



17TH APRIL 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 the soft return of summer, for blossoms that remind us how quietly hope grows, and for the light that lingers a little longer each day. Guide us to pause, breathe deeply, and notice the small miracles around us. Help us carry kindness into every moment. Amen

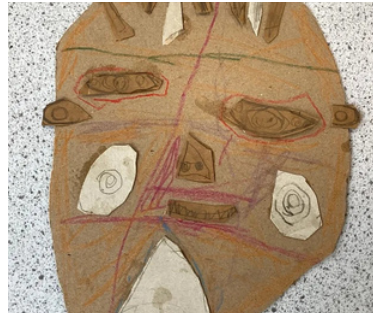
KEY EVENTS

- Monday 20th April
Poetry by Heart Team workshops Y4 and Y3
- Wednesday 22nd
April Vision Screening Re-test some Year R pupils
- Monday 27th April
Year 3 begin 2 weeks of intensive swimming
- Monday 11th - 15th May
Y6 SATs week

MESSAGES

We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and shared time with loved ones, creating cherished memories. We look forward to an exciting Summer Term. Please remember to order school lunches by Friday the week before. We have been notified by our lunchtime caterer, Alliance in Partnership, that unfortunately they are not going to be able to supply the Greek Style Meatball Bake dinner option this term. This option is being replaced with Macaroni Cheese. If you have booked the Greek Style Meatball Bake in the coming weeks please can you amend your order to an alternative choice if your child does not like Macaroni Cheese.

THIS WEEK



We have been immersing ourselves in art this week. Class 1 enjoyed creating cubist inspired cardboard masks in art [#recycling](#) [#ArtSTC](#) [#UnitySTC](#) [@darrellwakelam.bsky.social](#) [@accessart.bsky.social](#) [@nsead.bsky.social](#)

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97%	99.6%	96.7%	100%	92.7%	96.3%	98.5%


ATTENDANCE: STC 96.5% NATIONAL 94.8%



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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

Part of a drama task linked to our English topic saw the children come in to find a scenario where something had crashed through their classroom window and there was glass everywhere! The chairs had been knocked over and there were some strange items on the table. It looked a bit like a rocket and something had made a nest in the basket!



Year 1 & Year 2

Class 1 & 2 had a fantastic time investigating which materials sink or float. We made 7 different boats using a variety of materials and tested them out! We discovered that wood, plastic, and foil floated, while metal, paper, card, and fabric sank. Great scientific thinking from everyone! [#sciencestc](#)



Year 3 & Year 4

In PSHE class 3 are thinking about stereotypes - are there male jobs and female jobs? We know opportunities exist for all of us gender doesn't limit our potential or aspirations [#PSHEstc](#)
[@jigsaweducation.bsky.social](#)



Year 5 & Year 6

Class 6 worked together to edit a draft piece of work. We then redrafted our poems about bread with the edits we had made. We focused on different sentence types including similes.
[@piecorbett.bsky.so](#) [#TalkForWriting](#) [#EnglishSTC](#)

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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LOVE



Class 2 have created their own pieces of art using ripped, cut, and torn paper to form animals. We have thought about creatures we love and how we can care for our special world.

'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.' John 4:16

Jesus has the brightest love of all: God is love. Jesus is God with us. He is God in human form. He is the very definition of love. He has the brightest love ever!

Love brings light: Love is the flame of the candle, making the world brighter. The more we love God and love one another, the brighter we shine.

Love is our purpose: To shine bright with light is the purpose of a candle. To shine bright with love is our purpose as people - as Jesus shows us.



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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



23 **If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education**

- I have the right to a full and happy life and adults should support me to be an active participant in my community.
- I have the right to special help and care to make sure I can receive education, health care services, and recreation opportunities.
- Adults should support me to reach my full potential and individual development and provide opportunities for me to participate in activities with others.

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
Y1/2 Outdoor Games	Y3/4 Tag Rugby		Y3-Y4 Doodle Club
Y5/6 Craft Club	Y3-6 Drama		Balance bikes YR

PE days

Year R

Wednesdays

Year 1

Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2

Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 3

Monday & Tuesday

Year 4

Monday & Tuesday

Year 5 & 6

Thursday & Friday

Clubs start Monday 13th April for 6 weeks. Any uncollected children will be taken to ASC and there will be a charge for this.

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 Friday 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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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
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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MAY HALF TERM INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

Get **50% OFF** your booking – only £17.50 total for 4 lessons!

Limited spots – don't miss out!
Call us on **01432 842075**, or pop in to your local pool to secure your child's place.

*Terms & conditions apply. Offer ends 17th May 2026.



halo

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.

ADHD UK



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 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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