



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

*Welcome to the Reception
Parent Information Meeting*

September 2025



Our School Values

respectful

inclusive



spiritual

curious

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

responsible

resilient



The Reception Team

- ❑ **Mrs N Foley** - Year Group Leader & RF teacher

- ❑ **Miss K Sharomi (Miss Kemi)**- Class RS teacher 

- ❑ **Mrs A Davies** - Reception HLTA 

- ❑ **Mrs Islam and Mrs Camara** Reception support staff

- ❑ **Miss S Pellat** - SENCo 
- ❑ **Mrs M Cuff** - Inclusion Manager 





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

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-Children have missed the morning fine motor fun activities

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.

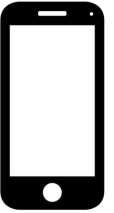


Absence Procedures

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.

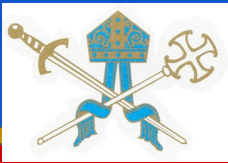


A fixed penalty notice will be applied for in line with the LA's code of conduct and the DfE's 'Working together to improve school attendance' guidance.

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 - Autumn term

Winter uniform is compulsory after the Autumn half term holiday.

BOYS

- White shirt
- School tie
- Grey V-necked jumper (preferably with the school logo)
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- St Thomas's School blazer (optional)



GIRLS

- White shirt or blouse
- School tie
- Grey V-necked cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Grey socks / tights
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- St Thomas's School blazer (optional)



COATS SHOULD BE BLACK OR NAVY. CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE A ST THOMAS'S BOOK BAG.



PE kit

REMINDER

Reception's PE day is Tuesday.

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



Children should wear their school tracksuit for PE during the Autumn term.

If the weather is warm, they can wear their blue T-shirt and red shorts.

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

No earrings to be worn on PE days.

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/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>



Hair/Accessories

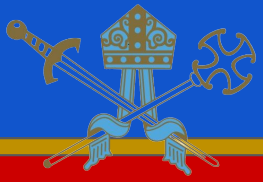
- Hair accessories must be kept to a minimum and should be in school colours- **Pink, white or blue in the Summer**
- Hair braids should be **natural hair colours.**
- **One small stud earring per ear. (Children must not wear earrings on PE days.)**



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. This is why we mentioned putting a single keyring on children's book bags as many do not yet recognise their names and read to ensure they put their cardigans and jumpers in the correct place.

Lost property is located in a black box outside of the main office.





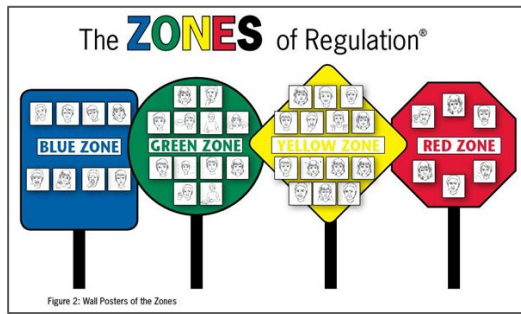
Behaviour

Expectations

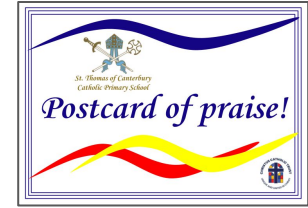
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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 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





Introducing Miss Pellat, our SENCO.



Hello, my name is Miss Pellat and I have been working at St. Thomas' since April 2025. I have been teaching in England for more than 20 years and I have successfully completed my National Award for SEN Coordination in 2017. I have a passion for supporting all children to access the curriculum and to make progress, promoting Inclusion and ensuring they have the right support in place when needed.

I am here to provide a link between home and school, supporting you with:

- discussing concerns and identifying and assessing your child's needs
- developing and implementing a support plan with class teacher's input
 - meeting and reviewing annually your child's EHCP
 - providing guidance and support about SEN
- coordinating with external agencies and making referrals when necessary

Please feel free to approach me if you see me around school or liaise with the class teacher. You can phone or email the office to arrange a suitable time to meet:

admin@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk 01375 375826

I look forward to working with you!



Introducing Mrs Cuff, our Inclusion Manager.



Hello, my name is Mrs Cuff and I have been working at St. Thomas' since September 2024. Previously I worked for Treetops School as a classroom Instructor. I have worked with children with varied Special Educational Needs in all key stages, for 18 years. I have a passion for supporting children reach their full potential.

