

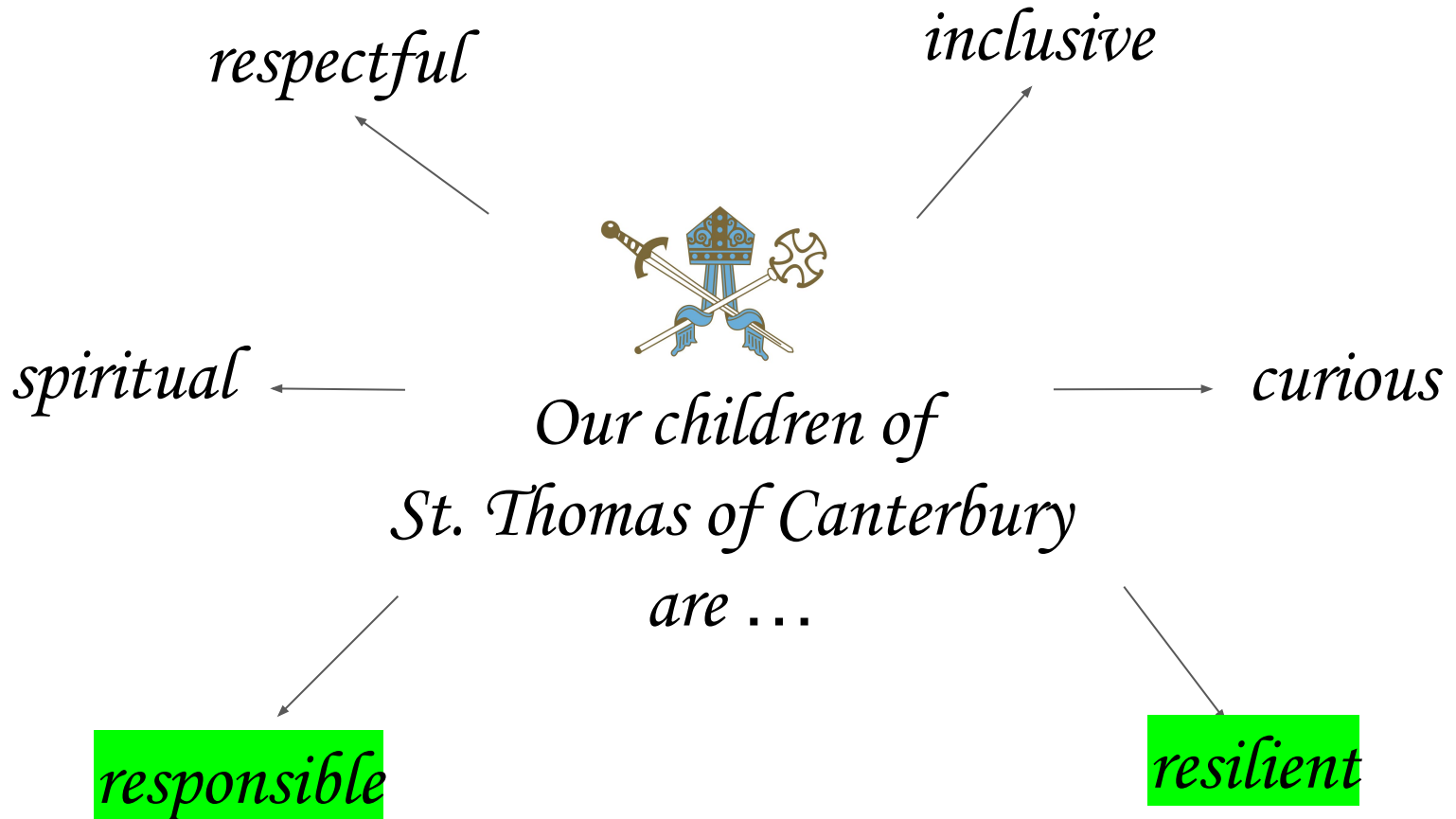
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

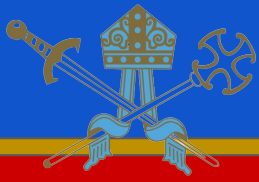
*Year Reception
Parent Information*

Summer Term 2025



Our School Values





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 Jachym, and Mrs Kaur** - Reception support staff



❑ **Miss S Pellat** - SENCo

❑ **Mrs Cuff** - Inclusion Manager





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

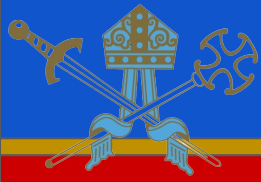
Send in a note with your child.

