



1ST MAY 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,
May this new month of May bring growth, kindness, and fresh beginnings to our school. Help us to learn with open minds, support one another with care, and face each day with courage and joy. Amen.

THIS WEEK



What a treat getting a free book after our [@booktrust.org.uk](https://www.booktrust.org.uk) online workshop with [#ChanteTimothy](https://www.instagram.com/ChanteTimothy) - we are loving the illustrations and colours used. What a pleasure sharing a book together is! [#englishstc](https://www.instagram.com/englishstc) [#lovestc](https://www.instagram.com/lovestc)

KEY EVENTS

- Monday 4th May**
Bank Holiday - school closed
- Tuesday 5th May**
Year 3 final week of intensive swimming
- Monday 11th - 15th May**
Y6 SATs week
- Tuesday 12th May**
Y2 Farm Trip
- Wednesday 13th May**
Y1 Farm trip
- Tuesday 26th May**
School Nurse in school - appointment only

MESSAGES

Thank you for your support for ensuring children wear helmets when using bikes and scooters. Please continue to support us by purchasing these if you haven't yet.

Our School Nurse will be in school on Tuesday 26th May, offering 30 minute appointments for parents. Please contact the office to book in.

We're excited to share that we're part of the Tesco Fruit & Veg Grant! If you're shopping in any Tesco store in Hereford, please support us by placing your blue tokens in our slot. Every vote helps raise funds for a sensory garden for our children—thank you for your support!

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
93.9%	98.9%	94.8%	99.3%	97.4%	96.7%	98.5%

ATTENDANCE: STC 96.3% NATIONAL 94.6%



ST THOMAS CANTILUPE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Coningsby Street, Hereford HR1 2DY



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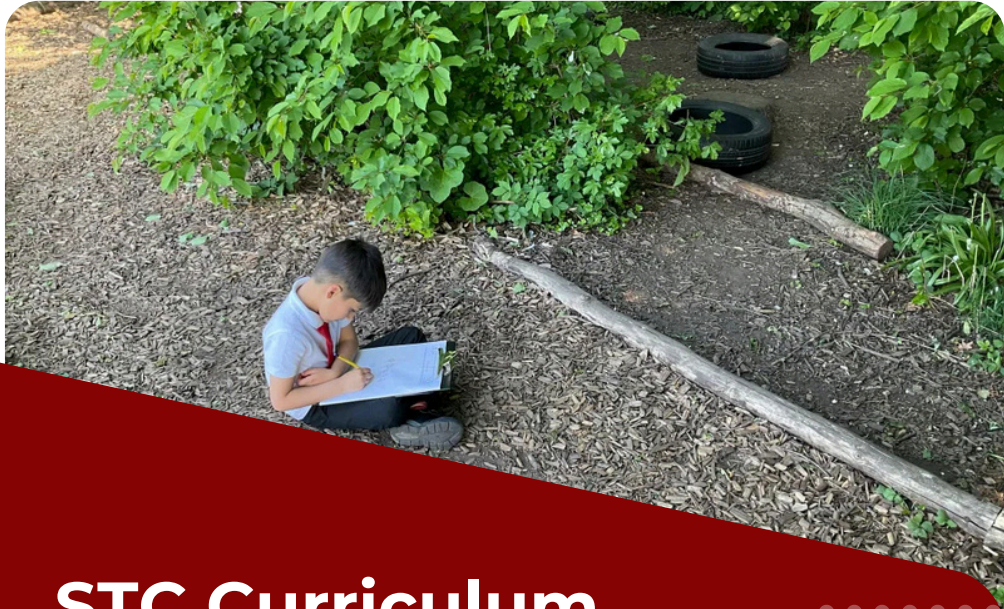
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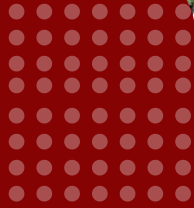
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STC Curriculum Focus



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 have been learning all about planets. They created their own planets to display in their space themed role play area. They look fantastic! [#eyfsSTC](#)
Year R have been exploring the new water play activities in our lovely new outside area. It's great that summer is here.



Year 1 & Year 2

Class 1 and 2 have loved looking for flora and fauna. They looked closely at what they could find around school to sketch using sketching pencils and drawing pens to show off their shapes and lines. 🌻🐞
[#artSTC](#) [#ks1STC@accessart.bsky.social](#)



Year 3 & Year 4

Class 3 have enjoyed learning about the magic of water – how it changes from a solid, to a liquid, to a gas...and back again. Thinking about drinking the same water as a dinosaur has made them wonder – have we ever drunk the same water twice? [#thewatercycle](#) [#sciencestc](#)
[#unitystc](#)



Year 5 & Year 6

Recapping 3D shapes and their appropriate nets has made Class 6 show true [#perseverance!](#) [#mathsSTC](#) We are busy with our revision for the upcoming SATs tests one more week to go before we can show everything we have learnt since joining our school.