I am here to lead and manage the school SEN provision working with staff, parents and external agencies to create a welcoming and effective learning environment for all. Providing tailored support and creating an inclusive learning environment.

Please feel free to approach me if you see me around school, alternatively you can email me to arrange a suitable time to meet.

Please email mcuff@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk or telephone the school office on 01375 375826 or speak with the class teacher.

I look forward to working with you!



Introducing Miss Pritchard, our Family Support Officer.

Hello, my name is Miss Pritchard and I have been working at St. Thomas' for 5 years. Previously I worked with the local Family Hub, supporting parents in their home environment to help settle their child and prepare them for school. I am passionate about helping every child thrive by supporting families with practical strategies and guidance. My role is to provide a strong link between home and school, working closely with you to support your child's development and wellbeing.

Some of the areas I can support you with include:

- Bedtime routines
- Setting boundaries
- Healthy eating

Please feel free to approach me if you see me around school, alternatively you can email me to arrange a suitable time to meet.

Please email cpritchard@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk or telephone the school office on 01375 375826. Alternatively speak to your child's class teacher.

I look forward to working with you and your family!





Introducing Miss Judd, our Safeguarding Officer.

Hello, my name is Miss Judd and I have joined St Thomas's school community in September 2025. Previously I worked for Hassenbrook as a pastoral support manager, providing support to both students and parents/carers on a daily basis.

I am here to provide a link between home and school, supporting you with strategies such as:

- Bedtime routines
- Setting boundaries
- Healthy eating

Please feel free to approach me if you see me around school, alternatively you can email me to arrange a suitable time to meet.

Please email njudd@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk Or telephone the school office on 01375375826 or speak with the class teacher.

I look forward to working with you!



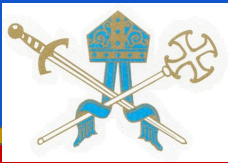


Religious Education

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 Paschal 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

Autumn Term - themes and topics

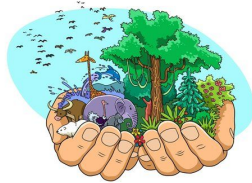
- Creation and Covenant

Via the new Religious Education Directory



- 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 welcome to attend.



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.





Early Years Curriculum



Early Years Foundation Stage - Prime Areas

Communication and Language

Physical Development (gross and fine motor skills)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

Literacy

Maths

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage

Setting the standards for learning,
development and care for children from
birth to five

Published: 12 July 2023

Effective: 4 September 2023

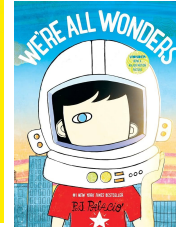
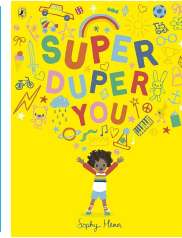
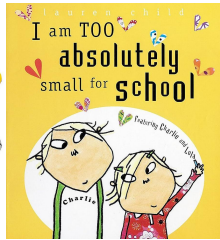
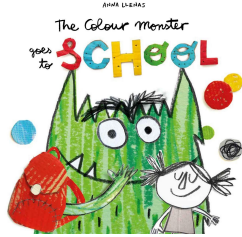




Our learning this term

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

Literacy:



Phonics:



Autumn 2 books - **Traditional and Familiar Tales** (The Gruffalo, Little Red Riding Hood, The Smartest Giant in Town, Jack and the Beanstalk, We're Going on a Bear Hunt).

Autumn 1 - writing some or all of their name, writing some letters correctly.

Autumn 2 - Forming lower case letters and capital letters correctly, spelling words by identify sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.

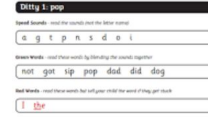
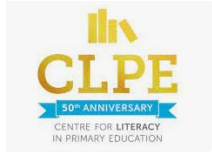
Number: 1.Subitising 2.Counting, cardinality and ordinality 3.Composition
4. Comparison





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.



