

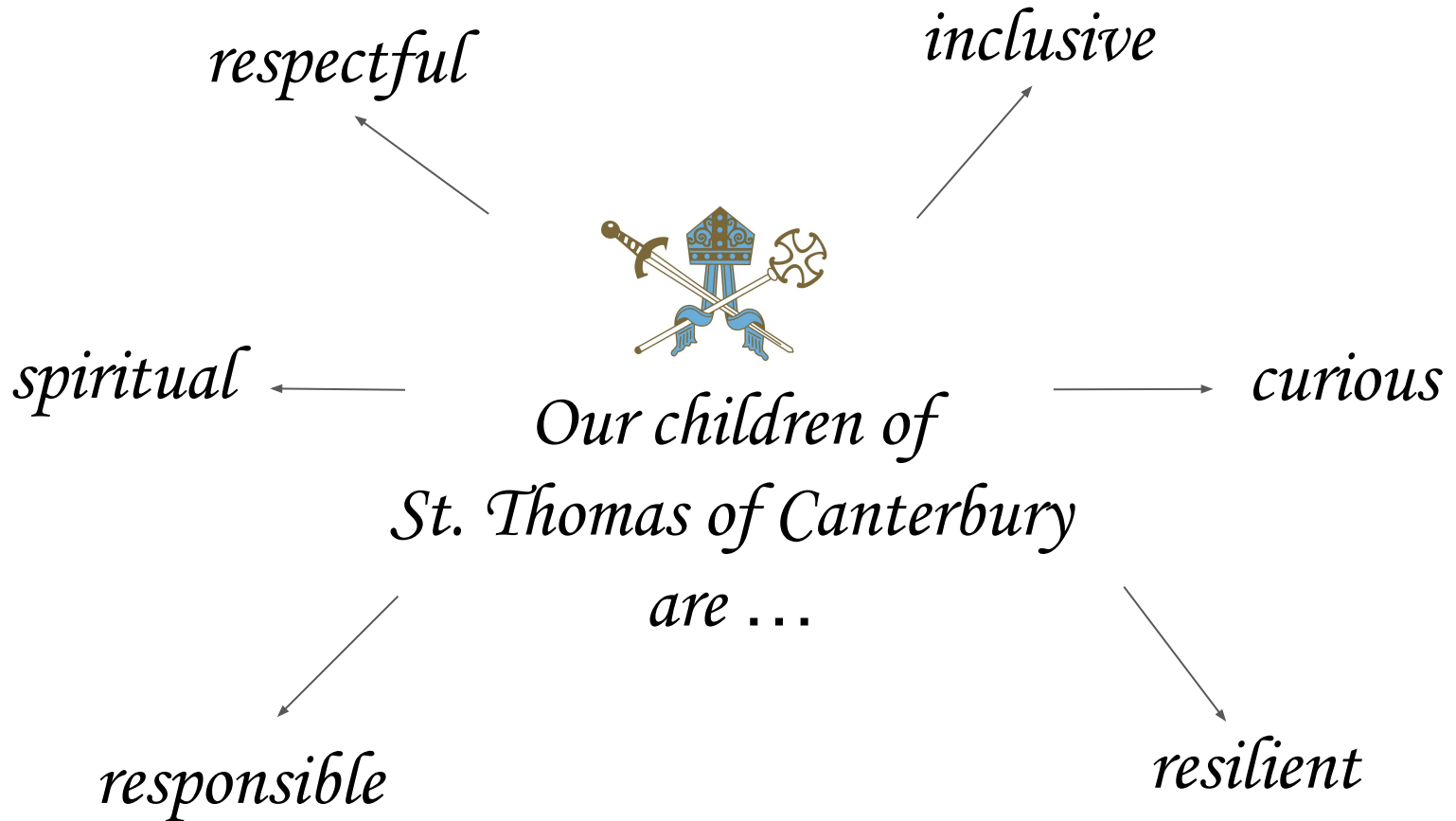
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

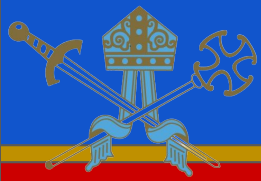
*Welcome to the Year 5
Parent Information Meeting*

Spring Term 2025



Our School Values





The Year 5 Team

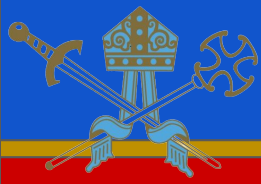
- ❑ **Miss S Barry** - Year Group Leader & Class 5B teacher
- ❑ **Mrs N Hayes** - Class 5H teacher
- ❑ **Miss L Mcanally/Mrs Dale** - Class 5MD teacher

- ❑ **Mrs N Cook, Mrs L McGinley and Mrs M Adams** - Year 5 support staff

- ❑ **Mrs M Hall** - SENCo

- ❑ **Mrs Cuff** - Inclusion Manager





Attendance and Punctuality



It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or runny nose. If they are unwell during the day we shall call you to collect you child.

