



16TH JANUARY 2026
NEWSLETTER



UNITY



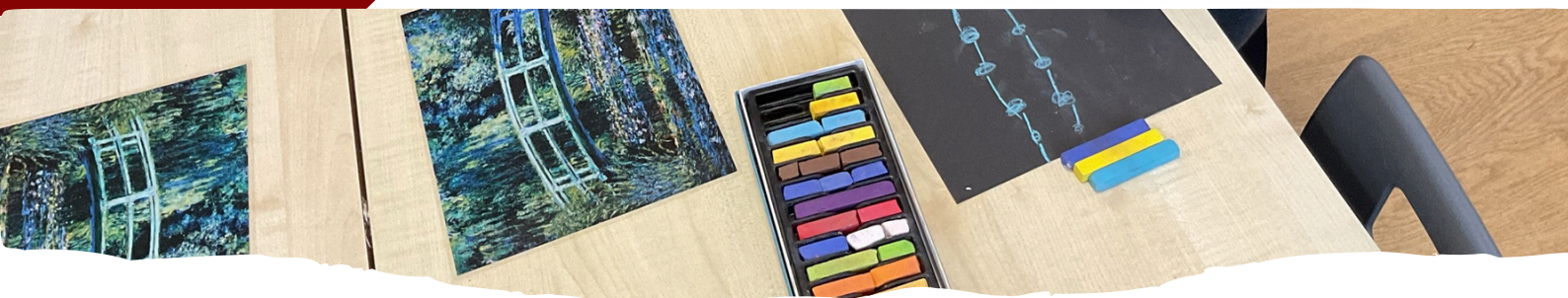
LOVE




PERSEVERANCE

Matthew 5:14-16

SHINE BRIGHT YOUR LIGHT



Exploring Our Vision

 Our vision is that we enable every child to 'shine bright their light.' This is a key message from Matthew 5:14-16. It combines the message of, 'You are the light of the world' and 'let your light shine.' We are clear about our mission -lighting up lives so that they may share the light.

Jesus calls us to be like a candle held in God's hands, bringing light to His world. Love represents the flame, unity is represented by the wick and perseverance the wax which together provide the light to follow our vision.

PRAYER

Dear God

Thank You for everyone who supports us each and every day. Help us to remember how to show love and compassion in all that we do, Amen.

KEY EVENTS

Monday 19th January

Year 4 swimming begins, daily for 2 weeks also Bikeability Y5/6 children know which groups they are in

Tuesday 20th

Bouncing Back workshop Y5/6

Monday 26th

Y1 Mastering number workshop

Tuesday 27th

Y2 mastering number workshop

Wednesday 28th

Growing peace project Y3

Friday 30th

Asia coffee morning

MESSAGES

We have had a great week with Bikeability starting in Year 5&6 and the children in Year 1 & 2 having a virtual visit from Florence Nightingale! We also welcomed His Majesty's Inspectors for Schools. It was a pleasure to share our amazing school with the team and in the coming weeks we will be able to share the full report. Thank you to our children and families who always endorse our three rules, Ready, Respectful, Motivated. The children were a credit to us all. Thank you to our wonderful staff team who always give their all for the benefit of all of our pupils. They are superb human beings.

THIS WEEK



Lots of laughter could be heard in board games club this week. We had such a good time and all played fairly.

ATTENDANCE: STC 96.4% NATIONAL 94.8%

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
93.2%	97.8%	98.1%	96.7%	94.9%	98%	95.2%



ST THOMAS CANTILUPE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Coningsby Street, Hereford HR1 2DY

admin@st-thomascantilupe.hereford.sch.uk

01432 268400

@st-thomascantilupe.bsky.social

www.st-thomascantilupe.org



STC Curriculum Focus



Training days:
Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
and Friday 17th July 2026
May Day: Monday 4th May 2026

Term Dates:

Autumn

Starts
3.9.25
Half Term
27.10.25 - 31.10.25
Ends
19.12.25

Spring

Starts
06.01.26
Half Term
16.02.26-20.02.26
Ends
27.03.26

Summer

Starts
13.04.26
Half Term
25.05.26-29.05.26
Ends
16.07.26

Nursery & Year R



Reception have been learning their number bonds to 5 by playing 5 pin bowling! They have had so much fun seeing who can knock over the most pins and working out how many are left to get. [#perseverencestc](#)

