

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 4  
Parent Information Meeting*

*Monday 2nd October 2023*





# *The Year 4 Team*

## **Year 4 Teachers:**

- Mr Boulden** - Year Group Leader & Class 4B teacher
- Mrs French** - Class 4F teacher (Mon, Tues & Wed)
- Mrs Leary** - Class 4L teacher (Wed, Thurs & Fri)
- Mrs Dale** - Class Teacher (Mon & Tues - 4L; Thurs & Fri - 4F)

## **Year 4 Support Staff:**

- Mrs Edwards (Cover Supervisor, W,TH,F,)**
- Mrs McGinley (AMs)**
- Mrs Lochowska**
- Mrs Omoijuanfo**
  
- Mrs Hall - SenCo**





## **Contacting Staff**

- If you have any worries, or anything you would like to ask or share about your child, please make your class teacher the first person you speak to. We are always happy to talk to you about anything at all.
- Please note that mornings are a very busy time, so please be aware we will be unable to have in-depth conversations with you over the phone.
- If you wish to have a longer, informal chat with us about any issues or questions you have, we are always happy to talk with you after school, depending if we have clubs to lead and when we have other meetings to attend.
- Please be aware that we have staff meetings on Wednesdays after school.
- If you would like a more formal appointment, please contact your child's teacher via the email addresses below or the school office to arrange a time for a face-to-face meeting or a phone call.
- If you have an issue that has not been resolved by talking to your child's teacher, your next step is to talk to the Head of Year (Mr Boulden).

Mr Boulden - [mr.boulden@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:mr.boulden@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk)

Mrs Leary - [mrs.leary@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:mrs.leary@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk)

Mrs French - [mrs.french@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:mrs.french@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk)

Mrs Dale - [mrs.dale@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk](mailto:mrs.dale@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk)





# *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.



## Attendance Matters





# *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.



## Year 4's PE day is Wednesday.

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.

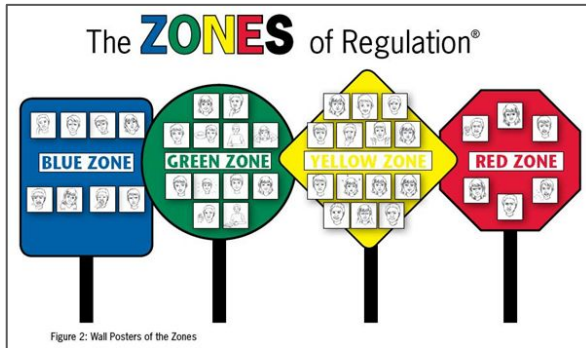
The children are taught the basis of the Catholic Faith, spirituality, morality and social issues which are constantly related to their own life experiences. Children are helped to come to a fuller knowledge and love of God which will develop into mature Christian living. On Holy Days of Obligation and 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.



# *Multiplication Check*

Throughout this academic year, your child(ren) will be working towards taking part and completing the Multiplication Check. The Times Tables Check is administered at the end of Year 4 and helps teachers and school leaders identify which pupils are secure in their multiplication tables and which pupils may need additional support to get there, with unofficial checks taking place twice before the actual check in June 2024.

Key information:

- It is an annual check that Year 4s in England have a good level of times tables knowledge.
- Each child's results will be known to the school and the government will have a national picture.
- The MTC is an online test with 25 questions (multiplication only); children must answer each question within a 6 seconds time limit so the whole test will take less than 5 minutes.



# Times Tables



Autumn 1, Autumn 2 and first 2 weeks of Spring 1 (2 sessions per week)

Week 1

Lesson 1 - Number track work with post-it notes and counting games.

Lesson 2 - Rote and relationships

Week 2

Lesson 3 - Times Tables games and songs

Lesson 4 - Memorisation

Spring 1 onwards (2 sessions per week)

Lesson 1 - Number track, counting activities and songs

Lesson 2 - Varied application

Where needed, children will be given adapted Times Tables foci, to ensure they are developing the recall and understanding at their pace.

This could mean that some children will be put on the 'Automatic' training mode on TT Rockstars.

There is a three stage structure to the scheme.

**Stage 1 - Rote and relationships** – here, facts are individually boxed to show fact families but also colour coded for pupils to begin to see the doubles and halves relationships.

**Stage 2 - Memorisation** – here, the facts are still boxed but where the doubles and halves and fact, family relationships are mixed.

**Stage 3 - Varied application** – here, the problems are represented with missing number so that pupils can apply their knowledge in a varied application.





# Times Tables

## Year 4 Times Tables Overview 2023-24

Term	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7
Aut1	3x	3x	6x	6x	12x	12x	4x
Aut2	4x	8x	8x	7x	7x	9x	9x
Spg1	11x	11x	5x and 10x	3x	6x	12x	4x
Spg2	2x, 5x and 10x	8x	7x	9x	3x		
Sum1	6x	12x	4x	8x	7x	9x	
Sum2	Targeted Times Tables		MTC	Mixed tables checks - weekly			





# *Our learning this term*

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

## **English:**

Aut 1 - Writing - Empathy /description; Persuasive argument

Class Text - 'I was a rat!' - by Phillip Pullman

Aut 2 - Writing - Persuasive letter to Thurrock Council; Myths & Legends - Brave – voice over; Shakespeare- Romeo & Juliet.

