieldwork, allowing students to explore and learn more extensively from their local environment.

Recently, our Year 3/4 students went on an exciting geography field trip around the local area. They enjoyed a beautiful morning in the sunshine, carefully following a planned route. During this expedition, they focused on identifying human and physical features and discussed how our local settlement has evolved over time. This experience will also support their future studies on rivers later in the summer term.

Meanwhile, our Year 5/6 students spent a morning surveying litter in our pond area. This activity builds on their previous lessons about maintaining the cleanliness and health of oceans and other bodies of water.

Year 3/4





YEAR 5/6

Caring for the environment



In addition to surveying litter in the pond area, Year 5/6 carried out a full litter pick of the school grounds.

Demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility as stewards of creation, they collected and safely disposed of two full bags of rubbish. We are very proud of their efforts in caring for our school environment.



Notices and Reminders



**Friday 1st May: May Procession and Crowning of Mary
(pupils only)**

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday - School is closed

**Wednesday 6th May - Reception Screening;
Reception Balance Bike Session (1 of 2)**

**Friday 8th May - David Attenborough's 100th Birthday
Celebrations; KS 1 Prayer Service 14:45**

**Monday 11th -Thursday 14th May: Year 6 SATs -
Children arrive for 8:15 am breakfast!**

**Monday 11th May - KS 1 Infant Agility Sports
at Sele School/**

A reminder that the Early Years Induction Meeting for our New Nursery and Reception parents has been changed to Thursday 21st May at 3:30 pm. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.