I got pop
dad got a sip
the dog did not



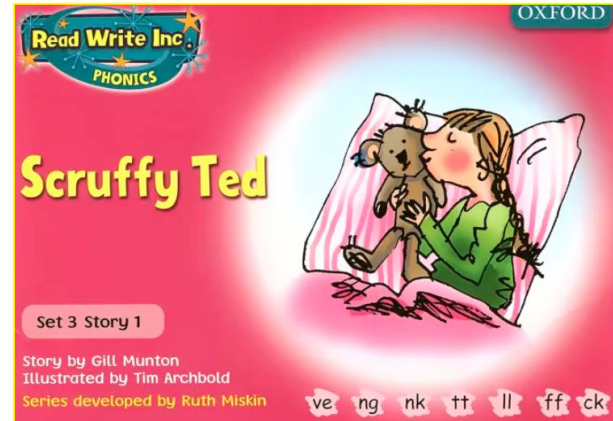
Books are changed weekly. Please listen to your child read every day and and leave a comment in his/her reading record.





Reading

Date	book title and page number	Comments
21/09	Scruffy	pages 1-3 had
22/09	Ted	pages 1-3 had
23/09	"	pages 3-5 had
24/09	"	pages 3-5 had
25/09	" Phonics	whole book
21/09	one snowy night	clare was able to make a prediction
22/09		- clare was able to point to the words the, a, sat
23/09		- clare told me this book was like bunny
24/09		stoppers
25/09	+ any additional books shared	





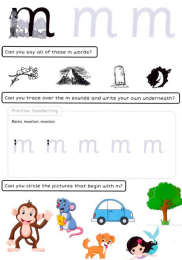
Homework



We have been sending out daily virtual classroom Phonics sounds for the children to watch daily. It is really important that the children interact with these films to imbed their in school learning.



The blending films have also been sent out to ensure children not only learn the sounds individually but also can put them together to read words.



These sheets are sent home at the end of the day/week for children to practise forming each of the letters they have been taught.

It is so important that you encourage them to keep up with the sounds taught so that they can reach their ELGs.