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





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

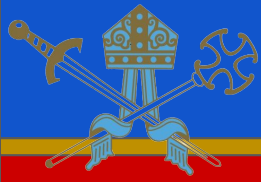
8:40 - School gates open.

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.

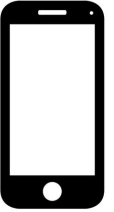


Absence Procedures

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.

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

Where a pupil reaches the national threshold of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the school will consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Each case will be considered individually to determine whether a penalty notice or another tool or legal intervention should be used to improve attendance.

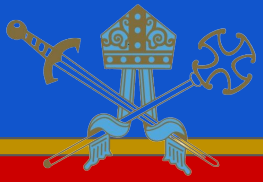


A fixed penalty notice will be applied for in line with the LA's code of conduct and the DfE's 'Working together to improve school attendance' guidance.

Penalty notices for unauthorised absences will be charged at £160, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

Where attendance still does not improve following a fixed penalty notice, the school will work with the LA to take forward attendance prosecution as a last resort.





Uniform - Summer term

Summer uniform is compulsory after the May half term holiday.

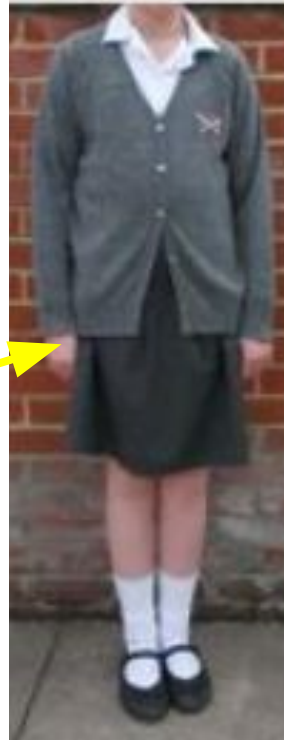
BOYS

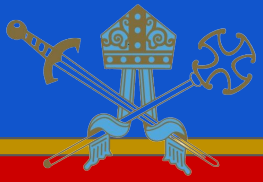
- White polo shirt with school logo (Preferred) or plain white polo shirt
- Grey shorts
- Grey V necked jumper (preferably with the school logo)
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (not trainers)



GIRLS

- Pink gingham dresses
- Neutral coloured (e.g. black, white) cycling shorts under dresses (Optional)
- White blouse with reversed collar/ grey skirt (Year 5 & 6 girls only)
- Grey V necked cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- White socks
- Black shoes (not trainers)





PE kit

REMINDER

Reception's PE day is Thursday.

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



Children should wear their Red PE shorts and Blue school T-Shirt for PE during the Summer term.

If the weather is cooler they can wear their school tracksuit over the top of shorts and T-shirt.

Any child without a school tracksuit should wear a plain dark coloured tracksuit instead.

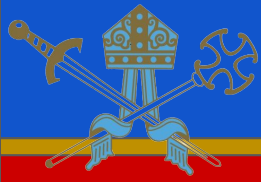
Children should wear black plimsolls or plain black trainers on their PE days.



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

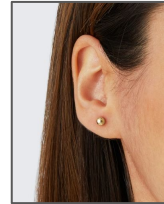
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/uniform/>





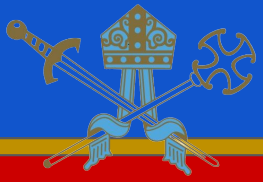
Hair/Accessories

- Hair accessories must be kept to a minimum and should be in school colours- **Pink, white or blue in the Summer**
- 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.



