

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 3
Parent Information Meeting*

Thursday 5th October 2023



The Year 3 Team

- ❑ **Miss S Barry** - Year Group Leader & Class 3B teacher
- ❑ **Miss J Newton** - Class 3N teacher
- ❑ **Miss Hamlet** - Class 3H teacher

- ❑ **Mrs K Beasley, Mrs J Lochowska and Mrs M Adams** - Year 3 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. Children should aim to be in their classrooms as early as possible as there is early morning work for them to complete.

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.

More Information

<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 3's PE day is Monday.

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.





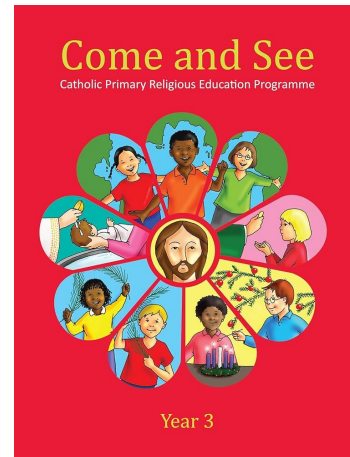
Religious Education

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 with visits from Fr Stephen.



Religious Education - Our learning this term



This term, children started by looking at 'Family' and what it means to them. They also looked at how God is the loving parent of the human family.

We are currently learning about Judaism, particularly the Jewish place of worship: a synagogue. Children are learning about what is inside a synagogue and why it is special to Jewish people.

We will then begin the topic of 'Belonging' and the importance of being welcoming, feeling comfortable with new situations and belonging to new groups.

We then learn about our second world religion, 'Hinduism' and their special place of worship - a mandir or temple.

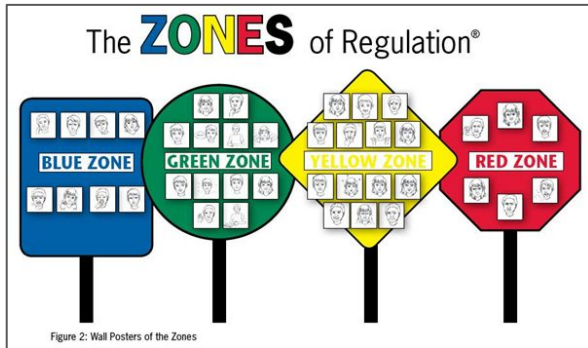
Our last topic this term is 'Loving', which is our Advent topic. Children will learn that gifts which are given and received are a sign and expression of love. We will learn that Advent is time to prepare to celebrate Jesus.





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.





PSHE - Our learning this term

Autumn 1: Children began the term by learning about Gospel story of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter and how we are all created by God out of love and for love.

Children learnt about Diversity and how we are all different but we make a community.

We launch our mission of Laudato Si' - how we can care for our common home.

Next week, we launch Black History Month where children will be learning about influential black women and their roles in paving in the way for others.

We end this half term by learning about recycling and how we can help look after the environment.

Autumn 2: We begin this half term by revisiting Laudato Si' and making a pledge to look after our common home.

We focus on Remembrance Day and Anti-Bullying Week, where we will be having an Odd Socks Day.

We launch our mission of Eyes of the World and remember how important it is to look after those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

We then look at communities and what we bring to the different communities we are part of.

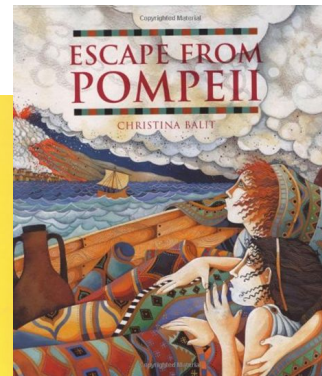
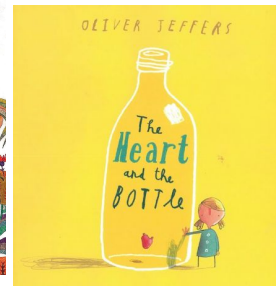
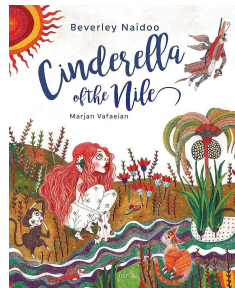
We end the term by starting the topic of Personal Relationships, where children will look at what makes a good friend, strategies to use when friendships become difficult and how to recognise bullying.



