

The logo of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, featuring a shield with a cross, a book, and a chalice, surrounded by a circular border.

*St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School*

*Welcome to the Year 6  
Parent Information Meeting*

*Wednesday 4th October 2023*



# *The Year 6 Team*

- ❑ **Miss Underwood** - Year Group Leader & Class 6U teacher
- ❑ **Mrs Hayes** - Class 6H teacher
- ❑ **Mr Lovell** - Class 6L teacher
  
- ❑ **Mrs Sharp** - Year 6 support staff and HLTA
- ❑ **Miss Holland** - Year 5 and 6 support staff
- ❑ **Mrs Wiseman** - Year 5 and 6 LSA
  
- ❑ **Mrs M Hall** - SENCo





# *Attendance and Punctuality*

Good attendance and punctuality is essential. Pupils cannot achieve their full potential if they do not regularly attend school. Please note that holidays are not permitted in term time.

Unauthorised absence may result in the school referring to the Local Authority for sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This may include issuing each parent/carer with a Penalty Notice.

Please note the following times:

**8:40am** - Gates open

**8:55am** - Children are expected to be in the classroom for the register to be taken by 9:00am. If your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late.

**9:15am** - Pupils will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend school before this time.



# *Absence Procedures*



If your child is absent for any reason, you should contact the school office via telephone before 9:00am on the first day of absence. You will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimate of how long the absence will last, e.g. one school day.

Please note that coughs and colds are very common, especially in the winter, and generally do not require your child to be absent from school. Illnesses such as diarrhoea and vomiting only require 48 hours absence from school. If in doubt, please check for guidance on <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> or contact the school office.



# Uniform



At St. Thomas of Canterbury, we are proud that our uniform fosters a sense of belonging within our school community.

Information about school uniform can be found on the school website:

<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/uniform/>

Our uniform is available to purchase from Uniformwise in Stanford-Le-Hope:

<https://www.uniformwise.co.uk/> Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly marked with your child's name.





# PE kit

Year 6's PE day is Thursday.

Your child should wear their PE kit to school on their PE day.



Please note that in the winter months, the St. Thomas of Canterbury tracksuit should be worn.

Children should wear black plimsolls or black trainers on their PE days.





# *Religious Education*

As a Catholic school, we are proud that Christ and the Gospel values are central to our curriculum.

At St. Thomas of Canterbury, we follow the Come and See Religious Education Programme. This accounts for 10% of the entire curriculum time excluding liturgies, assemblies and collective worship.

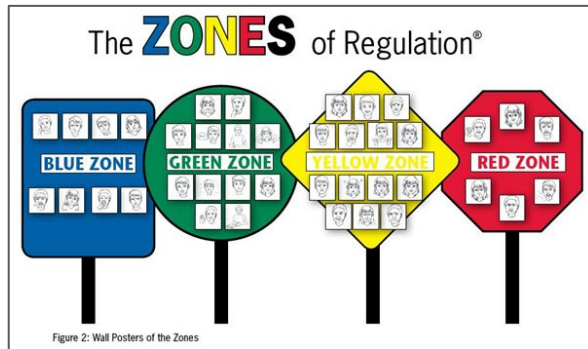
The children are taught the basis of the Catholic Faith, spirituality, morality and social issues which are constantly related to their own life experiences. Children are helped to come to a fuller knowledge and love of God which will develop into mature Christian living. On Holy Days of Obligation and at the beginning and throughout each term, we celebrate the Eucharist in School. Fr Stephen visits school to say Mass and takes time to visit the children in their classes.





We implement our PSHE curriculum through the use of the resource Life to the Full. This allows us to cover all the statutory requirements of Relationships and Health Education based on the structure of the Model Primary RSE Curriculum from the Catholic Education Service.

We supplement this with our own planning to cover elements of 'Living in the Wider World', such as: Digital Literacy, Shared Responsibility, British Values and Aspirations. Alongside this, we also ensure we cover important events throughout the year such as: Anti-Bullying Week, Black History Month, Children's Mental Health Week and Remembrance Day.



In each classroom, we have the Zones of Regulation to aid the children with understanding their emotions and feelings and knowing how to deal with them.





# *Our learning this term*

Throughout the Autumn term, this is what we will be covering:

English: This half term, we are reading *Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson. In our Writing lessons, we are focussing on poetry, diary entries, persuasive letters and biographies. In Autumn 2, we will be reading, *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave*. In our Writing lessons, we will be focussing on narratives, instructions and balanced arguments.

Maths: This half term, we are focussing on place value and the four operations. In Autumn 2, we are going to be focussing on fractions and converting units.





## *Our learning this term*

**Art & Design:** This half term, our unit is centered around drawing, exploring expressive techniques, symbolism and street art, tonal contrasts.

**Computing:** This half term, we are looking at computing systems and networks (linked to Bletchley park) and in Autumn 2, we will be learning to programme using a programme called Python.

**Design & Technology:** In Autumn 2, we are going to be creating automata toys by creating frames and experimenting with cams.





## *Our learning this term*

French: This half term, we are learning about Les Vêtements. Next half term, we will be learning about A L'École. Children will be taught key vocabulary and then taught how to use this vocabulary in conversations.

Geography: This half term, the Year 6 are learning about North America, specifically the countries within it, the climates, geographical features and human features. The topic will end with children researching a specific place in North America and creating a presentation about it.

History: Next half term, we will be learning about World War 1, specifically causes, recruitment, life in the trenches, role of women and how it came to an end.





## *Our learning this term*

**Music:** This half term, the children are gaining confidence through performance while exploring the music genres disco and rock and roll. In Autumn 2, the children will be exploring notation further with the aim of composing a sequence of melodic patterns individually.

