

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 1
Parent Information Meeting*

Spring Term 2025



Our School Values

respectful

inclusive



spiritual

curious

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

responsible

resilient

The Year 1 Team

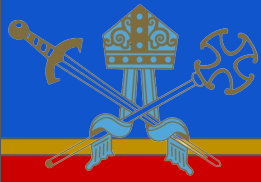
- ❑ **Mrs S Brind** - Year Group Leader & Class 1B teacher
- ❑ **Miss T Hamlet** - Class 1H teacher
- ❑ **Mrs C Gough** - Class 1G teacher

- ❑ **Mrs R Sutiene, Mrs J Hadley** - Year 1 support staff
- ❑ **Mrs Davies, Mrs Auvache** - HLTA

- ❑ **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.

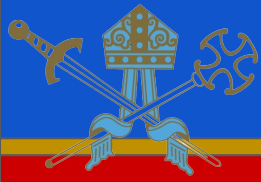
Punctuality

8:40 - School gates open.

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

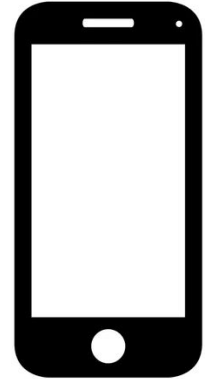
3:10 - Parents arrive to collect.

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.

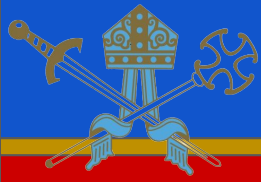
Information about school uniform can be found on the school website:

<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 1'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.**

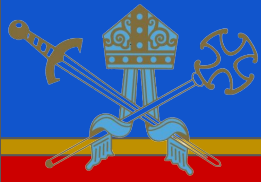
Children should wear
black plimsolls or **black**
trainers on their PE days.



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

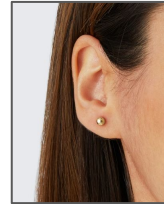
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





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.



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

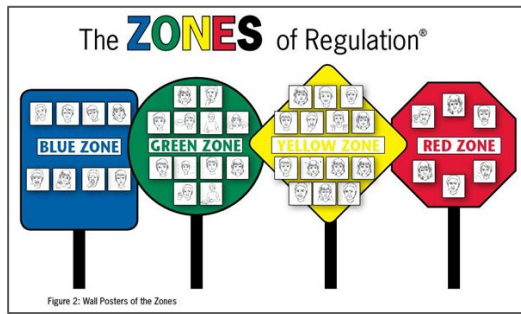




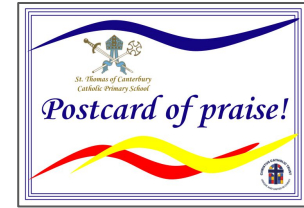
Follow us!

[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:

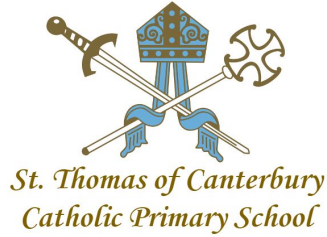
- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents
- Housepoints and stickers
- Certificates linked to our school values
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies





Maths Mastery

Listening



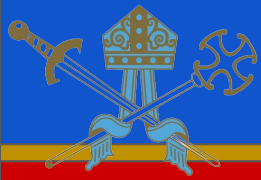
*School Focus
Areas
2024/2025*

*New Religious
Education Directory*



*Playtime and
Lunchtimes*



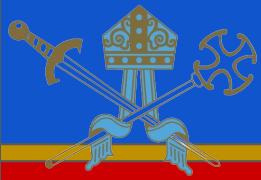


SCHOOL FOCUS Listening

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.





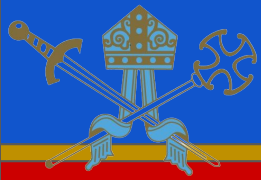
SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime



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.





