

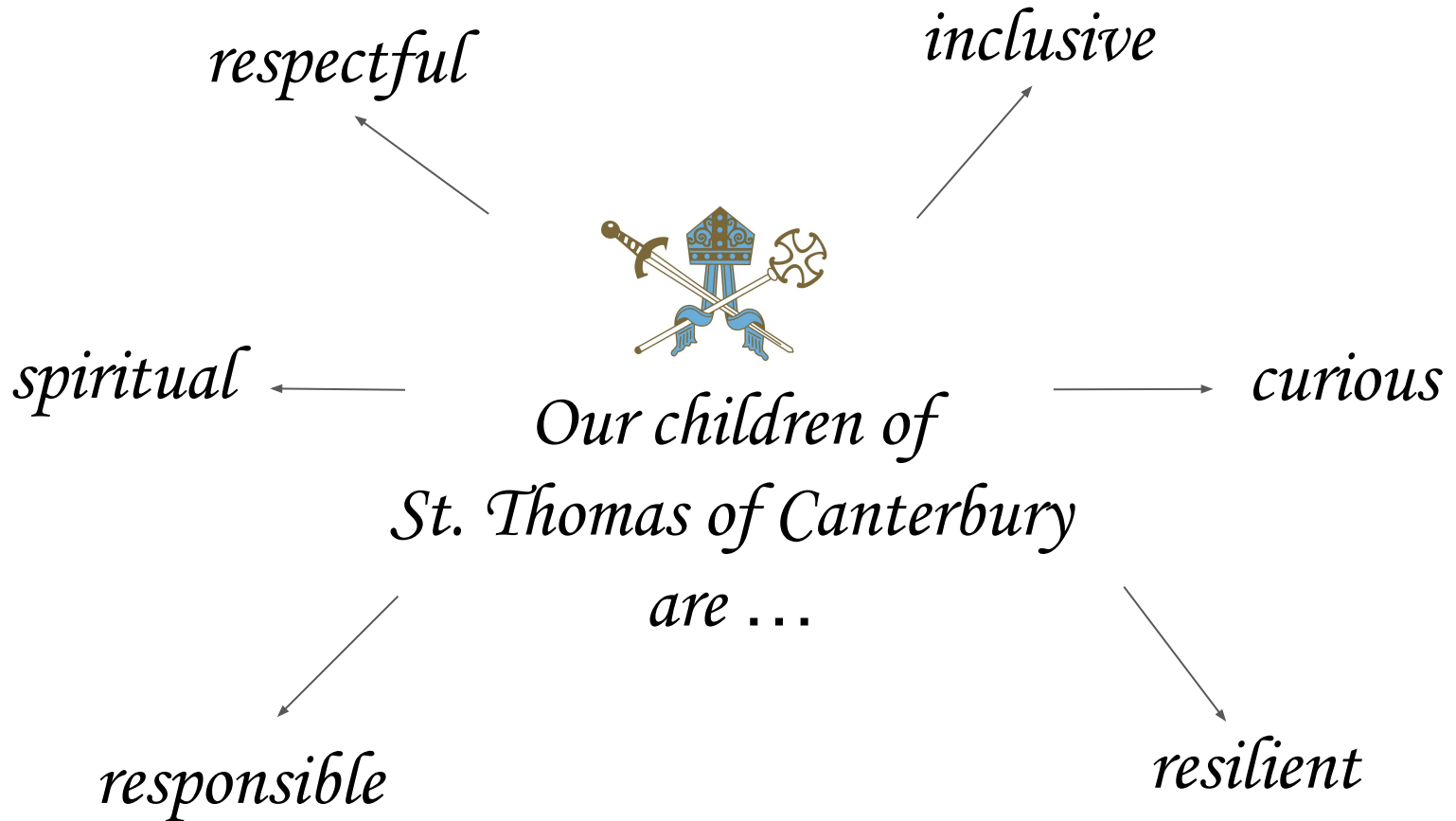
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

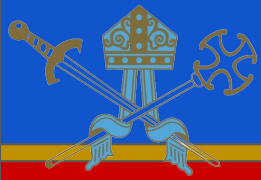
*Welcome to the Year 4
Parent Information Meeting*

Spring Term 2025



Our School Values





The Year 4 Team

- ❑ **Mr D Boulden** - Year Group Leader & Class 4B teacher
- ❑ **Miss L Nixon** - Class 4N teacher
- ❑ **Mrs L French (M-W) / Mrs A Venables (Th & F)** - Class 4FV teachers

- ❑ **Mrs Ashdown, Ms Woods and Mrs Edwards** - Year 4 support staff
- ❑ **Mrs M Hall** - SENCo

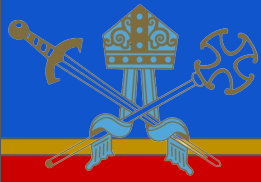
Mr Boulden - mr.boulden@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

Miss Nixon - miss.nixon@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

Mrs French - mrs.french@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

Mrs Venables - mrs.venables@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk





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 your child.

