

*St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School*

*Welcome to Reception  
Parent Information Meeting*

*Spring Term 2025*



# Our School Values

*respectful*

*inclusive*



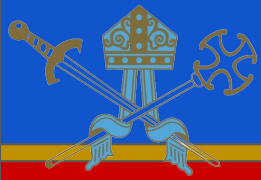
*spiritual*

*curious*





*Our children of  
St. Thomas of Canterbury  
are ...*

*responsible*

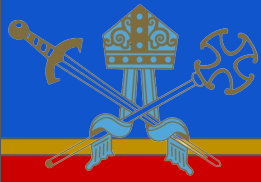
*resilient*



# *The Reception/EYFS Team*

- ❑ **Mrs N Foley** - Year Group Leader & RF teacher
- ❑ **Miss K Sharomi** - Class RS teacher 
- ❑ **Miss Levett** - Class RL teacher 
- ❑ **Mrs A Davies** - Reception HLTA 
- ❑ **Mrs Islam, Mrs Watras, and Mrs Kaur** - Reception 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 your child.

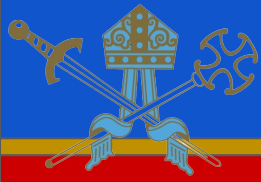
## **Punctuality**

**8:40** - School gates open (morning write starts).

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

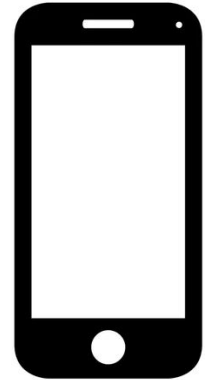
**3:10** - Parents arrive to collect.

**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.

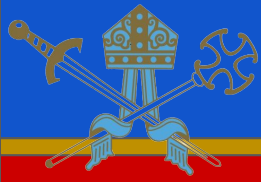
Information about school uniform can be found on the school website:

<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

Reception's PE day is Thursday.

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.**

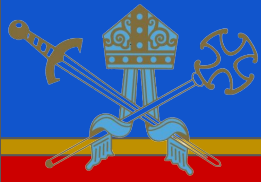
Children should wear  
**black** plimsolls or **black**  
trainers on their PE days.



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

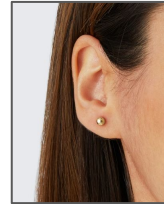
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





# *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.



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.



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



# Communicating with the school

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

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

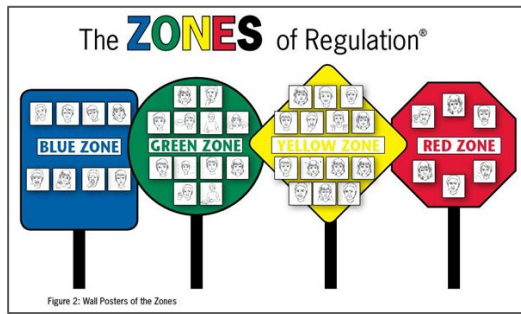




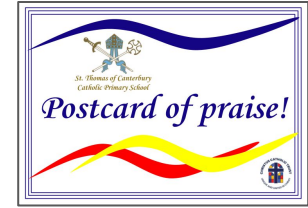
# Follow us!

[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:

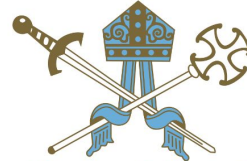
- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents
- Housepoints and stickers
- Certificates linked to our school values
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies





*Maths Mastery*

*Listening*



*St. Thomas of Canterbury  
Catholic Primary School*

*School Focus  
Areas*

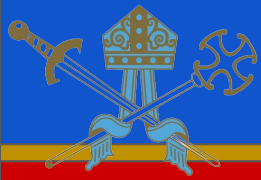
*New Religious  
Education Directory*



*Playtime and  
Lunchtimes*

*2024/2025*



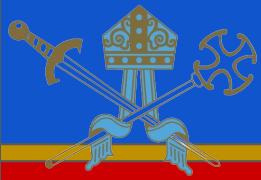


# *SCHOOL FOCUS Listening*

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.