Class Text - Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

## **Maths:**

Aut 1 - Place Value; Addition and Subtraction; Times Tables: 3s, 6s, 12s and 4s

Aut 2 - Area; Multiplication and Division; Times Tables: 4s, 8s, 7s and 9s

## **Science:**

Aut 1 - Animals, including Humans

Aut 2 - Sound





# *Our learning this term*

Art & Design:

Drawing: Power Prints (Aut 1)



Computing:

Aut 1 - Computing systems and networks 1 - Collaborative learning

Aut 2 - Programming - Coding with Scratch



Design & Technology:

Mechanical systems: Making a slingshot car (Aut 2)





# *Our learning this term*

French: (Taught by Mrs Walsh)

Aut 1 - Je Me Présente (Introducing myself)

Aut 2 - En Famille (Family)

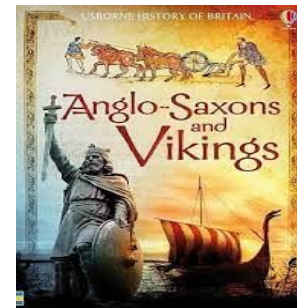


Geography:

Aut 1 - Local area study - How to make Grays more environmentally friendly?

History:

Aut 2 - Invaders and settlers - Saxons vs Vikings





# *Our learning this term*

Music: (Taught by Dr Shore - Music Teacher)

Aut 1 - World songs - Part singing etc Maliswe - Maliswe, Si Si Si Banaha etc in parts - Drumming

Aut 2 - Learning recorders

PE:

Aut 1 - Games - Football

Aut 2 - Games - Hockey





# 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 once they are finished and it is the responsibility of the child to do this. Please listen to your child read every day and your child(ren) leave a comment in his/her reading record.

It would benefit the children to still read to you, with you and hear you read to them too.



# Homework



## Year 4 homework expectations

- ❑ Weekly spelling homework set on Google Classroom weekly - based on the spellings and spelling rules from each week's lessons (twice a week sessions).
- ❑ TT Rockstars - 10 minutes a day, with times tables allocated by your child's teacher - times tables are also being taught on a fortnightly basis.
- ❑ Reading - 15 minutes - 5 times a week
- ❑ All homework and expectations are set on THURSDAYS, with the due dates being on the following TUESDAY.
- ❑ Any child without internet access or where there are issues with accessing any homework, should inform their class teacher immediately so we can find a resolution to ensure they are not missing out on homework.



# *Educational Visits*



**Autumn 1 - Grays Park Walk - part of our Geography focus of a 'local area study'.**

**Autumn 2 - Anglo-Saxons Day - History topic linked. (Internally run)**

**Potential further enrichment:**

Spring 1 - Science Museum - linked to topic of states of matter.

Spring 2 - Tilbury Fort - link to History topic of the Spanish Armada and its impact on the local area.

Summer 1 - African Workshop - dance, rainforest and culture. (Internally run)

Summer 2 - Egyptian Workshop - History topics linked. (externally run but in school)

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/>





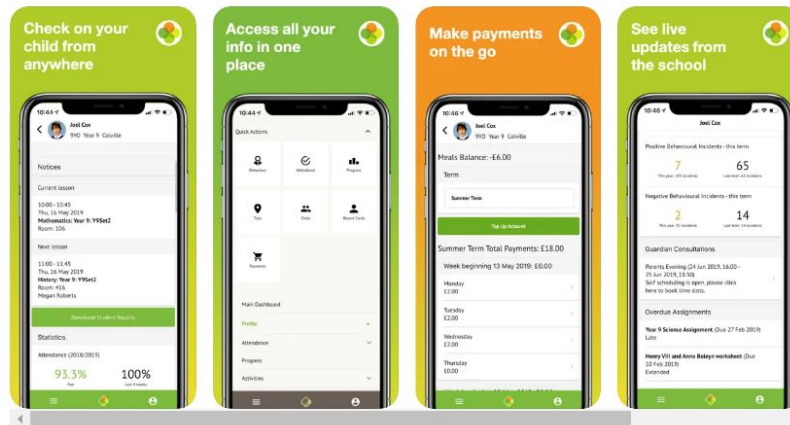
# Arbor

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*



- Half term: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
- Parents Consultations:
  - Tuesday 17th October - 3.30-6
  - Thursday 19th October - 3.30-6
- INSET Day: Monday 30th October (school closed to pupils)
- Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 13th November
- Wednesday 15th November - Year 4 Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury Church
- Friday 24th November - 4B's Liturgy
- Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Jumpers, Lunch and Class Party Day
- 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](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!