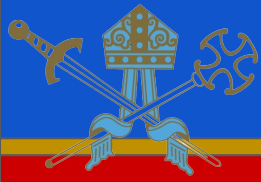
Punctuality

8:40 - School gates open.

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

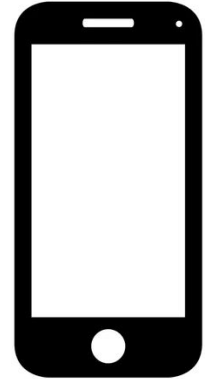
3:10 - Parents arrive to collect.

3:15 - School day finishes.



Absence Procedures

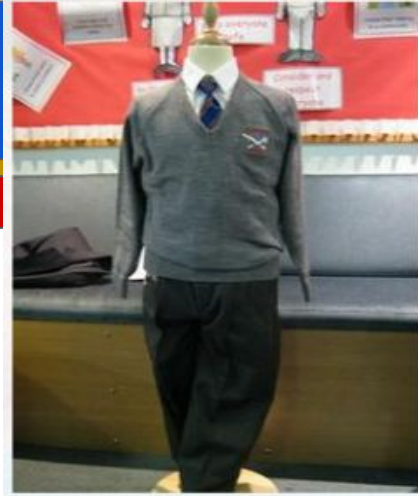
If your child is absent for any reason, you should contact the school office by telephone before 9:00am on the first day of absence. You will be expected to provide an explanation for the absence and an estimate of how long the absence will last, e.g. one school day.



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

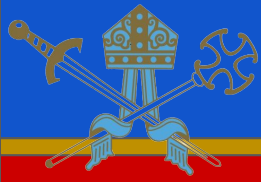


At St. Thomas of Canterbury, we are proud that our uniform fosters a sense of belonging within our school community.

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 4's PE day is Monday.

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.**

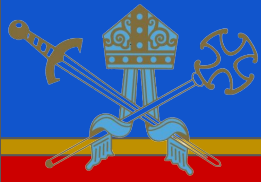
Children should wear
black plimsolls or **black**
trainers on their PE days.



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

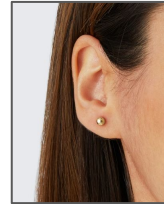
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





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

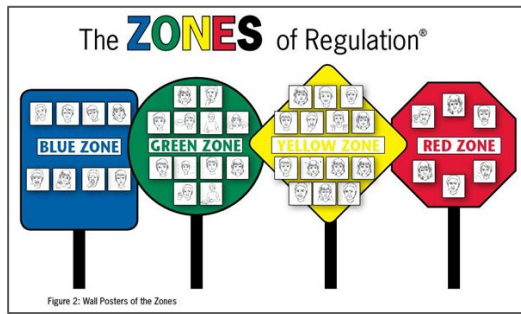




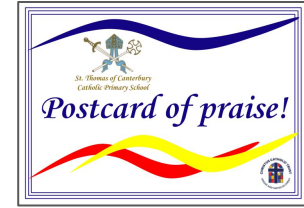
Follow us!

[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:

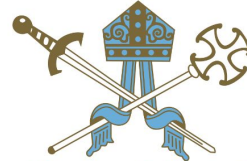
- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents
- Housepoints and stickers
- Certificates linked to our school values
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies





Maths Mastery

Listening



*St. Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School*

*School Focus
Areas*

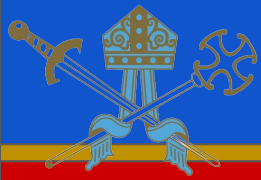
*New Religious
Education Directory*



*Playtime and
Lunchtimes*

2024/2025



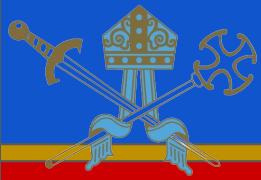


SCHOOL FOCUS Listening

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.





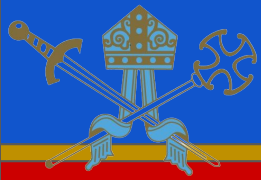
SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime



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.