Our learning this term

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

English: Children will be using these text to write character descriptions, diary entries, newspaper reports and non-chronological reports.



Maths: Children will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.

Science: Children are currently learning about rocks; their properties, how they are formed and how fossils are formed. In Autumn 2, children will be learning about light; how light is reflected, how to protect our eyes, how shadows are formed and how the size of a shadow can change.





Our learning this term

Design & Technology: Children are currently learning about how to create a pneumatic toy system using air.

Computing: This half term, children are learning about using emails and how to send an email with an attachment. In Autumn 2, children will learn how a computer actually works and what the purpose each part of a computer has. Children will also learn how to keep safe online and that it is important to be kind online.

Art & Design: In Autumn 2, children will become growing artists. They will begin to recognise how artists use shape, tone and texture within their work.





Our learning this term

French: This half term, children will begin learning French. They will begin with simple questions and answers, counting to 10 and colours.

In Autumn 2, children will learn how to name classroom objects and begin to structure different sentence types.

History: This half term, children are learning about how crime and punishment has changed over time. Beginning with the Romans, to the Anglo-Saxons, the Tudors and the Victorians, children will see how our justice system has changed and compare it to the justice system today.

Geography: In Autumn 2, children will be learning about Earthquakes and Volcanoes. They will understand what tectonic plates are, how a volcano erupts, what causes an earthquake and the global impact of both.





Our learning this term

Music: This half term, children are exploring music from around the world and are developing their singing skills.

In Autumn 2, children will develop their ocarina (wind instrument) playing skills.

PE: This half term, children are learning the rules of football. They are learning to dribble, pass and defend, as well as learning how to play a football game collaboratively.

In Autumn 2, children will learn how to play hockey. They will learn how to correctly use a hockey stick, how to defend and how to pass a hockey ball.





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. Children also have access to Bug Club, which has appropriate books for their level, along with comprehension style questions. You will find their username and password inside their homework book.

Children should be reading at least 5 times a week at home, for around 10 minutes. Please listen to your child read every day and leave a comment in his/her reading record.



Homework



Homework is set on a Friday each week, due in the following Wednesday.

Homework will usually consist of spellings/handwriting, and either a piece of Maths homework or a piece of GPS homework. Occasionally, children may be asked to create a project to present in class.

It is also important that children participate on Times Tables Rock Stars. You will find their username and password inside their Homework book.

Reading is also included in their homework.



Educational Visits



Autumn 2: A Natural History Museum online workshop linked to our Geography topic of Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

More trips/workshops to follow in Spring 1, Summer 1 and Summer 2.

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/>





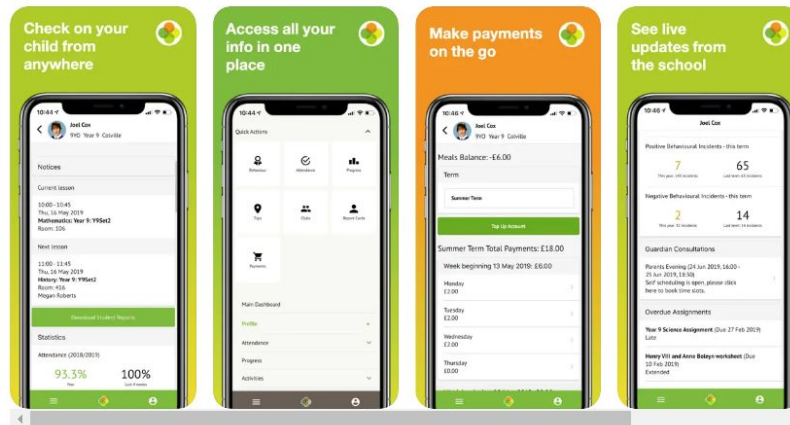
Arbor

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



Dates for your diary

- Parents' Evening: Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 19th October (3:30pm-6:00pm)
- Half term: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
- INSET Day: Monday 30th October (school closed to pupils)
- Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 13th November
- End of Term Mass Led by Year 3: Wednesday 20th December (10:15am)
- 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!

