



4TH SEPTEMBER 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 bringing us safely back together after the summer. Help us to show love and kindness, stay united as a school community, and persevere when things feel difficult. May we look forward to a happy and positive year together. Amen.

KEY EVENTS

Monday 21st September

School Photos

Monday 12th October

Y6 two week intensive swimming starts

MESSAGES

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families. We hope you had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed time together with family and friends.

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school and see the children settling into their new classes. We are looking forward to a happy, exciting year filled with learning, friendship and new experiences.

PE Days:

Nursery and YR – Wednesday am

Y1 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Y2 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Y3 – Monday and Wednesday

Y4 – Monday and Friday

Y5 – Thursday and Friday

Y6 – Thursday and Friday

Please ensure your child adheres to our uniform policy which can be read here: [Uniform policy](#).

THIS WEEK



What a wonderful start to the new school year
#lovestc #unitytc

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
93.8%	83.3%	92.9%	87.5%	93.1%	96%	86.2%

ATTENDANCE: STC 87.5% NATIONAL 94.6%



ST THOMAS CANTILUPE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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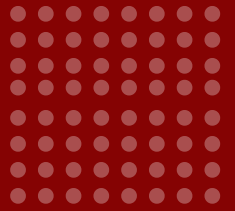
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[@st-thomascantilupe.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/st-thomascantilupe.bsky.social)



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#unitySTC

'I pray...that all of them may be one. Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.' John 17:20-21

Jesus prayed for our unity: Jesus prayed that all His people would be one, just as God is one. He wants us to shine as an example of unity to the world.

One wick = One flame: Unity is like the wick. One wick focusses everything on one flame, making it even brighter. Jesus calls us to be one bright flame.

Unity comes from love, not sameness: The flame around the wick has many shades of colour. We are one not because we are the same, but because, though we are all different, we love one another and love our wonderful diversity.



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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



- 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 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

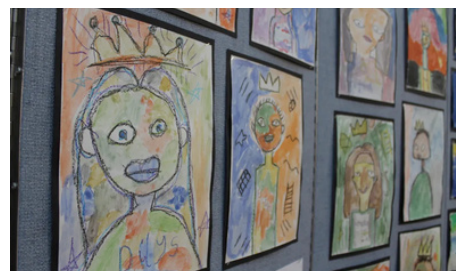
Thursday & Friday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Craft	KS2 Drama		Doodle
Gardening	All Families Together Time Club		
Y3/4 Eco Stars			

GENERAL NOTICES

Clubs for September will be announced on our return. 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 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) Late collection from ASC incurs a fine. Breakfast club can be booked a week in advance, it starts at 7.50am and is charged at a fixed fee.
- **Free breakfast club is available for all children from YR-Y6 if booked a week in advance start time 8.20am. No late entry.**
- **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 not the office
- **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, school lunches are 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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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](#)

Security
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
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SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for

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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TOTS TIME WITH COSI IN THE COMMUNITY

We are excited to collaborate with The Hands Hub to bring you **TOT'S TIME WITH COSI IN THE COMMUNITY.**

CoSI is Communication and Social Interaction support for Autistic children in the Early Years. Tots Time is a relaxed Stay and Play session Led by the Hands Hub, every Tuesday morning.

Our specialist communication teacher and EY Area SENCO will be attending on the following dates.

Feel free to attend with or without your child.

08/09/2026

06/10/2026- COFFEE MORNING WITH THE COSI TEAM

03/11/2026 01/12/2026
05/01/2027 02/02/2027
02/03/2027 04/05/2027
06/07/2027

10AM-NOON
WHERE:
HANDS HUB,
SUITE 4 BERROWS BUSINESS CENTRE, HR1 2HE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
AMBER- 07792880765 OR
FOLLOW THE HANDS HUB ON FACEBOOK.

Herefordshire Council

Dingley's Promise

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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