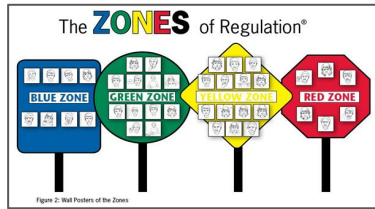
Behaviour

Expectations

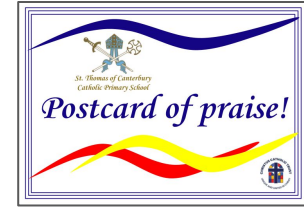
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- Promoting desired behaviour.
- Promoting self-esteem, self-discipline, proper regard for authority, and positive relationships based on mutual respect.
- Ensuring equality and fair treatment for all.
- Praising and rewarding good behaviour.
- Challenging and educating misbehaviour.
- Providing a safe environment free from disruption, violence, discrimination, bullying and any form of harassment.
- Encouraging positive relationships with parents.
- Developing positive relationships with pupils to enable early intervention.
- A shared approach which involves pupils in the implementation of the school's policy and associated procedures.
- Promoting a culture of praise and encouragement in which all pupils can achieve.





Zones of Regulation

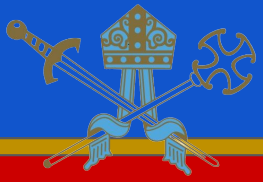


We promote a caring, supportive environment in which staff educate children in how to de-escalate and regulate their behaviour using **Zones of Regulation**.

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



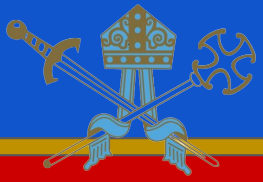


Religious Education

Some parents have asked for more information on what Religious Education consists of at STOC.

Christ is at the centre of everything we do in school, as a Catholic School we;

- pray together at the start of the school day, before and after lunch and at the end of the day
- come together weekly for Celebration of the Word led by a member of staff
- share in class-led Celebrations of the Word over the academic year
- sing and learn new hymns in our musical celebration of the word
- provide children with the opportunity to lead on collective worship within the class based around Scripture
- offer opportunities for spontaneous prayer with prayer areas around the school
- share Advent and Lent bags with families so they can celebrate at home too
- have Faith Councillors in every class
- celebrate both Mass and other services such as Ash Wednesday
- invite Fr Pascal to come in and talk classes in different year groups about topics they are studying
- portray the Nativity and Easter Passion with performances in school for the community
- support the community and fundraise for charities, donating to foodbanks and clothes banks.



Our learning this term - Religious Education

2 RE lessons per week

Summer term - New topic 'To the ends of the Earth'

We will be exploring when Jesus went back to His father in Heaven.

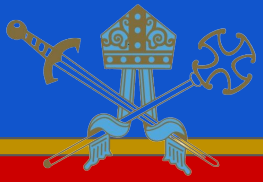
We will gain a further understanding on how we can support others.



We then move onto our topic 'Pentecost' and how this is celebrated in church.

We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.

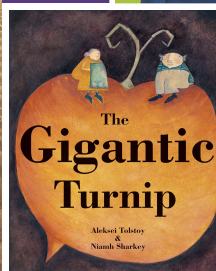
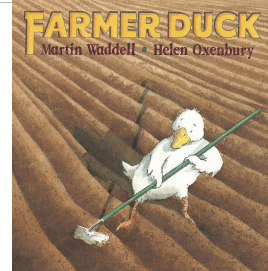
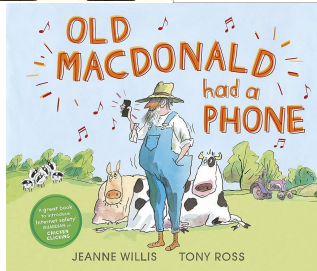
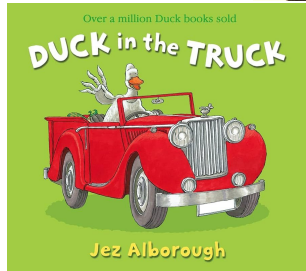
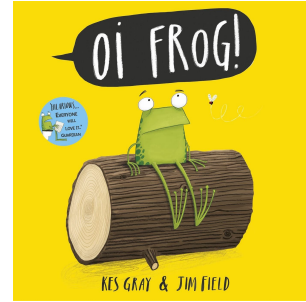
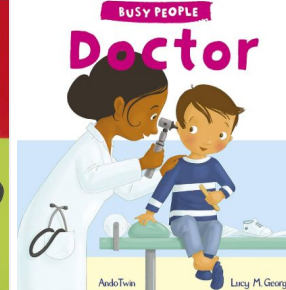
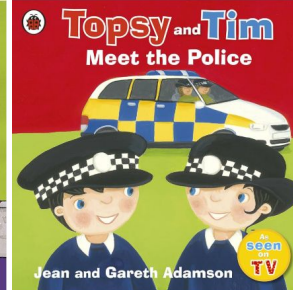
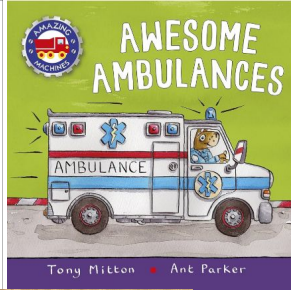
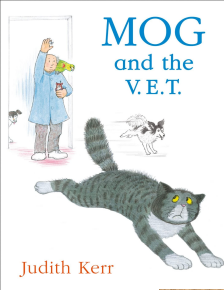
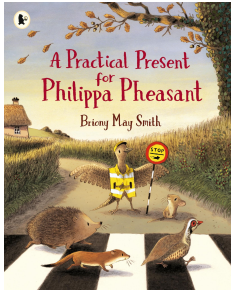




