



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

*Welcome to the Year 6
Parent Information Meeting*

September 2025



Our School Values

respectful

inclusive



spiritual

curious

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

responsible

resilient



The Year 6 Team

- ❑ **Mr T Ellis** - Year Group Leader & Class 6E teacher
- ❑ **Miss McAnally** - Assistant Headteacher and Class 6FM teacher
- ❑ **Mrs French** - Class 6FM teacher
- ❑ **Mrs Margiotta** - Class 6M teacher
- ❑ **Mrs Cook** - HLTA
- ❑ **Mrs McGinley** - Support Staff

- ❑ **Miss S Pellat** - SENCo
- ❑ **Mrs M Cuff** - Inclusion Manager
- ❑ **Miss N Judd**- Safeguarding Officer





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!





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.

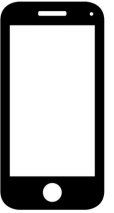


Absence Procedures

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 - 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

Year 6'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:

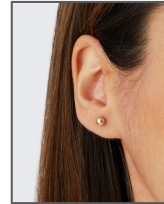
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/uniform/>





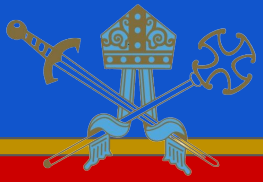
Hair/Accessories

- 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.



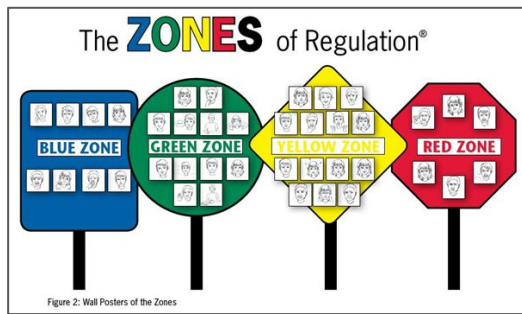
Behaviour

Expectations

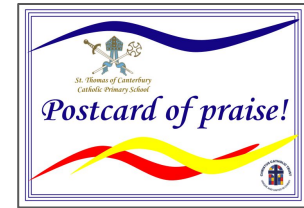
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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 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





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 Religious Education lessons per week

Autumn Term -

- Creation and Covenant (RED Branch 1) - we are focusing on the second account of Genesis, the Nicene Creed and Laudato Si.
- Prophecy and Promise (RED Branch 2) - we shall be exploring the importance of women in the Bible.

- 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.





SATs

These national tests for Year 6 pupils cover English grammar, punctuation, spelling, English reading, and mathematics. We will be completing mock assessments throughout the year.

Monday, May 11th to Thursday, May 14th, 2026

Here is the schedule for the 2026 KS2 SATs:

- **Monday, May 11th, 2026:** English grammar, punctuation and spelling test (including a short answer paper /50 and a spelling paper /20).
- **Tuesday, May 12th, 2026:** English reading test (/50).
- **Wednesday, May 13th, 2026:** Mathematics Paper 1 (arithmetic /40) and Paper 2 (reasoning /35).
- **Thursday, May 14th, 2026:** Mathematics Paper 3 (reasoning /35).

This link will show the full curriculum coverage that will be studied this year -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a81a9abe5274a2e8ab55319/PRIMARY_national_curriculum.pdf





Our learning this term

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

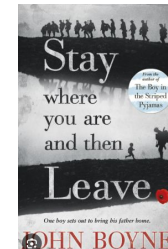
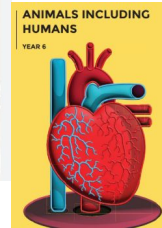
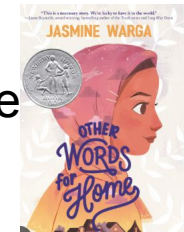
English: This half term, we are reading *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga. In our Writing lessons, we are focussing on poetry, diary entries, persuasive letters and biographies. In Autumn 2, we will be reading, *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave*. In our Writing lessons, we will be focussing on narratives, instructions and balanced arguments.

