



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

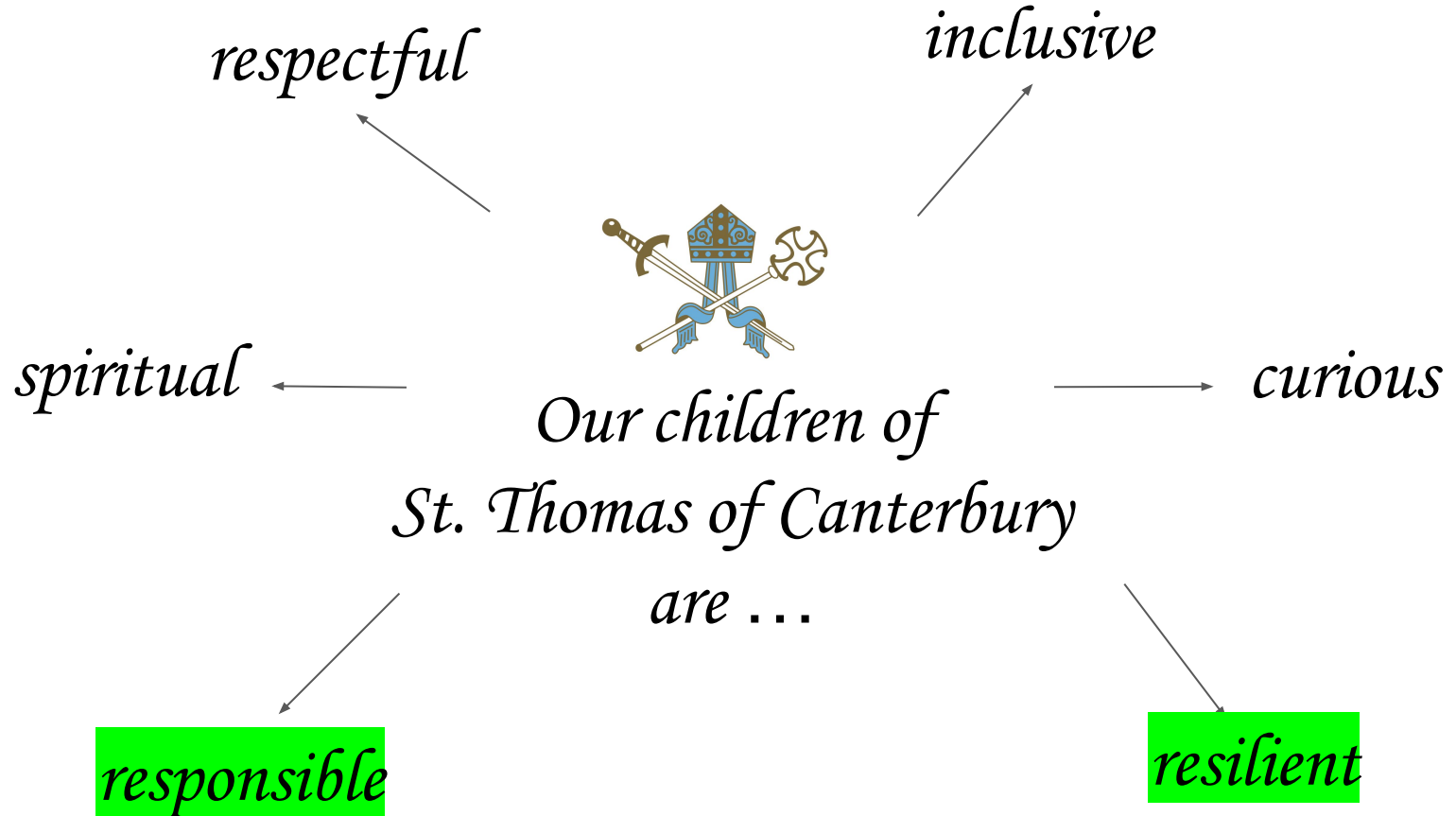
Year 2

Parent Information

Summer Term 2025



Our School Values





The Year Team

- ❑ **Ms Shurelova** -Year Group Leader & 2S Class teacher
- ❑ **Mrs Field** - 2F Class teacher
- ❑ **Mrs Leary** - 2L Class teacher