Year 1 & Year 2



To launch our new TFW unit on Kassim and the Greedy Dragon, the Y2 children designed their own dragons using sketching pencils and watercolours. We're so proud of their imaginative final pieces! 🐉👉 [#lovestc](#) [#englishstc](#) [#artstc](#) [#ks1stc](#) [@piecorbett.bsky.social](#)

Year 3 & Year 4



Class 4 foraged among nature to create pieces of art. What magnificent ideas they had. [#artstc](#) [#lovestc](#) [#natureinart](#)

Year 5 & Year 6



Class 6 are focusing on Malala's Magic Pencil this week. We have used continuous line drawings to show what we would draw to change the world. We are inspired by Malala's courageous advocacy ✨ [#loveSTC](#) [#artSTC](#) [@accessart.bsky.social](#)



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PERSEVERANCE



Reception children took part in their first balance bike club session on Wednesday! They had a brilliant time and showed buckets full of perseverance.

'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' Matthew 28:20

Fuelled by perseverance: To burn for a long time, a candle needs lots of wax. Perseverance is like wax: it is our fuel to burn with love long-term.

Strength through good and bad: Jesus calls us to be like candles shining bright not only through the good days, but also through the hard times of life.

We are not alone: Jesus promised His people that He would stay with them forever. Perseverance comes from knowing we are not alone, because Jesus says, "I am with you always".



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STC Rights Respecting School



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights.

It explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments.

All the rights are connected. They are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children



Article 14

I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with help from my parents

Governments should make sure no one stops children from practising their religion or beliefs. Parents should guide their children in this.



The ABCDE of rights:
A: Rights are for ALL children (Universal)
B: Rights are there at BIRTH (inherent)
C: Rights CANNOT be taken away (inalienable)
D: Rights DO NOT have to be earned (unconditional)
E: All rights are EQUALLY important (indivisible)

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Miss East or Miss Scott, our RRSA lead teachers.



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Should I keep my

child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
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SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for

REMINDERS FOR PUPILS

School uniform

- School jumper (V-neck dark grey with logo and collar piping)
- School tie (plain red- elasticated or standard)
- White buttoned shirt (short or long sleeved)
- Black trousers, skirt, or pinafore dress
- Black socks or tights
- Smart black shoes

Be proud and smart

- Hair decoration should be kept to a minimum with simple hair bands only, in natural hair colours.
- No jewellery should be worn apart from **plain** stud earrings. This includes no Smart watches. A simple standard analogue watch may be worn to help pupils with learning the time. Pupils are not allowed phones in the school, if pupils need access to a phone after school, they must be given into the office on arrival for safekeeping.
- No nail varnish should be worn.
- Longer hair should be tied back.

Second-hand uniform

- We encourage families to donate good quality school uniform for others to the school office. By donating uniform you are helping keep good clothing out of landfill and recycling uniform to children who need it.
- Please ask us if you need support with obtaining school uniform
- Herefordshire Free School Uniform has a [website listing current stock](#) available for collection.

Attendance

At St Thomas Cantilupe CofE Primary, we are committed to ensuring that your child receives the best possible education and support. We strongly believe that regular school attendance is crucial for the educational progress and overall wellbeing of our pupils.

Expectations



As parents/carers, you have a legal duty to ensure that your child attends school regularly.

The Department for Education (DfE) provides clear guidance for parents regarding attendance expectations. Unauthorised absences can negatively impact your child's education.

Term-Time Holidays



We understand that family time is important, but according to Department for Education (DfE) guidelines, term-time holidays are not permitted as they impact your child's education.

Absences due to holidays disrupt learning and result in missed opportunities in the classroom.

Potential Penalty Notices

If the national threshold of 10 unauthorised absences in a 10 week period is met, the school has a duty to notify Herefordshire Council Enforcement Team and you may face a penalty notice and/or other legal action.