Reading

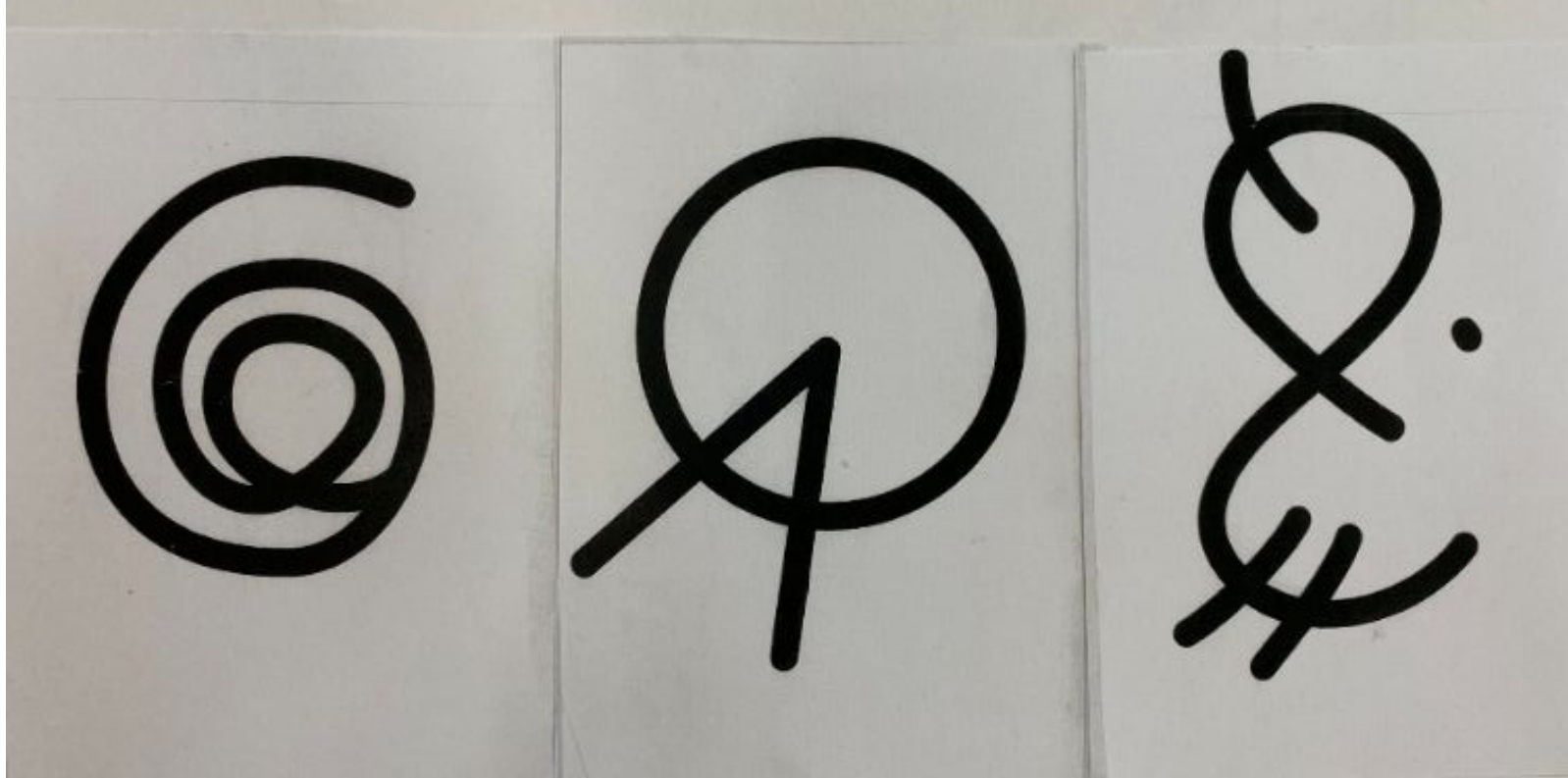
**Let's have a go at
reading!!**

**I will say the sound then
you repeat.**



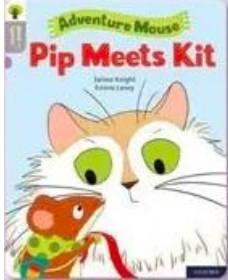


Reading





Reading



Book talk:

There are many things to discuss just on a front cover:

Begin with: 1. A prediction: Are these two friends? Why do you think that? What do you think is going to happen in the story?

As you go through, pause to ask questions to assist them in making connections with their own lives and remind them of a story you have shared that is similar.

Can they re-tell the story to you-get them to summarise what happened.

Encourage your child to ask you when they don't understand a word-this helps them build their vocabulary to speak and write.

When we get into Autumn 2 ask them to read words that you know they can blend to read or maybe have been their 'sight words' that week in their tub.

Look at this link: (Reading is the single most important skill to secure during school years).

<https://readingagency.org.uk/our-work/our-research/reading-facts/>

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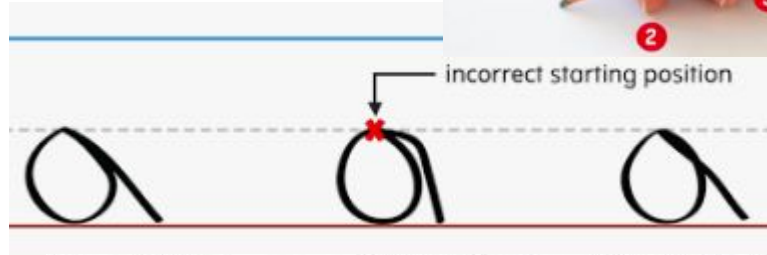


Writing



Practise handwriting

Round the apple, down the leaf



Thumb Wrap



Transpalmer



Thumb Tuck



Interdigital Brace



Index Grip



Supinate



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijd45Qddxfo>



Forest School



Forest School is a fun and adventurous way for children to learn outdoors. It helps build confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills while letting children explore nature. Pupils will also learn how to use tools safely, care for the environment, and, most importantly, have lots of fun, including fire safety and even enjoy some outdoor cooking in a safe, controlled environment.

During the year, each class will have a series of sessions, led by a qualified Forest School coordinator, during school hours at a scheduled time each Tuesday, in our dedicated Forest School outdoor learning area. This is beginning with Year 2 and Year 5 in Autumn 1, then other year groups will follow. Your child needs to wear their school PE kit for the duration of the sessions. Since Forest School happens in all weather (unless it is extremely windy or icy), please make sure your child has:

- PE kit tracksuit with long trousers and jumper or PE jacket
- A waterproof coat for rainy days and warmer coat in winter
- School jumper can be worn for extra layers in winter
- Trainers (wellies or boots on rainy days*)



* As our Forest School area is quite sheltered, trainers will be suitable to be worn most of the time, however school staff will always notify parents in advance if wellies or boots are needed for particularly wet weather.