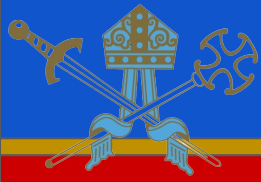
Punctuality

8:40 - School gates open.

8:55 - The school day begins.
All children should be seated in class by this time.

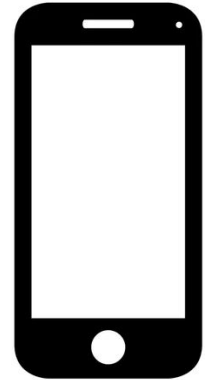
3:10 - Parents arrive to collect.

3:15 - School day finishes.



Absence Procedures

If your child is absent for any reason, you should contact the school office by 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.



The law on school attendance has now changed. You will be issued with a penalty notice if your child has ten sessions of unauthorised absence over a rolling period of ten weeks. 10 sessions is equivalent to one week.



Uniform



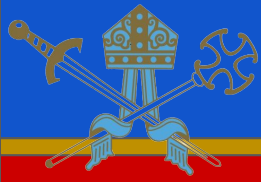
At St. Thomas of Canterbury, we are proud that our uniform fosters a sense of belonging within our school community.

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

REMINDER

Year 5's PE day is Tuesday.

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



**Parents can choose
which PE uniform
children wear depending
on the weather.**

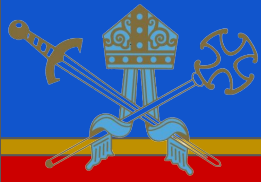
Children should wear
black plimsolls or **black**
trainers on their PE days.



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

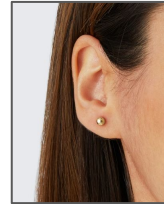
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





Hair/ Accessories

- Hair accessories must be kept to a minimum and should be in school colours.
- Hair braids should be natural hair colours.
- One small stud earring per ear. (Children must not wear earrings on PE days.)



Please ensure that all your child's clothing is marked with his/her name. We are not responsible for items of clothing which go missing.

Lost property is located in a black box outside of the main office.



1

Your child's Class Teacher knows them best so should be the first point of contact. From 8:40am staff are working with children, so please speak to the teacher at the end of the school day.



2

If you have a further query, make an appointment to speak to the Year Group Leader.



3

Call the school office who may be able to answer your question immediately or pass a message to the relevant member of staff.
01375 375826

Communicating with the school

Email or call the school office to request to meet with a member of staff.
admin@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

Talk with any of our Senior Leaders:
Mrs Coppin
Mrs Smith
Ms McAnally

Send in a note with your child.

Speak with the staff on the school gate at the beginning or the end of the day.

Email the class teacher.

Or the Headteacher
Mrs Poulteney

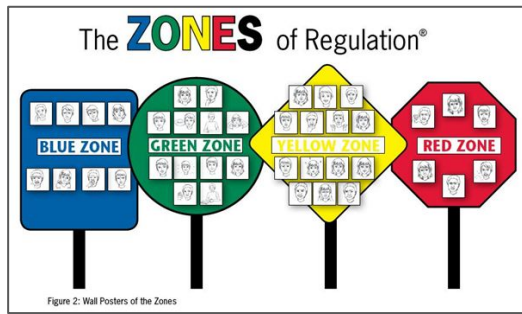




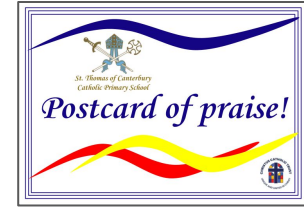
Follow us!

[St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School Grays Facebook Page](#)





Zones of Regulation



We believe in a preventative approach, where children are treated with respect and where sanctions, when applied, are consistent.

Rewards for good behaviour at St Thomas's include:

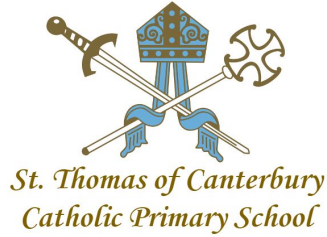
- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents
- Housepoints and stickers
- Certificates linked to our school values
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies





Maths Mastery

Listening



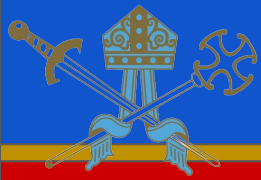
*School Focus
Areas
2024/2025*

*New Religious
Education Directory*



*Playtime and
Lunchtimes*



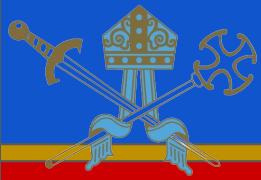


SCHOOL FOCUS Listening

Your child may talk to you about their listening partner and perhaps you have wondered what this means.

