13TH MARCH 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,
Please help us keep trying even when things feel hard.
Teach us to be patient, brave, and never give up.
Help us look after our friends and encourage them to keep going too. Amen

THIS WEEK







Class 1 and 2 had a wonderful time on the farm. We loved learning about the signs of spring and the highlight was definitely feeding the lambs. A big thank you to the Hereford Community Fund for funding our visit to Lewstone Farm.

ATTENDANCE: STC 96.3% NATIONAL 94.8%

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
88.6%	97.9%	97.8%	99.7%	100%	92%	90.7%

KEY EVENTS

Wednesday 18th March
Parents' evening YR-Y6 3.30pm - 6.15 pm (Y2 is not available on this date)
Thursday 19th March
Y2 Parents' evening 2pm-5pm
Monday 23rd March
Parents' evening YR-Y6 3.30pm - 6.15pm including book fayre and visitors
Easter Service @ Hereford Cathedral 2.15pm
Wednesday 25th March
Asia Day
Thursday 26th March
4pm Red Ridge information meeting for parents
Friday 27th Last day of term, finish at 3.15pm

MESSAGES

Please check your email for the link to book a parents' evening appointment to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher.

ST THOMAS CANTILUPE
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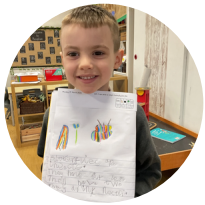
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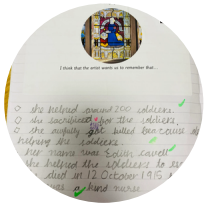
STC Curriculum Focus

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



Nursery & Year R

This week, Reception class are learning all about butterflies. We've started to write our own fact files and they are looking amazing! #perseverenceSTC #eyfsSTC



Year 1 & Year 2

Class 1 had the most wonderful time at Lewstone farm 🚜 We saw the ewes and their lambs in the fields, met some calves and found some birds nests. We were even lucky enough to feed some lambs. Class 2 learnt about Edith Cavell and why she was such a remarkable person in history. We discussed why the artist created the stained glass window of her... here are some our thoughts. #historystc #lovestc



Year 3 & Year 4

Class 3 are enjoying making electrical circuits. Lots have thought about changes they can make to their circuit to make the bulb brighter...great scientific thinking! #sciencestc #lovestc #BritishScienceWeek "We made the bulb brighter!" Class 4 enjoyed eureka moments in Science working with electrical circuits!



Year 5 & Year 6

As part of our #TalkForWriting unit of a Balanced Discussion, Class 6 had a go at holding their own debate. We debated topics relevant to us and tried to deliver our points with a clear structure. Our 'Speaker of the House' added great order to the debate. @piecorbett.bsky.social Class 5 designed some robots to use AI for good.

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

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STC Value Focus

PERSEVERANCE



Lots of smiles at the girls football festival! Part of events promoting International Womens' Day. Thanks to Mr Gibbs & #HerefordshireFA for organising it...we all had such fun time! #lovestc #girlsfootball #internationalwomensday #PEstc

'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

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

unicef UNITED KINGDOM RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

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

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Shine bright your light (Matthew 5 : 14-15)

2025 – 2028
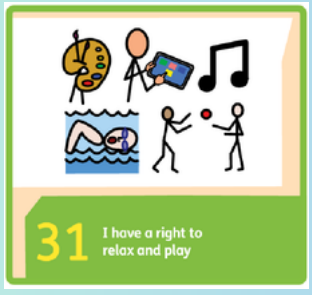
Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM unicef

Silver Rights Aware







Christian Aid Global Neighbours Bronze award 2024-2028

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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Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Y5/6 Dodgeball	Y3/4 Dodgeball	Reception Balance Bike	Y3-Y6 Drama
Y3/4 Board Games			
Y3-Y6 Textiles			

Clubs finish at 4pm. Booking via School Money.
Clubs start again, 23rd February for 4 weeks. Uncollected children will be taken to After School Club and a charge will apply.

PE days

Year R	Wednesdays
Year 1	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4	Monday & Tuesday
Year 5 & 6	Monday & Friday

GENERAL NOTICES

- **Purchase uniform items** (jumper, tie, bookbag) from us via www.eduspot.co.uk
- **Illness/absence** Parents must call the school office before 10am each day of absence to give an update
- **Lunches** book by Thursday the week before via www.eduspot.co.uk cancel before 8.30 am on the day by calling AIP 01568 610432
- **Clubs Y1-Y6 finish at 4pm.** Uncollected children will be taken to ASC and a charge of £5.00 will be payable.
- **Breakfast and after school care (ASC) Call 07547093255** Book in advance via www.eduspot.co.uk **3.15-4.15pm (Mon-Fri), 4.15-5.15pm (Monday-Thursday only)**
- **ASC for Nursery pupils** is only available **3.15-4.15pm**
- **Drop offs and pick-ups at nursery** If you arrive after 8.45 am or pick up before 3.15 pm ring the nursery team on **07547093255**
- **TAX-FREE CHILDCARE** Find out more about your eligibility here: https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare
- **FREE SCHOOL MEALS – DO YOU QUALIFY?** If you qualify for Free School Meals, financial support is available from Herefordshire Council for school holidays which should be used to purchase local supermarket vouchers; as well as having school lunches free each school day. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals go to: **Free school meals – Herefordshire Council** to apply or talk to our office staff
- Foodshare every Tuesday and Wednesday provided we have stock. Please bring your own bags. All food is free.







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Agency

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

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

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.

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

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

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HERE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

HOLIDAYS

The Easter 2026 HAF programme will run from Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April. Bookings will go live from Wednesday 11 March.

What is HAF?

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a Department for Education–funded scheme that provides free holiday clubs, including healthy meals and enriching activities, for children from families on benefits-related free school meals.

Who is eligible?

If your child is school aged 5 to 16 (reception to Year 11) and eligible for benefit related free school meals, they'll be able to attend our different activities. If you are not sure, please contact your child's school to check or visit the Herefordshire Council free school meals webpage.

What is on offer?

You can book up to 4 activity sessions per child over the Easter holidays. It's the perfect opportunity to try a selection of new activities, such as dance, crafts, martial arts and more!

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit the link below.

www.talkcommunity.co.uk/holidayactivities





Term dates 2026/27

AUTUMN TERM 2026:

Term Starts: Thursday 3rd September 2026
Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026
Term Ends: Friday 18th December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027:

Term Starts: Wednesday 6th January 2027
Half Term: Monday 15th to February to 19th February 2027
Term Ends: Thursday 25th March 2027

SUMMER TERM 2027:

Term Starts: Monday 12th April 2027
Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
Term Ends: Tuesday 20th July 2027

Other dates:
Good Friday 26th March 2027
May Day 3rd May 2027

Staff Training Days:
Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Tuesday 5th January 2027
Wednesday 21st July 2027
2 twilights

MESSAGES

ADHD and ASD assessment – Right To Choose
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.

SEND Newsletter

Find information from the Herefordshire SEND team via this link.

You can keep up to date with our day to day learning and enrichment activities by following the school's BlueSky account. We posts of 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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