

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

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

*Welcome to the Year 1
Parent Information Meeting*

Friday 29th September 2023



The Year 1 Team

- ❑ **Mrs S Brind** - Year Group Leader & Class 1B teacher
- ❑ **Miss R Gander** - Class 1G teacher
- ❑ **Mrs A Venables/Mrs S Smith** - Class 1V teachers
- ❑ **Mrs C Auvache** - HLTA

- ❑ **Mrs A Cantwell, Mrs R Sutiene, Mrs J Hadley, Mrs A Mensah, Mrs J Perry** - Year 1 support staff

- ❑ **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.

3.15pm - Pupils are dismissed



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 1's PE day is Tuesday.

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.

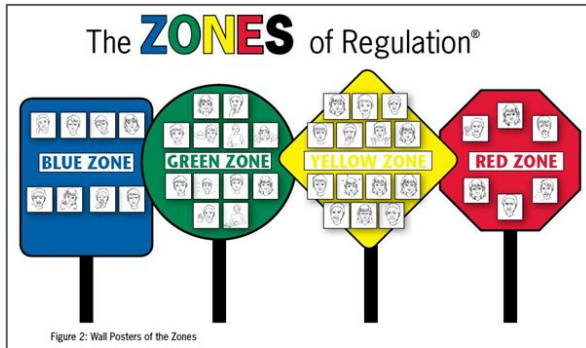
This accounts for 10% of the entire curriculum time excluding liturgies, assemblies and collective worship.

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.

Phonics



- We follow the RWI phonics scheme and children are taught phonics every day. In June 2024, our current Year 1 children will take the statutory Phonics Screening Check. During the Phonics Screening Check, children are asked to read (decode) 40 words. Reading the Phonics books at home is very important and supports the learning of these sounds. Most of these words are real words but some are pseudo-words (Alien words). Pseudo-words are included to ensure that children are using their decoding skills and not just relying on their memory of words they've read before.
- We will be holding Phonics workshops to support parents with how to help their children decode words.





Our learning this term

We will be naming animals and
Talking about their structure.

Science:

Seasonal Changes
and
Weather



Plymouth Science

Animals
Including
Humans
(Year 1)

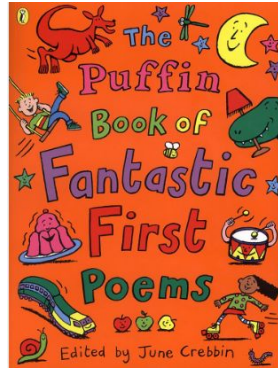
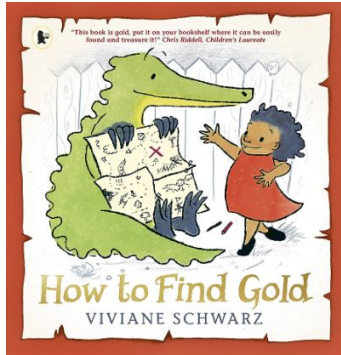




Our learning this term

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

English:



Descriptive writing and story retelling.

Maths: Our focus in Maths has been to recognise numbers and number words to 20, as well as counting from any number and finding one more, one less and linking to addition and subtraction. We will go on to naming 2D and 3D shapes and discussing their properties.



Our learning this term



Art & Design:



We will be exploring different marks and using our observational skills.

Computing:



Logging on to the computer
and using a mouse effectively.



Programming a movable object

Design & Technology: The children have been looking at various mechanisms and will be creating their own storybook. Here is an example:





Our learning this term

Geography: The children have been developing their map skills. We plan to go for a local walk to the park in Hathaway Road and look at the street furniture to support our learning.

History: In Autumn 2, we will be studying monarchs:





Our learning this term

Music: We have been looking at famous composers and discussed musical vocabulary such as pitch, tempo and pulse. We will be learning to perform songs confidently.

PE:



- Throwing and catching skills using different techniques.



Copying and creating their own dance moves and then creating a sequence.



The logo for St. Thomas of Canterbury, featuring a shield with a cross, a sword, and a book, surrounded by a circular border.

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: A decodable book (related to the RWI phonics scheme), and a book for pleasure from their Class Library to share with a parent. Bug Club is also available for extra reading books online.
- Pleasure books are changed weekly (on Thursdays).



Homework



- Homework will be given out on a Friday, either on SeeSaw (Please ensure that you are now signed up and using SeeSaw) or it will be placed into their homework folder in their book bag. **Please ensure that homework is completed and returned on a Wednesday.**
- Alongside the homework, please ensure that your child is reading at least 5 times a week and that you are signing their reading books to reflect this. The children should regularly be practising the sounds in their Phonics book in order for them to become a more confident reader. Children are rewarded when they have read their Phonics book 5 times in a week.





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/>





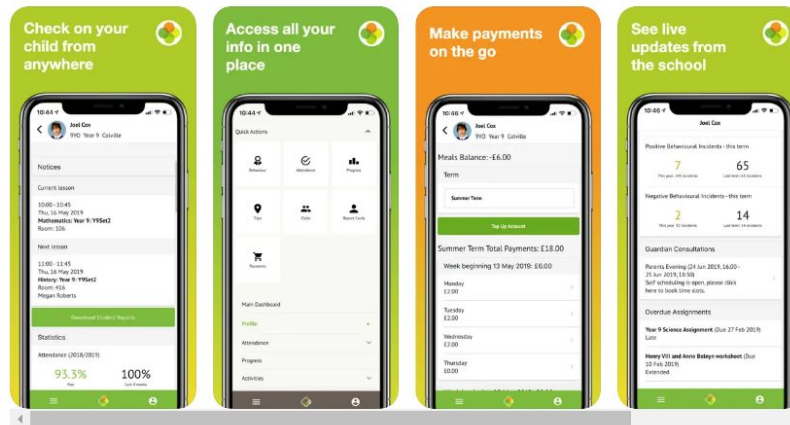
Arbor

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





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)
- Christmas performance - 14th December
- End of term: Wednesday 20th December at 1:30pm (Early close)



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

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!

