



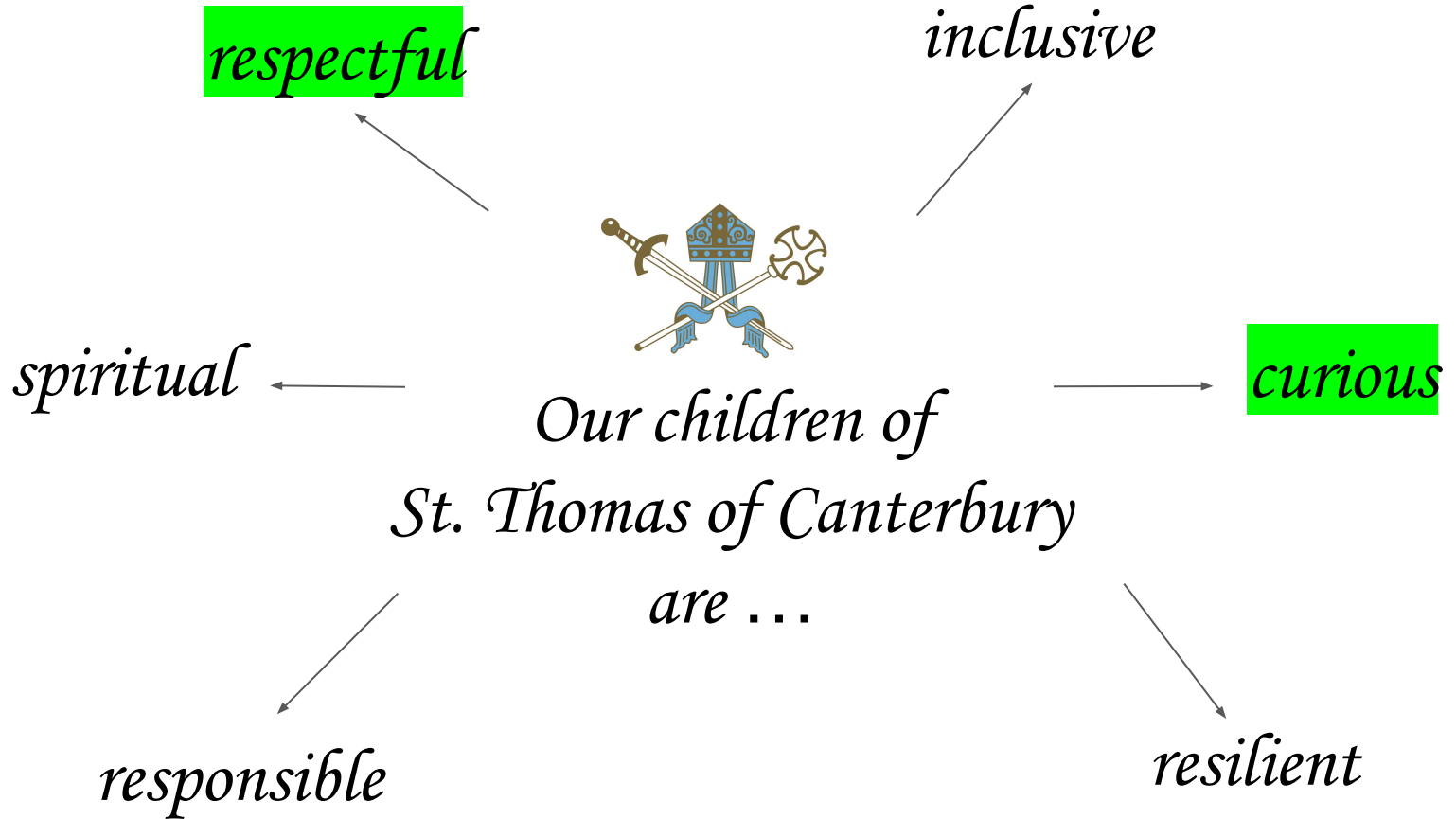
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Year 5
Parent Information

January 2026



Our School Values





The Year 5 Team

- ❑ **Miss L Nixon** - Year Group Leader & Class 5N teacher
- ❑ **Mrs N Hayes** - Class 5H teacher
- ❑ **Miss Asuo** - Class 5A teacher
- ❑ **Mrs N Cook** - HLTA
- ❑ **Mrs L McGinley** - Year 5 support staff

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





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 will 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.