Please be aware that unauthorised absences may lead to local authority penalty notices. A penalty notice is issued to each parent for each child. A fixed-penalty notice of £80 may be issued if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days. If you get a second fine in 3 years it will be £160. If you do not pay the fine in 28 days you may be taken to court for keeping your child out of school.

If your child is off school 3 or more times within the 3 years you will not be fined but may be taken to court.

This is in line with DfE guidance and is intended to deter unnecessary absences. Herefordshire Council policy and guidance can be found here: [School attendance and absences information for parents and carers – Herefordshire Council](#)

Term Length 2025-26

Autumn Term 1

3 September 2025 to 24 October 2025 (38 days)

School holiday: 27 October 2025 to 31 October 2025

Autumn Term 2

3 November 2025 to 19 December 2025 (35 days)

School holiday: 22 December 2025 to 5 January 2026

Spring Term 3

6 January 2026 to 13 February 2026 (29 days)

School holiday: 16 February 2026 to 20 February 2026

Spring Term 4

23 February 2026 to 27 March 2026 (25 days)

School holiday: 30 March 2026 to 10 April 2026

Summer Term 5

13 April 2026 to 22 May 2026 (29 days) **Bank holiday 4 May**

School holiday: 25 May 2026 to 29 May 2026

Summer Term 6

1 June 2026 to 16 July 2026 (34 days)

Messages

We are delighted to be able to share with you the **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report**. The report highlights how well the STC enables all pupils and adults to flourish, living up to its foundation as a Church school. You can read the full report at: [SIAMS Report Library: National Society for Education](#)



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Oaker Wood
NATURALLY ADVENTUROUS



Celebrating 25 years of Adventures!
To thank you for your amazing support over the years, we'll be sharing some SPECIAL OFFERS!

GREAT PRICES FOR FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Holiday Club: for 7 - 11 year olds | **ONLY £20 per day!!**
Available on 16th, 17th, 19th 20th Feb | Book Online

Teen Adventure Day: High Ropes £10, Paintball £15
Available on 18th February | Book Online

NEW EASTER HOLIDAY CAMP
8th - 10th April 2026 | £180 per person

We're thrilled to launch our very first Two Night Kids Holiday Camp this Easter!

Designed especially for 8 - 12 year olds, this unforgettable 2 day outdoor adventure is packed with excitement from start to finish.

What's included:

- 14 action-packed activities & games
- Glamping accommodation
- All meals included
- Welcome pack, incl t-shirt, cap, bottle
- Campfires & marshmallow toasting
- Pizza making
- Non-stop fun in the great outdoors
- DBS checked instructors
- Available to book online now

Outdoor adventure & fun for all the family
Birthday Parties available
Get in touch to plan your next adventure!
www.oakerwoodleisure.co.uk





SEND Newsletter



Find information from the Herefordshire SEND team via this link.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Reception admissions for 2026-2027

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022

If so you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2026 (to commence September 2026)

Applications can be completed from **15 September 2025** online (scan QR code) or visit:



www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-education/primary-school-admissions

Please note: a place at a nursery does not guarantee a place at the associated primary school, therefore you must still apply.

For further information please contact the school admissions team on 01432 260926 / 261574 or schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk



herefordshire.gov.uk

MESSAGES


ADHD and ASD assessment – Right To Choose

Information on alternative referral options for ADHD & ASD assessment
If you are based in England under the NHS you now have a legal right to choose your mental healthcare provider and your choice of mental healthcare team, this includes for referrals relating to Autism and ADHD assessment.

This service is offered through the NHS and is free.



CUT YOUR CARBON








Throughout November, we're challenging everyone to complete 6 small carbon-cutting activities at home with friends and family.

These actions will reduce your everyday carbon emissions and benefit our planet.

To find out how you can get involved, speak to a member of the school Eco-Committee.

See your class Seesaw activity for more information and to complete the challenges.

You can keep up to date with our day to day learning and enrichment activities by following the school's BlueSky account. We post lots of photographs, video and information about what's happening in school on the platform. To find out more about how to create your own account click the [link here](#) or come in and chat to Mrs Higgins. We use the handle @st-thomascantilupe.bsky.social search for us to follow us.

How do I join Bluesky?



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