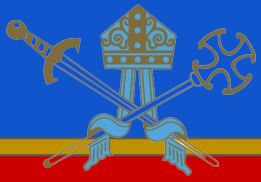
Our learning this term

Throughout the Summer term, We will be covering our topics 'People that help us' and the farm. Here are some of the topic books we will use.

English:



Targets for writing: Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences. Write sentences with a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces. Write two sentences joined together with 'and'. Use 'red' words spelt correctly. Read my writing back. Write sentences that others can read because I have checked them.



Our learning this term

Maths/Number:

Number/Maths:

Cardinality, ordinality and counting

- Counting to 20 (beyond if they are more able) and understanding cardinality: That the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether.
- Learning to count on from different numbers. - Learning to sequence numbers and find missing numbers. - Forming their numbers correctly and ensuring that 1 is the first number in their ten numbers.

Subitising

- Children will continue to develop their subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements.
- A key focus this term is the ongoing development of visualising skills: encouraging the children to look carefully at structured arrangements, such as those shown on dice and 10-frames, and then to close their eyes and explain what they see.

Composition

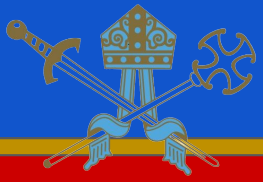
- Children will consolidate their understanding of the composition when one part is not visible
- Children will have an opportunity to build on previous work on the composition and understand groups of numbers. A key representation to support this will be the double dice frame.

Comparison

- Children focus on ordinality: considering where numbers are in relation to each other. - Children will reason about numbers and think carefully about more or less

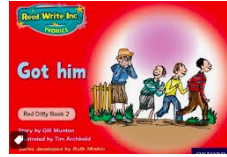
3D shapes and positional language





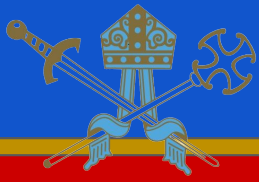
Reading

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.

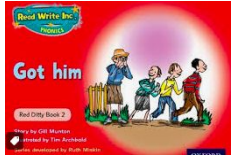


Books are changed weekly. Please listen to your child read every day and leave a comment in his/her reading record. A prize draw takes place weekly and those that have read their Phonics book 5 times will be entered into it. Please also read to your child their library 'reading for pleasure book'.

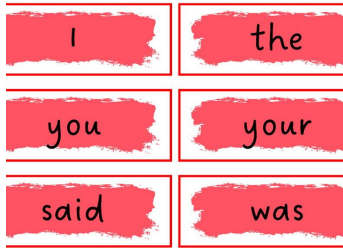




Homework



Daily reading of Phonics books is part of our home-school agreement. Without this, the children will not build the speed and fluency to comprehend what is read.



Daily practice of reading the red tub words (practice reading the ones which they do not yet know). Tell them the word and focus on five words each week.



Homework is set every **FRIDAY** and is due to be returned on the following **WEDNESDAY**. This is usually based around our current learning.

Numbots and Bug club should be accessed for additional learning opportunities.