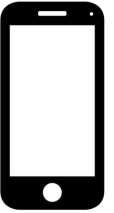


Absence Procedures

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 - Spring term

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 5's PE day is Thursday.

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



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

If the weather is warm towards the Easter break, 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:

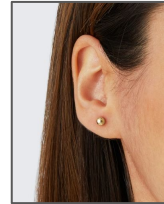
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





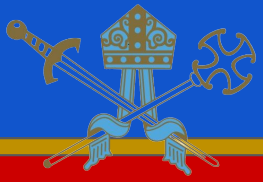
Hair/Accessories

- Hair accessories must be kept to a minimum and should be in school colours
- 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.



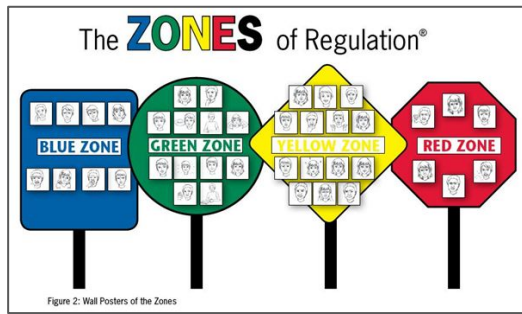
Behaviour

Expectations

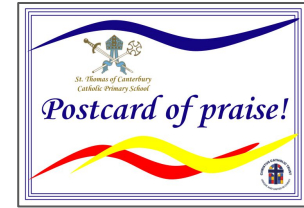
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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
- House Points 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 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 food banks and clothes banks.



Our learning this term - Religious Education

2 RE lessons per week

Spring Term - themes and topics



- Celebration of the Word
- Musical Celebration of the Word
- Class Worship

Spring 1: From Galilee to Jerusalem (RED Branch 3) - we are focussing on laws given by Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings in the gospels. They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus including loving our neighbours.

Spring 2: Desert to Garden (RED Branch 4) - we will be reflecting on the season of Lent, from the desert experiences of Jesus through to the events of the Resurrection and Holy Week. We will be considering the Paschal journey from darkness to light, and looking in more detail about sin and the concept of conscience and choices made.

Mass is celebrated regularly at school and church for the whole school and individual year groups.

Year 5 will be leading a year group Mass to celebrate the Feast of Candlemas at St Thomas' Catholic Church, Grays, on Wednesday 4th February at 10:15am. All parents are welcome to attend.



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.





Our learning this term

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

English: Spring 1- “Cosmic” by Frank Cottrell-Boyce- we will be focusing on informal persuasive letter writing, newspaper reports and balanced arguments.

Spring 2 - “Cosmic”, Literacy Shed balanced arguments and biographies



Maths: We will be following Maths Mastery and covering:

Unit 6 fractions and decimals; Unit 7: angles

Unit 8: fractions and percentages; Unit 9: shape transformations

Unit 10: converting units of measure; Unit 11: Calculating with whole numbers and decimals



Equivalent Fractions, Decimals and Percentages

Fraction	Decimal	Percentage	Image
$\frac{1}{2}$	0.5	50%	
$\frac{1}{4}$	0.25	25%	
$\frac{3}{4}$	0.75	75%	

© Pearson Education Limited 2018

Science: In Spring 1, we will be learning about space and exploring the movements, positions and size of the sun, earth and moon



In Spring 2, we will celebrate Science Week and our learning will be on the theme of Curiosity - What is your question?





Our learning this term

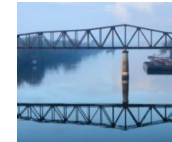
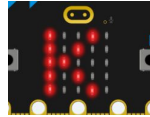
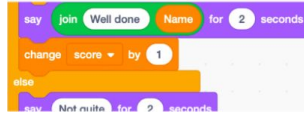
Art & Design: (Spring2)

This term, we will be looking at portraits using mixed media, as well as designing and making cards for Mothers' Day and Easter.



Computing:

In Spring 1, we will be understanding about programming and using Scratch to create music.
In Spring 2 we will look at using BBC: Microbit to create simple animation.



Design & Technology: (Spring 1)

This term, we will be looking at building bridges, understanding about the features of bridge and working to build a wooden truss bridge.