Educational Visits



Over the course of the year we have many visitors to enhance our provision; firefighters, nurses, dentists, police officers and animal experiences.

We will hopefully visit the local library during Autumn term and will require some parents to support us walking there.

Father Paschal will visit us during Autumn to discuss our current RE topic.

Please note that if we do not receive sufficient contributions towards educational visits, then they may have to be cancelled. Payments are made via Arbor. Consent must be given for every child before we can allow them to participate. Verbal consent is **not** accepted for children to take part in any activity.





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/>





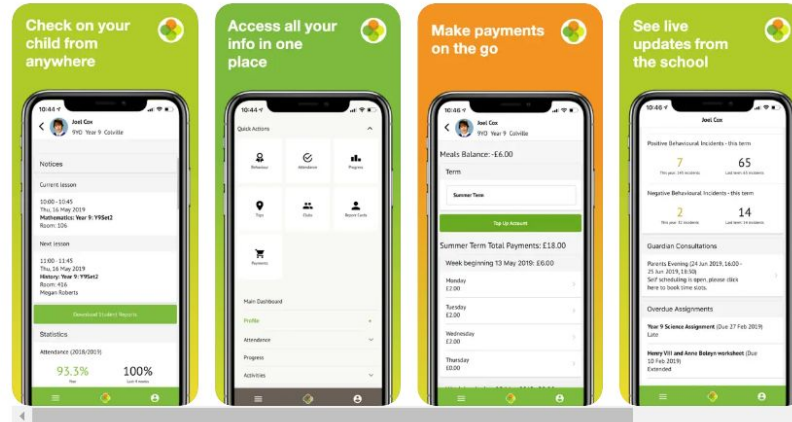
Arbor

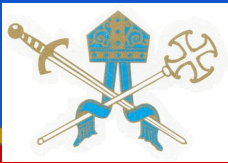
All correspondence, payments, club bookings and consent for trips will be sent electronically through Arbor.



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



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
Term Dates Academic Year 2025-2026



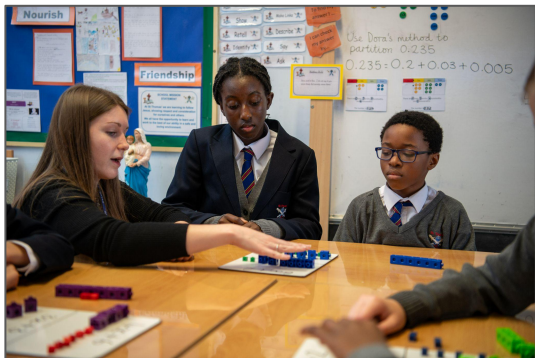
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21

- = Schooldays
- = School holidays
- = Bank holidays
- = Weekends
- INSET day (staff training) school closed to pupils

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 days 195 days

- FOST meeting for new members and existing
- Parents' evening dates 14th and 16th October
- Half term: Thursday 23rd October - Tuesday 04th November 2025
- INSET Days: Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th October, Monday 3rd November (school closed to pupils)
- Wednesday 10th December is our Christmas Nativity performance.
- Thursday 18th December Christmas dinner and jumper day
- End of term: Friday 19th December at 1:30pm (Early close)



Trauma Perceptive

Practice:

Understanding behaviour and supporting emotional wellbeing.



*Embedding phase of
Maths Mastery*



*St. Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School*

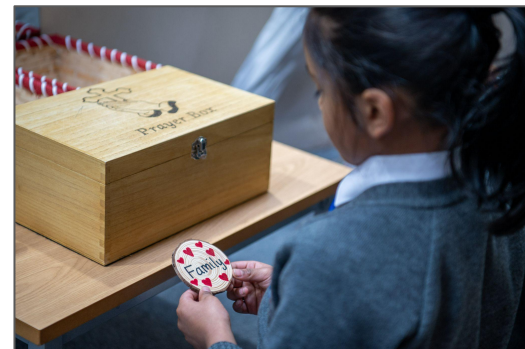
*New Religious
Education Directory:*

KS1 implementation complete. Now focusing on KS2.



Active Learning:

Forest School





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*. This new RE curriculum was launched in EYFS & KS1 last academic year and will be introduced to KS2 from this term.

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.





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](#)





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
Mrs Foley,
class RF**



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 Valentines, 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;