- ❑ **Mrs Alexandru** - Support staff
- ❑ **Mrs Beasley** - Support Staff
- ❑ **Mrs Cantwell** - Support Staff
- ❑ **Mrs Sturgess** - Cover Supervisor

- ❑ **Mrs 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

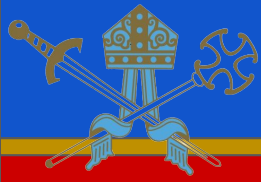
Send in a note with your child.

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

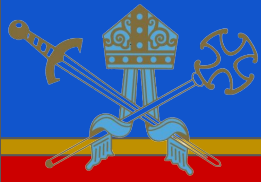
8:40 - School gates open.

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.

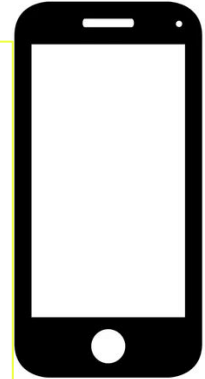
UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

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.

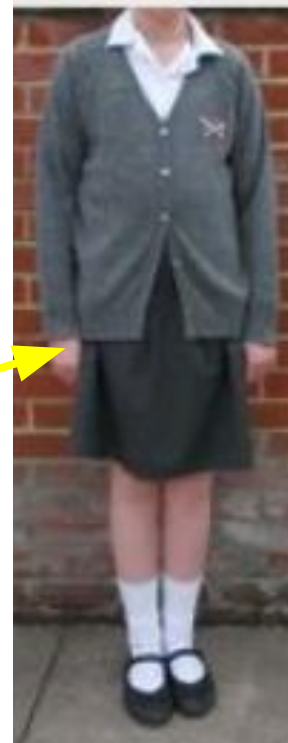
BOYS

- 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 revered 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

Year 2's PE day is Friday.

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.

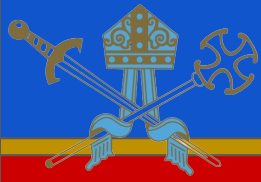
Children should wear black plimsolls or plain black trainers on their PE days.



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

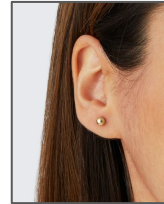
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/uniform/>





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.

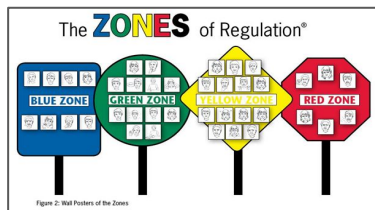


Behaviour

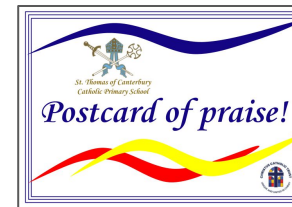
Expectations

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



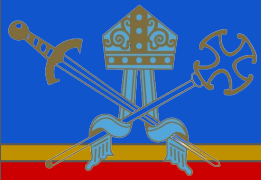


Religious Education

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 celebration 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 comes in to talk to 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 food banks and clothes banks.



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.





Our learning this term -Religious Education

2 RE lessons per week totalling 2½ hours. In addition to hearing the scripture, the children get to learn and develop their understanding of the scripture passages by watching the Jesus Bible Storybook series and Saddleback kids animations. Throughout the lesson different methods of teaching are used (a range of art, written, drama and discussion activities) to help them further internalise their understanding of the Gospels taught.



Summer term - themes and topics

In Summer 1, the topic is 'To the Ends of the Earth' which will focus on the Holy Spirit by looking at the Ascension and Pentecost. We look at how people are changed by the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



In Summer 2, the topic is 'Dialogue and Encounter' here we explore the links between the Catholic and the Jewish faith. The children will gain an in-depth understanding of the parable of the Good Samaritan and they will see how Christians within the local community collaborate.