Our learning this term

French:

Spring 1 - “*Chez moi*” - At my house; Spring 2 - “*Au Salon du toi*” - At the cafe
We will be learning key vocabulary and how to use this vocabulary in conversations.



Geography (Spring 2)

This term, we are learning about South America and understanding how the environmental landscape of South America affects the community.



History (Spring 1)

This term, we are learning about The Mayans and learning about why the Mayan civilization declined so quickly.





Our learning this term

Music: In Spring 1, children will be improving their skills in keyboards and learning to read treble clef notation. In Spring 2, they will continue to develop their understanding of formal written staff notation to strengthen their instrumental playing skills.

PE: In this term, children will be learning gymnastics, which includes learning about jumps and movements. They will also be playing hockey and developing their skills in games and teamwork. In Spring 2, the children will be learning dance and to improve their athletic skills.





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.



In Year 5, all children choose a book from their Class Library that is appropriate for their year group. Please listen to your child read every day and leave a comment in his/her reading record.





Homework

Your child's weekly homework will generally consist of:

- **Reading** - 5 times a week for 15 minutes and recorded in your reading record- to hand in on **Friday morning**.
- Spelling words x 10 from the Year 5-6 statutory spelling list, which we will test in class on Tuesday
- Times Tables Rock Stars, with a year group competition each week.
- **Written homework, when set, is handed out on Thursday and is due to be returned on the following Tuesday.**

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





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 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 Friday, in our dedicated Forest School outdoor learning area. 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

We will be going to St Thomas's church on Wednesday 4th February to lead Mass.

We are intending on having a visit to the Tower of London during the Summer term as part of our learning about Tudor history.

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/>





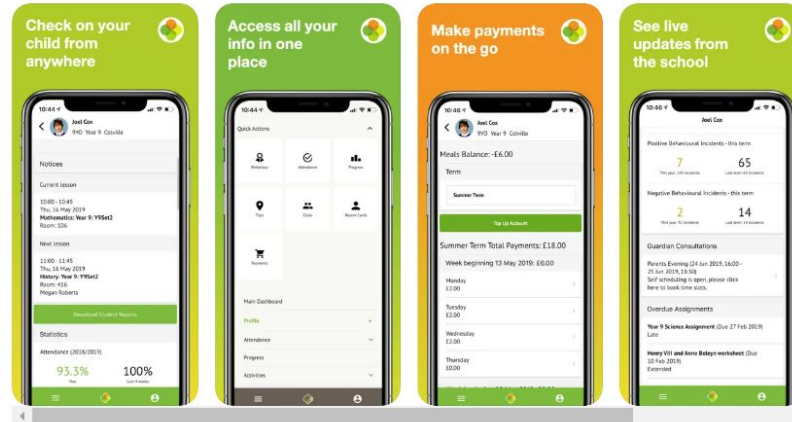
Arbor

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



September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
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29	30													24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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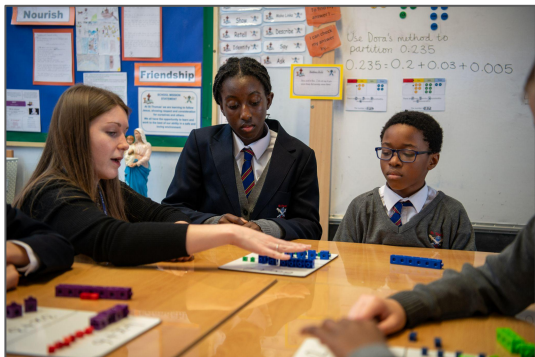
May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026									
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

= 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.

- Thursday 22nd January - Times Tables Rockstars/Numbots Day
- Wednesday 4th February - Year 5 Mass at St Thomas's Church 10:15
- Tuesday 10th February & Thursday 12th February - Parents' Evening (please note booster classes will not run on Tuesday 10th February)
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Friday 9th March - 5A Celebration of the Word- 2:45
- Half term: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February
- End of term: Friday 27th March 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 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 year and is being introduced to KS2 this academic year.

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](#)





Friends of St Thomas' Come and join us!

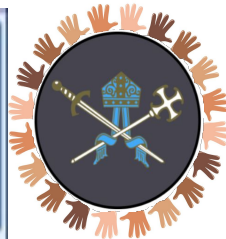
Mrs Foley, our Community Involvement Lead, is leading the establishment of the Friends of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

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, such as 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
Mrs Foley,
class RF**