Over the past few months, the staff and children at St Thomas's have done a lot of work around how important it is to listen and how to be good listeners. Your child has a listening partner they talk and listen to in order to share their ideas during the day. This not only benefits your child's emotional wellbeing, but also leads to improved learning and understanding.





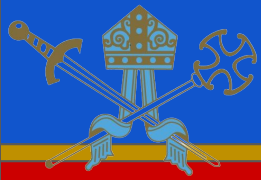
SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime



This academic year, we have invested in more playground equipment using funds raised from the Year 6 Enterprise Day and the Friends of St Thomas. We have been spending time modelling play to the children; they have even been learning new games suitable for playtime in their PE lessons.

Another focus for us this year is lunchtimes. We are working with the children to promote good table manners and etiquette. We are encouraging them to use this time to talk and listen to their friends at their table as well as being adventurous and trying new foods.





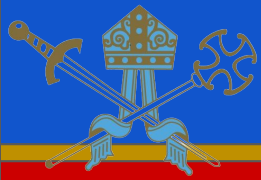
SCHOOL FOCUS- Maths Mastery

This academic year, we have introduced the mastery approach to the teaching and learning of Maths at St Thomas's. Teaching for mastery assumes **everyone** can learn and enjoy mathematics.

A mastery approach means that pupils are taught through whole-class interactive teaching, enabling all to master the concepts taught. In a typical lesson, the teacher leads back and forth interaction, including questioning, short tasks, explanation, demonstration, and discussion, enabling pupils to think, reason and apply their knowledge to solve problems.

Key number facts are learned until they become automatic, and other key mathematical facts are learned deeply and practised regularly.





Implementation of the new Religious Education Directory

To know You more clearly

The Religious Education Directory
for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges
in England and Wales



Religious
Education
Directory

We have begun to deliver lessons from the programme of study featured in the new Religious Education Directory (RED) entitled *To Know You More Clearly*. Initially, we have launched this new RE curriculum in EYFS and Years 1 & 2, with KS2 following in September 2025.

The six themes, or “branches” of the new curriculum are built around the liturgical calendar. The aim of the updated RED is to enable pupils to become more religiously literate so that they have the knowledge, understanding and skills to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, as well as recognise what religious commitment demands in everyday life.



Religious Education



2 RE lessons per week

Spring Term - themes and topics

- Mission - Children will learn about the mission of inspirational leaders and about our Diocese.
- Memorial Sacrifice - Children will learn about how memories are kept alive and about the Eucharist and Jesus' sacrifice.
- Sacrifice - Children will learn about the cost of giving, Lent and prepare for the sacrifice of Jesus.

- Weekly Assembly
- Celebration of the Word
- Musical Celebration of the Word



Mass is celebrated regularly at school and church for the whole school and individual year groups. All parents are welcome to attend.

We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.



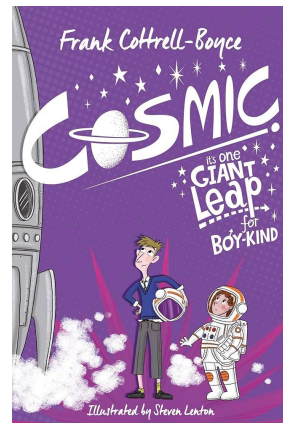
Our learning this term

Throughout the Spring, this is what we will be covering:

English: Our class text this term is Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce. We will be focusing on writing a persuasive letter, a newspaper report, a balanced argument, an explanation text and descriptive writing.

Maths: Children will be learning about fractions, decimals and Percentages, angles, graphs and transformations.

Science: In Spring 1, children will be learning about Space and our Solar System. In Spring 2, we will be focusing on British Science Week, which has the theme of 'Change and adapt!'



Our learning this term



Art & Design/Design & Technology: In Spring 1, our DT topic of Building Bridges and children will learn about different types of bridges and which is the most sturdy type of structure.

In Spring 2, our Art topic is South American Mask. Children will be creating their own South American mask, linked to our Geography topic.

Computing: In Spring 1, children will learn how to programme music using Sonic Pi. In Spring 2, children will learn how to use BBC Mirco:bit to build coding structures.





Our learning this term

French: In Spring 1, children will learn about the home and how to create sentences in French to describe their homes. In Spring 2, children will learn how to pronounce and spell drinks and snack, leading to understanding French Café culture.