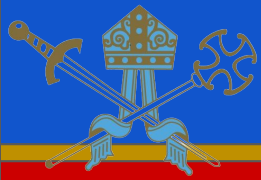
SCHOOL FOCUS- Maths Mastery

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

- Branch 3 - Galilee to Jerusalem



- Branch 4 - Desert to Garden



- 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.



Phonics

- We follow the RWI phonics scheme and children are taught phonics every day. The week of the 9th June 2025, our current Year 1 children will take the statutory Phonics Screening Check. During the Phonics Screening Check, children are asked to read (decode) 40 words. Reading the Phonics books at home is very important and supports the learning of these sounds.

Most of these words are real words but some are pseudo-words (Alien words). Pseudo-words are included to ensure that children are using their decoding skills and not just relying on their memory of words they've read before.

hild



Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				ā-ē	ē-ē	i-e	ō-e
					ai	y	ie	oa
						ea	i	o
						e	y	

oo	oe	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
ū-ē			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

Children learn all of the sounds on this chart.

This was provided to you during Parents Evening.

Once they know all of these sounds, they will be able to read any unfamiliar word.

We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.



'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk'

1.6

ship



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.

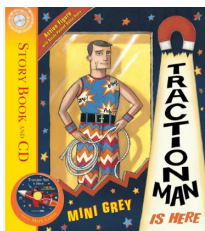




Our learning this term

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

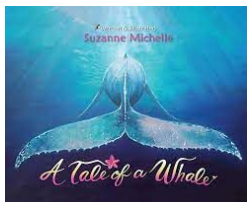
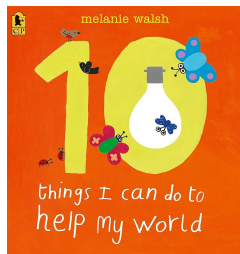
English:



Capital letters for names.

Writing sentences that they have practised to create their own story.

Exclamation Marks



Question marks/Exclamation Marks

Prefixes and Suffixes.

Maths:



Spring

6

Time

7

Exploring calculation strategies within 20

8

Numbers to 50

9

Addition and subtraction within 20

10

Fractions

11

Measures:
Length and mass



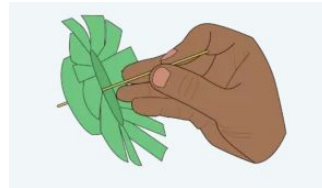
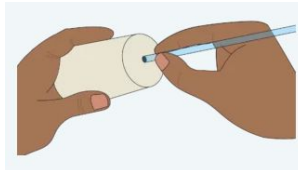
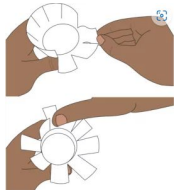
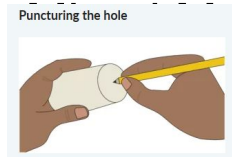
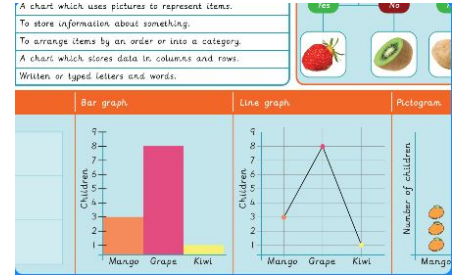
Our learning this term

Computing:
Digital imagery

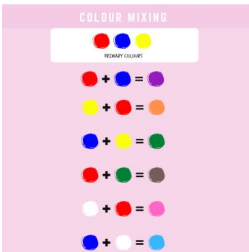


Design & Technology: Windmills

Data Handling:



Art: Painting and Mixed Media - Colour Splash!





Our learning this term

History: How have toys changed? We discuss toys over time and how they have changed.



Geography: What is the weather like in the UK? We discuss the British weather.