**PE:** This half term, the children are learning how to play hockey with the aim of being able to play hockey matches by the October half term. Next half term, the children will be learning dance with the aim of, in groups, performing dances using a range of movement patterns by the Christmas holidays.





# Reading

Becoming a fluent, skilled and attentive reader starts at the earliest stages. Therefore, making sure that children become engaged with reading at the earliest opportunity is one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances.

At St. Thomas of Canterbury, we encourage children to read the following: In KS2, if children have passed their Phonics screening, they choose a book from their Class Library that is appropriate for their year group.

Books are changed as and when the children finish their current book. Year 6 children are expected to write their own comment in their Reading Record. Please listen to your child read as often as you can and sign their reading record weekly.



# Homework



Homework will be set on a Thursday and be expected to be turned in the following Tuesday.

Weekly, children must complete Maths homework, Spelling homework and Reading homework.

Maths will be arithmetic.

There will be 20 spellings to practise each week and their test will be each Tuesday.

In January, the children will start receiving Grammar homework too.





# *Educational Visits*

Norfolk Lakes: 25th September - 27th September

Autumn 2: Purfleet Heritage Centre (linking to WWI)

Spring: Natural History Museum (linking to Extreme Earth and Evolution)

Summer: IWM Duxford (linking to WWII)

Please note that if we do not receive sufficient contributions towards educational visits, then they may have to be cancelled. Payments are made via Arbor.

Consent forms must be returned by every child before we can allow them to participate. Verbal consent is **not** accepted for children to take part in any activity.





# *After school clubs*

We are delighted to offer an increased range of after-school clubs this academic year, details of which are sent out at the beginning of each term.

Parents/carers can also access Jules et Lis before and after school clubs, run by an external provider. Details can be found on <https://julesetlis.co.uk/>







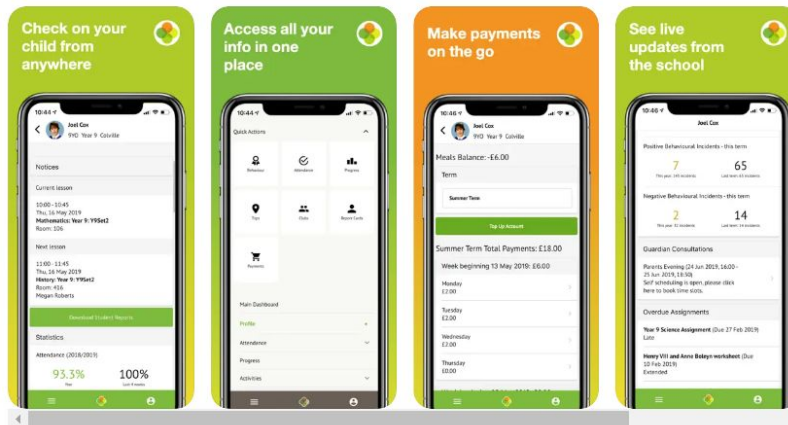
# Arbor

All correspondence, payments, club bookings and consent for trips will be sent electronically through Arbor.



**Arbor** 12+  
Parent & Guardian Portal  
[Arbor Education Partners](#)  
Designed for iPhone  
#17 in Education  
★ ★ ★ ★ 1.4 + 761 Ratings  
Free

#### iPhone Screenshots





# *SATs*

The key stage 2 tests are timetabled from **Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May 2025.**

1. English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1: Spelling
2. English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 2: Grammar
3. English reading
4. Mathematics paper 1
5. Mathematics paper 2
6. Mathematics paper 3

Mock SATs will take place in **November/ December 2023** and **March 2024.**



# *Secondary School Applications*



- **31st October 2023-** Applications close
- Late applications will be dealt with after initial round of offers made.
- Offers made in March.
- List up to six schools (preferences in order)
- No advantage to listing fewer and no advantage to putting same school more than once.
- Include any schools outside of Thurrock.



# Come and join us!

## St. Thomas of Canterbury's Parent Heritage Group

Welcome to St Thomas of Canterbury's Parent Heritage Group! Parents and carers will have the opportunity to discuss how our school supports the diverse heritages and multi-cultures within our school. We would like to hear your suggestions about how else we can embrace all aspects of our diverse community.

Everybody welcome!

Dates to be confirmed...

### What we aim to achieve:

- Working together as a school/home community to celebrate our diverse cultures across the school.
- Planning cultural days: traditional clothing, traditional music, traditional stories.
- Ways in which the school can support families in celebrating diversity.
- Your ideas for what you would like to see implemented/how you would like to take part and support the children.



If you would like to join our Parent Heritage Group - leave your email address and telephone number with the office and Miss Paul will contact you.

Mrs Foley (community involvement lead) recently held our first meeting for the Friends of St. Thomas of Canterbury. If you would like to be a part of this parent support group, who come together to help raise much needed money for our school, you can contact our email address: [friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk) We will come together to organise; fete's, discos, non-uniform days and other fundraising events.

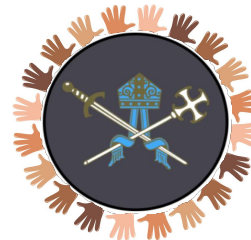
We look forward to seeing you there.

## Friends of St. Thomas of Canterbury

Please come along to our first meeting!

Thursday 28th September  
9:00am

All welcome!





## *Dates for your diary*

- Parents' Evening: 17th and 19th October
- Half term: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
- INSET Day: Monday 30th October (school closed to pupils)
- Submit Secondary School forms by 31st October
- Christmas Carol Concert: 7th and 8th December
- End of term: Wednesday 20th December at 1:30pm (Early close)