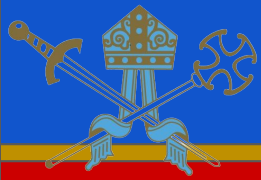
SCHOOL FOCUS- Maths Mastery

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

Spring 1:

- ★ Community
- ★ Giving and receiving

Spring 2:

- ★ Giving and receiving
- ★ Self discipline



- 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.



MTC

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 2025.

Key information:

- It is an annual check to ensure 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.





MTC

Websites to support with preparations for the MTC and to support with developing Times Tables recall:

- <https://www.timestables.co.uk/>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>
- <https://www.mathmammoth.com/practice/multiplication>
- <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z97rdnb#zw6k7v4>
- <https://www.mathschase.com/>
- <https://maths-games.org/times-tables-games/>
- <https://superbrainybeans.com/maths/times-tables/games/>



Times Tables



Autumn 1, Autumn 2 and first 2 weeks of Spring 1 (2 sessions per week)			
Week 1		Week 2	
Lesson 1 - Number track work with post-it notes and counting games.	Lesson 2 - Rote and relationships	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



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 Spring, this is what we will be covering:

English:

Spring 1

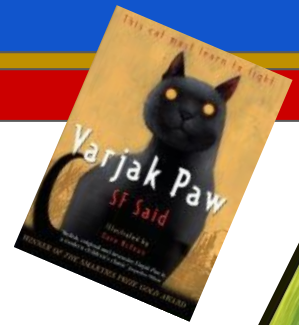
Writing genres - Diary Writing, Non-chronological report and Newspaper reports

Class text - Varjak Paw

Spring 2

Writing genres - Playscripts and Descriptive writing (Character and Setting)

Class texts - Jemmy Button and Romeo & Juliet



Maths:

Spring 1 - Fractions

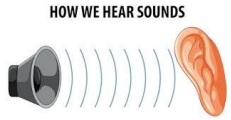


Spring 2 - Decimals



Science:

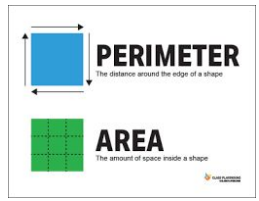
Spring 1 - Sound



Time



Areas and Perimeter



Spring 2 - Science Week





Our learning this term

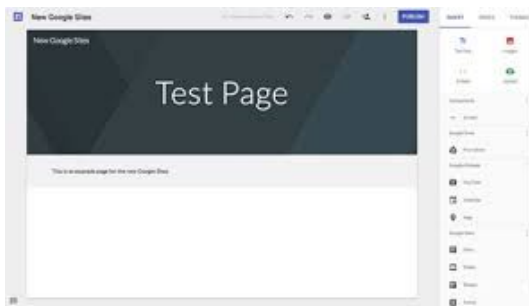


Spring 1 - Art & Design: Painting and mixed media: Light and dark

Computing:

Spring 1 - Google Sites

Spring 2 - HTML



Spring 2 - Design & Technology: Structures: Pavilions





Our learning this term

French:

Spring 1 - Les Instruments

Spring 2 - Je Peux ...



Geography: Population Change



population



History: Impact on our local area

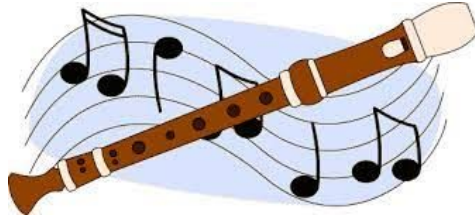




Our learning this term

Music:

Spring 1 - Playing of recorders



Spring 2 - Singing - focus being on our Easter Production



PE:

Spring 1 - Gymnastics

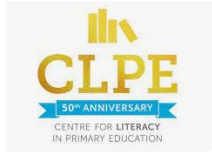
Spring 2 - Basketball





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.



Books are changed weekly. Please listen to your child read every day and and leave a comment in his/her reading record.





Homework



Year 4 homework expectations

- Weekly spelling homework set - see spelling sheet stuck into your child's Reading Record - these are based on the spellings and spelling rules from each week's lessons (twice a week sessions).

Year 4 Spring 1 Weekly Spelling Lists				
Week 1 - Test 14.1.25	Week 2 - Test 21.1	Week 3 - Test 28.1	Week 4 - Test 4.2	Week 5 - Test 11.2
does chef brochure parachute machine words from yr3/4 statutory list heart height history imagine	cornering fastening awaking forgetting beginning gardening preferring limiting cornered fastened	beginner gardener limiter gardened preferred limited fasten forgotten awake forgot	guide guest guitar guardian guard guarantee guidebook guess guild guilt	mixture moisture adventure nature capture picture feature vulture fracture nurture
Week 6 - Test 25.2 pasture scripture texture rapture furniture departure signature miniature structure sculpture	These are the week-by-week spellings that we will be teaching every Thursday during our spelling lesson and then testing the children on on the day shown. Children should rehearse the words, find out their meanings, use them in sentences and be tested on the words too.			