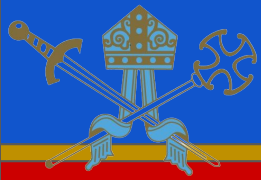
# *SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime*



This academic year, we have invested in more playground equipment using funds raised through 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.





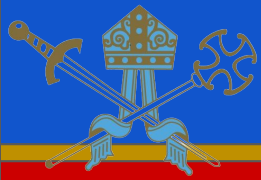
# *SCHOOL FOCUS- Maths Mastery*

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

In Reception using the new Religious Education Directory we will cover the topics of Galilee to Jerusalem in Spring 1. This will be followed by Desert to garden: We will be exploring key events of Holy Week: Lent, Good Friday and Easter Sunday (to enable pupils to recognise key events). The great commandment (Lk 10:25-28). They will understand that God made them and the world and that He loves them.



- 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 terms, this is what we will be covering:

Literacy English: Our topic in Spring 1 is Space and our books and writing will be around this focus area. Our books are



Spring 2: Our topic will be mini beasts



Maths: Our focus areas will be subitising, discovering how numbers are composed: 5 is made from 1 and 4 and comparing numbers using 'more than/fewer than'.



# Our learning this term

Science: In Spring 1 we will be looking at day and night, space and planets, and famous astronauts from the past.

Spring 2: We will learn about life cycles and making observations about animals.



Famous American Astronauts



## MINIBEAST HUNT



CATERPILLAR



BEE



WORM



SLUG



LADYBIRD



SPIDER



BUTTERFLY

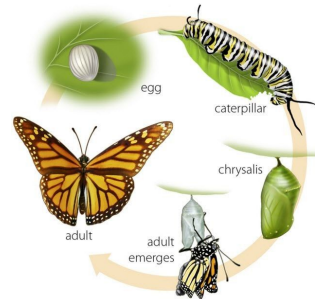
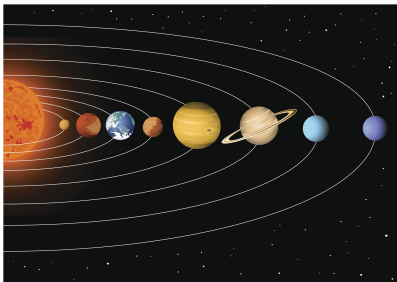


BEEBLE



SNAIL

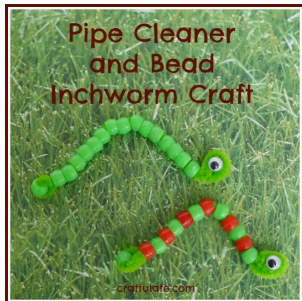
SCIENCE SPARKS





# Our learning this term

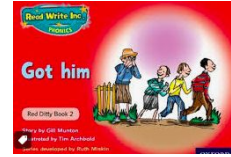
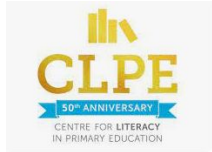
Expressive Arts & Design: We will explore colours, join different materials and create stories with our small world animal sets and dolls houses.





# 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 leave a comment in his/her reading record. A prize draw takes place weekly and those that have read their Phonics book 5 times will be entered into it. Please also read to your child their library 'reading for pleasure book'.





# Homework

Weekly homework will be set on 'Evidence Me' on a Friday afternoon. Usually, for your convenience we send sheets in homework folders too. Please take the time to support your child with this homework and take photographic or video evidence which you can send to your class teacher on the 'Evidence Me' app or if it is paper based please return by Wednesday of the following week.