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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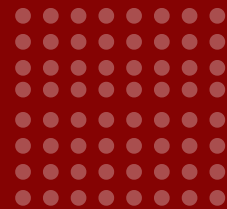
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LOVE



This week, we are showing our love for nature by planting new flowers, pulling out weeds, and gently caring for our garden areas #lovestc

'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

PE days

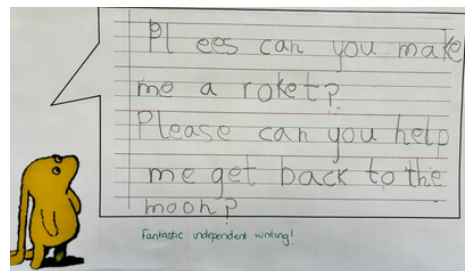
- Year R** Wednesdays
- Year 1** Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 2** Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 3** Monday & Tuesday
- Year 4** Monday & Tuesday
- Year 5 & 6** Thursday & Friday

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Clubs start Monday 13th April for 6 weeks. Any uncollected children will be taken to ASC and there will be a charge for this. If children are not collected from ASC by 5:15pm there will be a penalty charge.

- **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
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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](#). Our January 2026 Ofsted report is available to read via the Ofsted website and also our school website.



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Make your vote count!
Every group gets support.
Your choice makes a difference.

Vote now

Connetus
Take Service Together
Building a secure future for vulnerable 16-25 year olds who have moved from social housing to independent living. Promoting confidence and social skills.
Hereford
Vote in-store until 31 July 2026

Hope Support Services
Cooking Classes for 5-10s
Young people aged 5-10 will learn healthy, nutritious cooking skills and recipes in a fun environment. To help feed the whole family, unless a child has a life-threatening illness.
Based on WPA
Vote in-store until 31 July 2026

St Thomas Cantilupe Primary School
School Sensory Garden
A sensory garden where primary-aged children can grow vegetables, nurture plants, and explore nature - promoting hands-on learning, wellbeing, and environmental awareness.
Hereford
Vote in-store until 31 July 2026

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Hereford

Vote in-store until 31 July 2026

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 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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FREE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP



We are Farming Minds Charity want to help challenge and break down the stigmas associated with Mental Health in the farming community.

We want to help and guide as many people as possible, and let people know that it is ok not to be ok.

Our free workshops are open to anyone in the farming community or those who may come in contact with those in the farming community.

Topics Covered

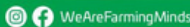
- What is Mental Health?
- Mental Health in Agriculture
- Impacts of Mental Health
- Barriers and Stigma
- Suicide and Self-Harm
- Stressors and Warning Signs
- Strategies to manage your emotions
- Support Networks and useful contacts

If you would like to find out more about the workshops or to book a place, please contact:

Call/Text: **07354 978344**

Email: office@wearefarmingminds.co.uk
www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk

The workshops are run in partnership with Herefordshire Mind, a local mental health charity.



Taking the bull by the horns to tackle Mental Health in the farming community

Registered charity number: 1199461

The Hereford Hub
School Holiday Club
 For children age 4 - 12yrs
Hinton Community Centre
Friday 29th May 8.45am-3pm
21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th July 8.45am-3pm
BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

HAMPTON GARDENS
JOUSTING - THE FIRST ENCOUNTER
MAY 3RD & 4TH

Join us for the first installment in our jousting series. Expect knights, armour and medieval shenanigans!
 Event day ticket prices apply - Book online NOW for 10% discount!

Halo's BIG OPEN DAY
Saturday 9th May

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.

The Conquest Theatre Presents
CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG
 Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
 Adapted for the Stage by Jeremy Sams
 Music by Special Arrangement with Sony/ATV
 Based on the MGM Motion Picture Licensed Script Adapted by Ray Rosenick

AUDITIONS
 Auditions are now open for anyone aged 10 and above!

Pre-audition workshop - Sunday 17th May 2.30pm
 Youth audition - Sunday 24th May 2.30pm
 Adult audition - Tuesday 2nd June 7.00pm
 Adult audition - Sunday 7th June 2.30pm

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI - www.MTIShows.co.uk

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT HALO LEISURE

Every school holiday we have a fantastic lineup of activities to keep kids active, engaged, and having a blast!

FAMILY FUN SWIMMING **RACKET SPORTS**
JUNIOR GYM SESSIONS **JUMPINGYMN INDOOR SOFT PLAY**
INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS **AND MORE...**

Halo Leisure are here to keep your kids active and having fun!

To find out more and view timetables visit www.haloleisure.org.uk/whats-on

Ledbury Young Poets Competition
IN MY IMAGINATION

What's in your imagination?
 A rocket to zoom to space? A sky full of candyfloss clouds? A world where everyone is kind? A memory of the perfect day? Whatever you're imagining, we want to hear it...in a poem! We don't mind whether the poems are happy or sad, funny or angry, we just want to see you painting incredible pictures with words. Good luck!

WHO CAN ENTER?
 You! As long as you live in the UK and are able to come to Ledbury for the prize-giving.
 2 age categories: 5-11 & 12-18

Make sure you get your entries in by the closing date! **Entries close at 23:59 BST on 7th May 2026**

To enter and for more info and detailed guidelines, please go to our website.
LEDBURYPOMETRY.ORG.UK

LED BURY POETRY
 Herefordshire Council

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