Maths: This half term, we are focussing on place value and the four operations. In Autumn 2, we are going to be focussing on fractions, decimals and percentages.

Science: *Animals including humans*, evolution and inheritance.

PLACE VALUE

Millions	Hundred Thousands	Ten Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Decimal Point	Tenths	Hundredths	Thousandths	Ten Thousandths	Hundred Thousandths	Millionths
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Our learning this term

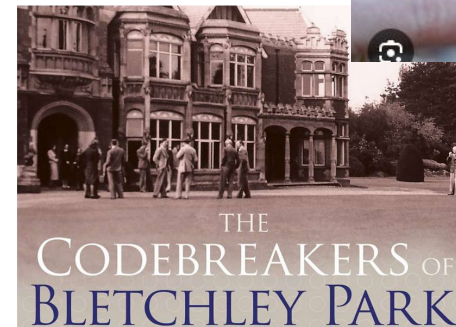
Art & Design: This half term, our unit is centered around drawing, exploring expressive techniques, symbolism and street art, tonal contrasts.

Computing: This half term, we are looking at computing systems and networks (linked to Bletchley park) and in Autumn 2, we will be learning to programme using a programme called Python.

Design & Technology: In Autumn 2, we are going to be designing and sewing Christmas decorations.



Le français 	Les maths 	L'informatique 	La physique
La chimie 	Le dessin 	Les études religieuses 	La biologie





Our learning this term

French: This half term, we are learning about Les Vêtements. Next half term, we will be learning about A L'École. Children will be taught key vocabulary and then taught how to use this vocabulary in conversations.



Geography: This half term, the Year 6 are learning about North America, specifically the countries within it, the climates, geographical features and human features. The topic will end with children researching a specific place in North America and creating a presentation about it.



History: Next half term, we will be learning about World War 1, specifically recruitment, life in the trenches, role of women and how it came to an end





Our learning this term

Music: This half term, the children are gaining confidence through performance while exploring the music genres disco and rock and roll. In Autumn 2, the children will be exploring notation further with the aim of composing a sequence of melodic patterns individually.



PE: This half term, the children are learning how to play hockey with the aim of being able to play hockey matches by the October half term. Next half term, the children will be learning dance with the aim of, in groups, performing a range of movement patterns by the Christmas holidays.





Homework

Homework is set every week on a **Friday** and will be due in the following **Wednesday**.

It will be detailed on google classroom.

- **Reading = 5 signatures a week**- It is your child's responsibility to ensure they keep a record of their reading and to change a book once they have completed what they are reading.
- **Maths = TTRS**
- **English = SATs Bootcamp**

The children should have all of these logins, but please contact your class teacher if you are missing any.





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

Autumn 1: Norfolk Lakes: 6-8th October 2025

Autumn 2: Walk to a the local war memorial (linking with Remembrance Day and our WWI 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 forms must be returned by every child before we can allow them to participate. Verbal consent is **not** accepted for children to take part in any activity.





Norfolk Lakes

Medication

Please can all children bring in any medication they need (which you listed on their medical forms in the Summer Term) for the trip by **Thursday 2nd October** so that we are ready for Monday 6th October

Drop off and pick up times

On Monday 6th October 2025, your child will need to be in school at **normal school time**. Pupils will be registered as normal before the coach departs at around 10am.

On Wednesday 8th October 2025, the coach will arrive back at school at **around 4:00pm** for you to pick your child up. If the coach is delayed for any reason on our way home, I will ensure that the school makes all parents aware, via text message.

Other key information

Please note, children **must not** bring their phones, any money or any jewellery with them.

Please also note, the only food the children will need to bring with them is a **packed lunch for Monday** as we will be stopping for lunch on our way to Norfolk Lakes.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at tellis@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk





Norfolk Lakes

What to bring

Please note, the clothes the children wear should be items they would not mind getting dirty.