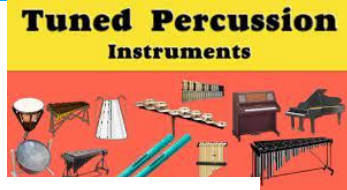


Our learning this term

Music:

Exploring Music Notation With Untuned Percussion Instruments

Exploring Music Notation With Tuned Percussion Instruments



PE: Gymnastics



twinkl.com

rock on back

dish roll

pencil roll

egg roll

teddy bear or circle roll

ink saving Eco

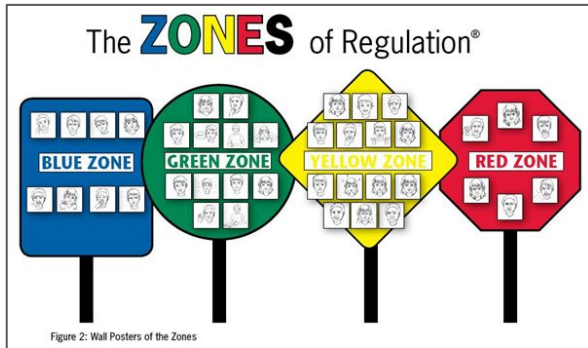
<p>Tucked V Balance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sit on floor.• Rest hands behind.• Lean back and tuck legs up.• Challenge! Lean back further.	<p>V Sit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sit on floor.• Complete Tucked Balance.• Stretch legs out/up.• Reach and touch toes.• Challenge! Lean back further.
<p>Tuck Balance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crouch down.• Keep knees together.• Curl into a ball.• Challenge! Raise onto toes.	<p>Arabesque</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach arms out to sides.• Lean forwards.• Raise back leg straight into air.• Challenge! Try other leg.





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.

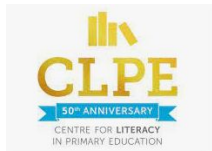


In each classroom, we have the Zones of Regulation to aid the children with understanding their emotions and feelings and knowing how to deal with them.



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 every 3-5 days. Please listen to your child read every day And leave a comment in his/her reading record.



Homework

Homework is placed in the children's red folder and put into their book bags every Friday.

Please ensure that the homework is completed by the following Wednesday.

Please ensure that you check Google Classroom/Child's email at least twice a week as work and videos will be attached to benefit your child's learning.

homework





Educational Visits

St Thomas' Church - Date to be confirmed.

Grays Library visit - Date to be confirmed..

Southend Sealife Centre - 9th July - To be confirmed.

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.





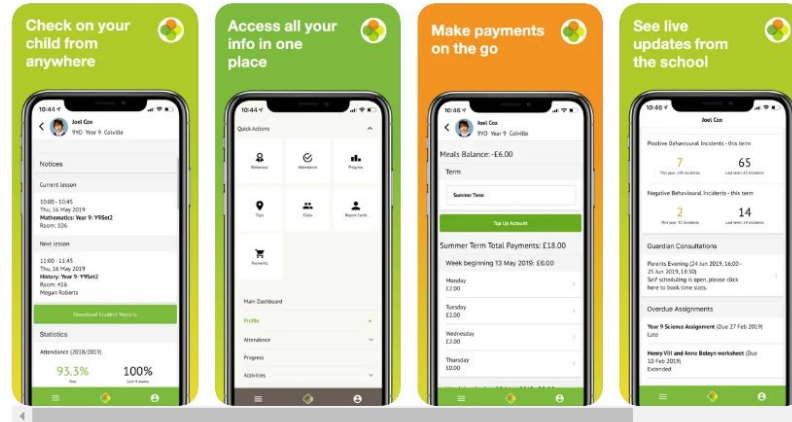
Arbor

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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School days	School holidays	Bank holidays	Weekends	INSET (steff 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 **(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
- 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.

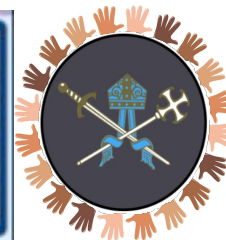
If you would like to be a part of this parent support group, who come together to help raise much needed money for our school, you can contact our email address: friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

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.**