Educational Visits/Arbor

Our Educational visits this term:

23rd April Fire fighter visit

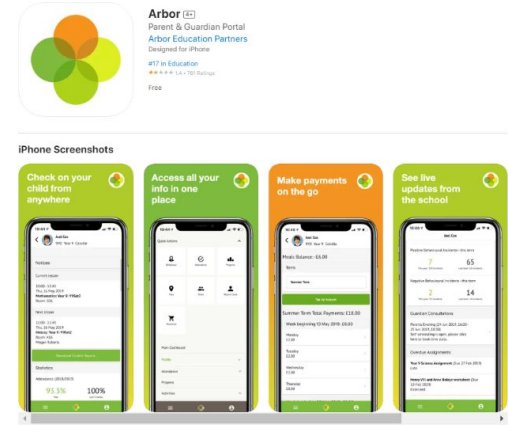
01st May Road safety visit and assembly

09th May Paramedic visit

15th May Police officer visiting

20th May Nurse visit

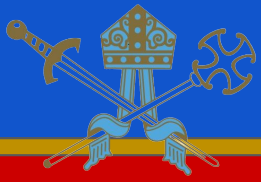
15th July Visit to the farm (parents' support will be requested)



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.

All correspondence, payments, club bookings and consent for trips will be sent electronically through Arbor.





Dates for your diary

5.5.25 May Day

26-30.5.25
Half term

18.7.25 End of
Summer Term.
School closes
at 1:30pm



8.5.25 VE day celebration-
children to wear Red, White and
Blue

19.5.23-23.5.25



19.5.25 AM EYFS/KS1 Sports day;
school field, parents invited.

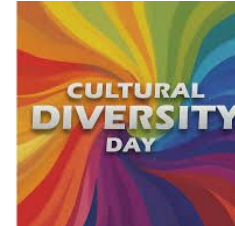
22.5.25 AM KS2 Sports Day. Blackshots
Athletics track. Parents invited to bring
a picnic for after the event.



30.6.25 AM Infant Music Festival
8.7.25 6:00pm Junior Music Festival



4.6.25 Class photos



10.7.25
Details
to follow



15.7 Whole
school Mass
10:15am in
school



Maths Mastery

Listening



*St. Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School*

*School Focus
Areas*

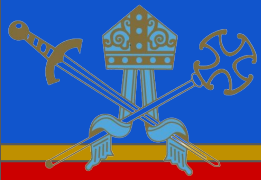
*New Religious
Education Directory*



*Playtime and
Lunchtimes*

2024/2025





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

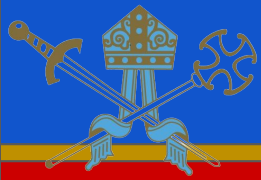


Religious
Education
Directory

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.



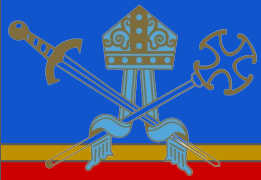


SCHOOL FOCUS Listening

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.





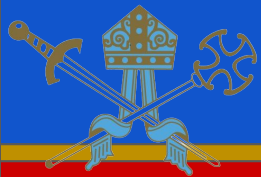
SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime



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.





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

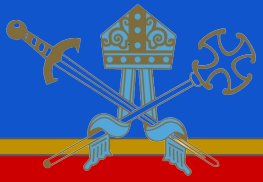
Please collect a form from the office.



Follow us!

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





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.

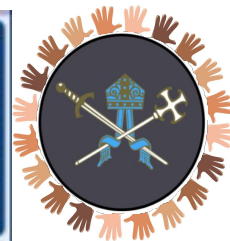
If you would like to be a part of this parent support group, who come together to help raise much needed money for our school, you can contact our email address: friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

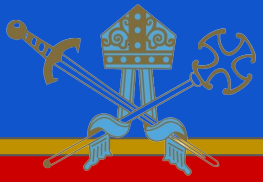
We got together to organise the tea, coffee and sweet treat sales after the Nativities, concerts, Easter passion plays and Parents' Evenings. We've held Break the Rules days (non-uniform days) as well as many raffle sales for Valentine's, Mother's Day and Easter. We will be arranging; fetes, discos, 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.**