History: In Spring 1, children will learn about The Mayans and their ancient civilisation.

Geography: In Spring 2, children will learn about South America, comparing an area of the UK with an area in South America.





Our learning this term

Music: In the Spring term, children will be learning how to play keyboards and how to read Treble Clef Notation. They will focus on understanding how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together in music, and begin to use these to play.

PE: In Spring 1, our topic is Gymnastics. Children will learn how to safely jump, climb and roll using a variety of equipment. They will also begin to create sequences of movement.

In Spring 2, our topic is Netball. Children will learn the rules of the game, as well as the positions and the 3 different netball passes.





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.

In Year 5, all children choose a book from their Class Library that is appropriate for their year group.

Children are able to change their books when they have finished from a wide variety in our class libraries. Please listen to your child read every day and leave a comment in his/her reading record.





Homework

Homework is set every Thursday and is due to be returned on the following Tuesday.

Your child's homework will generally consist of spelling words, set on Google Classroom, which we will test in class, and Times Tables Rock Stars. We will also send home a Reading Comprehension on paper for children to complete, which we will mark together in school.

At times, we may also give children a project to complete that involves research and/or artwork.





Educational Visits

Swimming - Beginning after the Easter Holidays. Children will be having weekly swimming lessons at Blackshots.

Tower of London - Wednesday 21st May 2025. Workshop at the Tower based on Henry VIII's wives, as well as chance for children to look around.

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





After school clubs

We are delighted to offer a wide 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/>





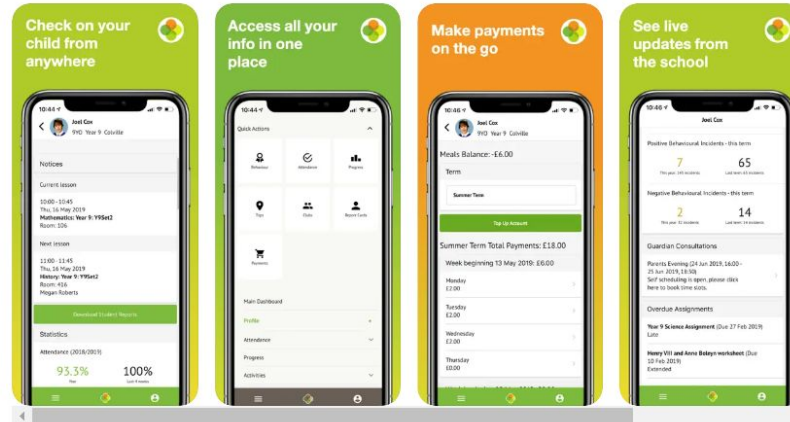
Arbor

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

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024									
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S			
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January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025								
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May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025									
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26	27	28	29	30	31																									

School days	School holidays	Bank holidays	Weekends	INSET (staff training) school closed to pupils
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Autumn Term:	Monday 2 September 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024 Half Term 20 October – 1 November	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 6 January 2025 – Friday 4 April 2025 Half Term 17 February – 21 February	60 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025 Half Term 20 May – 30 May; and May Bank Holiday – 6 May	60 days
		195 days

- Launch of Jubilee Year - Friday 24th January.
- Times Table Rock Star Day - Friday 31st January.
- Year 5 Mass at the church - Wednesday 5th February.
- Parents' Evening - Tuesday 11th February and Thursday 13th February.
- 5B's Celebration of the Word - Friday 14th February.
- Half term: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
- Ash Wednesday Service - Wednesday 5th March.
- World Book Day - Thursday 6th March.
- End of Term Mass - Wednesday 2nd April.
- End of term: Friday 4th April at 1:30pm (Early close)



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Ward Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM17 5RW

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Are you able to listen to children read?

Help with educational visits?

Help with school displays?

Assist with whole school events such as

Cultural Diversity Day or Sports Day?

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

Please collect a form from the office.

Friends of St Thomas' Come and join us!



Mrs Foley, our Community Involvement Lead, is leading the establishment of 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 got together to organise the tea, coffee and sweet treat sales after the Nativities, concerts, Easter passion plays and Parents' Evenings. We've held Break the Rules days (non-uniform days) as well as many raffle sales for Valentine's, Mother's Day and Easter. We will be arranging; fetes, discos, and other fundraising events **if we get enough volunteers**. We look forward to seeing you at our next PTA/FOST meeting.

If the only way you are able to support the school is by purchasing the things we have for sale; raffle tickets, cakes and coffees, this is still really valuable to help us raise funds!

Meet Arley, who you can contact for pre-loved school uniform;





Parent Heritage 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,
please
contact
Miss East
in Year 3.**