Throughout all their lessons, the children's understanding of the Universal Church through stewardship, the common good, human dignity, distributive justice, option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation and peace are interwoven thus developing their knowledge of the principles of the Catholic Social Teaching.



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.



Our learning this term



Throughout the Summer term, We will be covering:

English: Our class text this term will be **Man on the Moon** by **Simon Bartram** and we will base our writing upon this. We will be focussing on character descriptions, playscripts and alternative story endings.

Maths: Our Maths units this term will include Money, Shapes and Direction, Place Value, Capacity, Volume and Mass, Calculation Strategies and Multiplicative Thinking



Science: This term we will be studying Plants. In addition to learning the parts of plants, the children will be planning and carrying out a number of scientific investigations to help them understand what conditions plants need to grow.





Our learning this term

Geography: In Summer 1, we will be covering the Magical Mapping Unit which looks at creating simple maps, using the compass points and gaining an understanding of aerial photography, using atlases to help us map the world's seas and oceans.



History: During the second half term we are studying a range of explorers and the achievements they are remembered by today. We will be learning about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong in particular, comparing and contrasting their achievements and the impact those had on the world.





Our learning this term



Music: Throughout the Summer term, the children will continue to explore dynamics and tempo while practising playing the ocarina. They will then be considering ways to show of understanding of feeling and pulse when playing and singing .



PE: During the first half of the summer term, the children will be working on their ball skills. They will be learning to throw and catch a ball practising a range of skills and applying them when playing ball games. During the second half of the summer term we will be doing athletics.



PSHE: We will be focusing on the different roles and careers within the community, career choices and economic well being. Our “A Journey in Love” program helps us to guide our children towards a progressive understanding of love, relationships and gender in line with the teachings of the Catholic church.

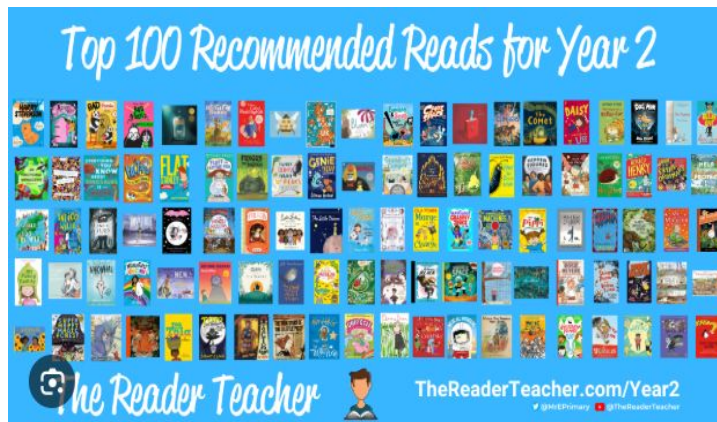
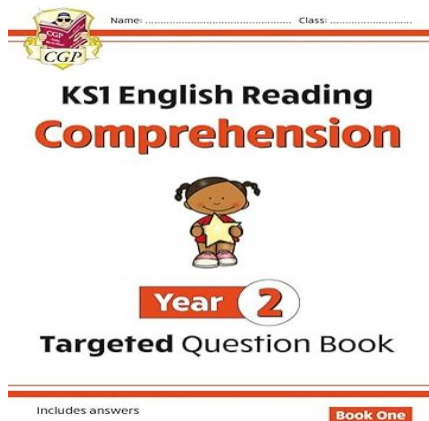




Reading

Please listen to your child read at least **5 times a week** and write a short comment in his/her reading record.

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.





Homework

Homework is set every FRIDAY and is due to be returned on the following THURSDAY

Your child's homework will generally consist of spelling words, which we will test in class, and a Maths sheet which covers our learning in class that week.

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

We also encourage the children to regularly practise their Times Tables on TT Rockstars.