Reception children will receive 5 high frequency/sight words/red words in their tub each week. Please allow them to look and say these words each evening. Remind them if they are unsure. We want the children to recognise these words on sight, as many are not blendable/decodable e.g: 'the'. However, they are the most commonly used words in books.



evidenceme

Your learning stories  
platform





# *How to support your child at home*

- Children should read their tub words and book/ditty sheets daily.
- By the end of Autumn 2, children should form letters, starting and finishing in the correct place. Please use the video on Evidence Me and the handwriting booklet if this is still something your child is working on.
- We would like all children blending 4 letter real and alien words (including the sounds sh,qu,th, ch, ss,ll, ff, zz, ng, nk) by the end of Spring 1 and then 5 letter words by the end of Spring 2.
- Children should use their 'fred fingers' to attempt to spell using their set 1 sounds and begin forming short phrases or sentences now.
- Please support your child to recognise on sight the Numbers in their tub (out of sequence). Show them a number card and ask them to count out that many objects. You can extend this by asking them 'what is 1 more/less than. Can they order numbers smallest to largest?

Special Friends			
Can you find the special friends in these words?			
bang	quit	chip	sing
shop	chat	wish	think
back	wing	with	chin
this	chop	thing	wink





# *Educational Visits*



Mobile zoo visiting in Spring 2, Tuesday 25th February. We have arranged for a company to visit Reception to enable our children to see and handle animals. This will kick off our Minibeast topic.

We hope to visit the church either in Spring 1 or Spring 2 and we will confirm dates once plans are in place.

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. Please ensure you have made payment for our mobile zoo before 31st January. Thank you

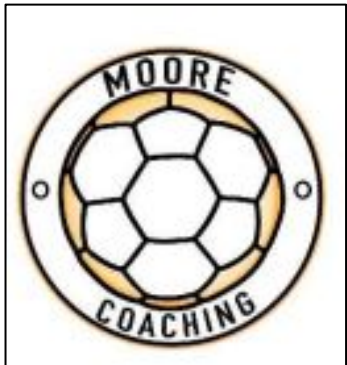




# *After school clubs*

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/>





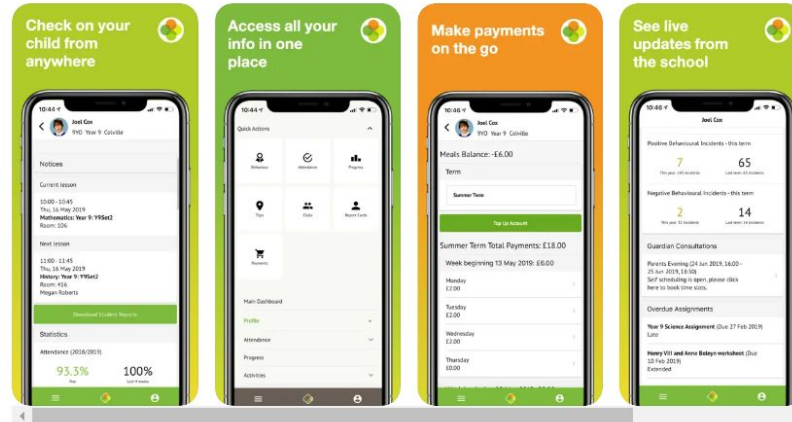
# Arbor

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									
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025																
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27	28	29	30	31																																	

May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025												
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																					
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
		<b>195 days</b>

- Launch of Jubilee Year - Friday 24th January
- Times Table Rock Star Day - Friday 31st January (**dress up**)
- Parents' Evening - Tuesday 11th February and Thursday 13th February
- Friday 14th **Wear something red day**-FoST (PTA fundraiser-donation required)
- Half term: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
- Educational visit- zoo 25th February
- World Book Day (**dress up**) - Thursday 6th March
- 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!



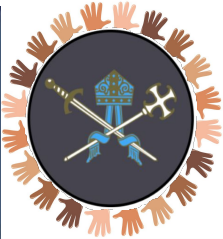
**Mrs Foley**, our Community Involvement Lead, is leading the establishment of the Friends of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

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](mailto: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.**

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.**