In a bag, children need to have:

- Spare shoes for water activities (e.g. old trainers or water shoes- no cros)
- Two towels
- Swimwear to go under their clothes for water activities
- A few T-shirts
- A few pairs of Trousers/leggings (no jeans)
- Jumper/ Hoody
- Waterproof jacket/coat
- Pyjamas
- Underwear (please pack spare just in case)
- Comfortable trainers
- Toiletries (e.g. shampoo, body wash, roll-on deodorant)
- Sun cream
- A hat
- A water bottle (which can be refilled on site)
- A large plastic bag for dirty clothes
- **Children also need a sleeping bag or blanket (no duvets) as well as a pillow**



Secondary School Applications



- **31st October 2025-** Applications close
- Late applications will be dealt with after initial round of offers made.
- Offers made in March.
- List up to six schools (preferences in order)
- No advantage to listing fewer and no advantage to putting same school more than once.
- Include any schools outside of Thurrock.





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/>





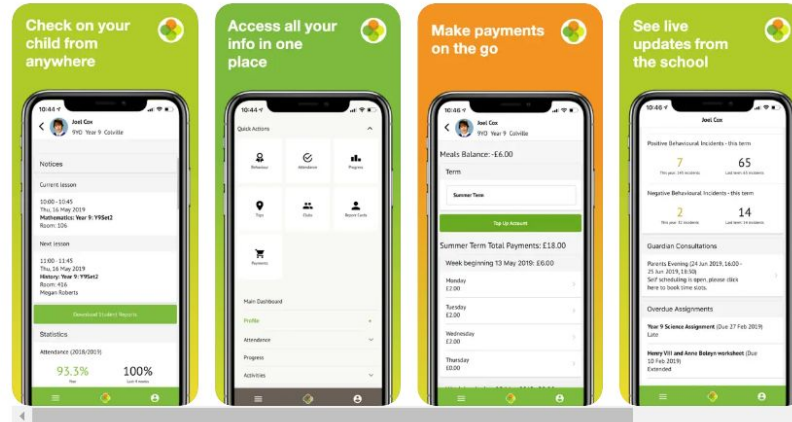
Arbor

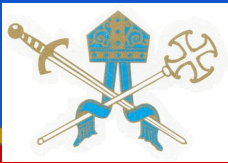
All correspondence, payments, club bookings and consent for trips will be sent electronically through Arbor.



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



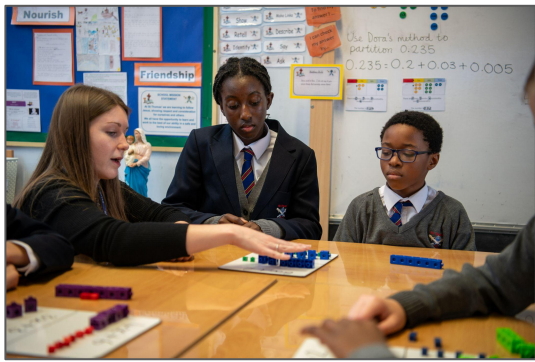
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- = Schooldays
- = School holidays
- = Bank holidays
- = Weekends
- INSET day (staff training) school closed to pupils

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

- Parents evening: 14th and 16th October
- Half term: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October
- Submit secondary school applications - 31st October
- INSET Days: Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th October, Monday 3rd November (school closed to pupils)
- Christmas Carol Service - TBD
- End of term: Friday 19th December at 1:30pm (Early close)

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



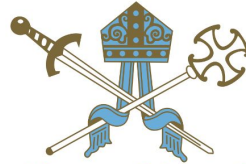
Trauma Perceptive

Practice:

Understanding behaviour and supporting emotional wellbeing.



Embedding phase of
Maths Mastery



St. Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School

New Religious
Education Directory

KS1 implementaion 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;