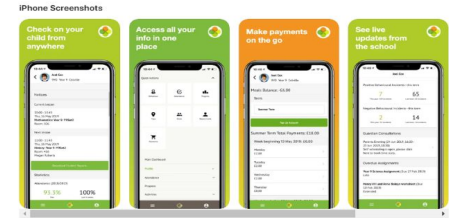




Educational Visits/Arbor

Our Educational visits this term: We are hoping to have a virtual tour of the London Jewish museum to enhance our study of Judaism within our R.E. Lessons in the second half of the summer term.

Also, we are going to have an enrichment day linked to our topic of Plants in Science, where we will spend the day tasting a variety of plant based dishes, looking at our environment and identifying different plants along with several other activities.



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



**14.5.25 2.45pm 2L will have their class
Celebration of the Word**

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

**22.5.25 AM KS2 2 Sports Day. Blackshots
Athletics track. Parents invited to bring a picnic
for after the event.**

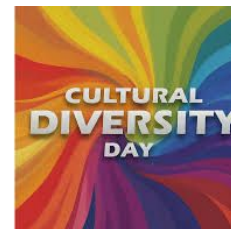


30.6.25 AM Infant music festival

8.7.25 6:00pm Junior Music festival



4.6.25 Class photo's



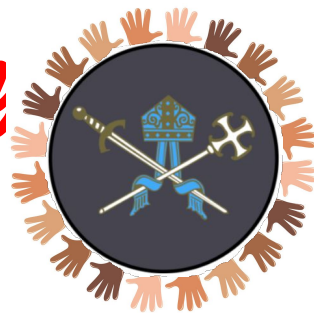
**10.7.25
Details
to follow**



**15.7 Whole
school Mass
lead by Year 2
children.
10:15am in
school**



Cultural Diversity Day



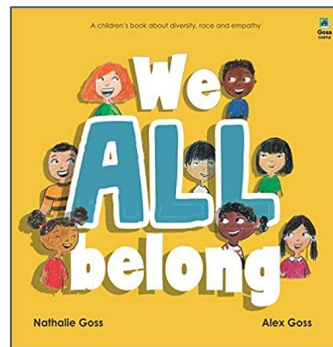
Thursday 10th July 2025

To celebrate our cultural diversity we are planning a full day of celebrations.

We will have various activities throughout the day please let your child's class teacher know if you can help in any way or have a particular talent to share with us.

This could be linked to cultural dance and music, art ideas, reading stories in a different language or any other suggestions you might have.

We would be delighted to hear from you!



God had a plan to make you unique.



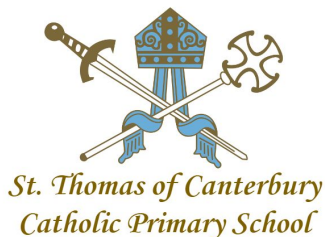
Not one of us is out of place.
We all belong to the human race.



Maths Mastery



*Playtime and
Lunchtimes*



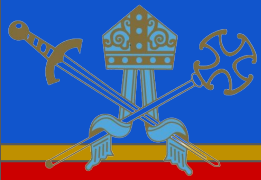
*School Focus
Areas
2024/2025*

Listening



*New Religious
Education Directory*



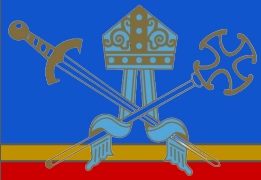


SCHOOL FOCUS Listening

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.





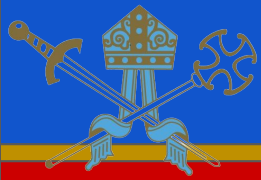
SCHOOL FOCUS Playtime and Lunchtime



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.

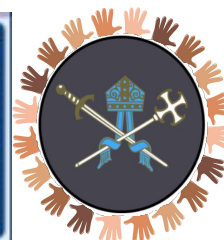
If you would like to be a part of this parent support group, who come together to help raise much needed money for our school, you can contact our email address: friendsofstoc@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

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.**