Note - Spellings for next Half Term will be sent home before the end of this Half term.





Homework

Maths Homework - 10 minute Times Tables Homework book

- Homework is set every Thursday
- 2 pages per week to be completed.
- Handed back in by the following Tuesday.
- These books support the acquisition of Times Tables.
- Children should only complete the pages set and not go ahead - there is enough pages for every week of the school year.
- This homework should only take a short amount of time to complete.
- Homework is then checked (and signed by their teacher) and the children mark within set sessions on our timetable.
- If these are lost or damaged, they will need to be replaced by parents/guardians.





Homework

Year 4 homework expectations

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ If access to TT Rockstars is not possible, the children should be encouraged to rehearse their Times Tables using pieces of paper to help with developing their fluency.



Educational Visits

Spring 2 - Visit to Tilbury Fort

- Letter to follow
- Linked to our History topic of the impact of historical events on our local area'

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.





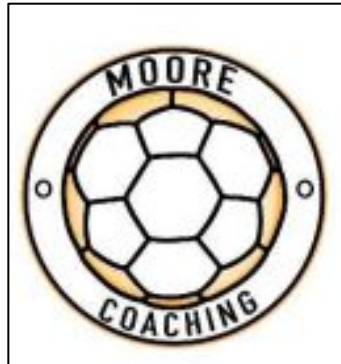
After school clubs

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/>

www.moorecoachinginfo.com

Please ensure you are punctual with collecting your child(ren) from any after school clubs or provision.





After school clubs

SPRING	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesday			Thursday			Friday		
	Club	Attendees	Led By	Club	Attendees	Led By	Club	Attendees	Led By	Club	Attendees	Led By	Club	Attendees	Led By
Before School 8-8.40				Boosters	All	Staff	Circuit Training (Fitness)	5 & 6	Staff						
Lunchtime (30 mins)	KS1 Choir	1 & 2	Staff	Gardening	2	Staff	Ocarina Orchestra	3 & 4	Staff	Altar Serving	5 & 6	Staff			
				Reading	6	Staff				Jigsaw	1 & 2	Staff	Crochet	Year 6	Staff
										Mindfulness	1 & 2	Staff	Colouring	Year 1	Staff
													TT Rockstars	4	Staff
After school (3.15-4.15)	Football	ALL	M. Coach				Multi Sports	ALL	M. Coach				Gymnastics	ALL	M. Coach
	Netball	6	Staff	Football	5 & 6	Staff				Running	4-6	Staff			
	KS2 Choir	4-6	Staff	Now Press Play	Reception	Staff									
	Reading Club	3	Staff												
	Jules et Lis	All	Jules et Lis	Jules et Lis	All	Jules et Lis	Jules et Lis	All	Jules et Lis	Jules et Lis	All	Jules et Lis	Jules et Lis	All	Jules et Lis
Sign-up open	Invite / Selection	Moore Coaching	After-school provision												





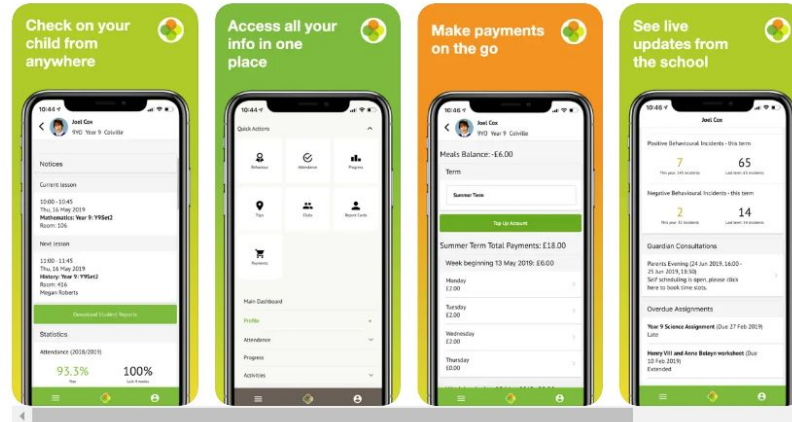
Arbor

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





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.

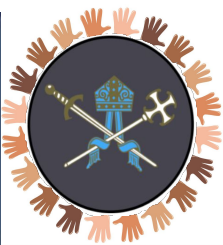
If you would like to be a part of this parent support group, who come together to help raise much needed money for our school, you can contact our email address: friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

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.**

Look out for details of 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.**