



# Newsletter

13/2/26

Dear Parents/Carers,

At our school, we are proud to be an inclusive community, supporting every child to thrive. Some pupils receive additional support, outlined in the three-tier SEND information chart. Parental support and engagement are vital. By working closely together and sharing insights about your child's strengths and needs, we can ensure we understand them fully and provide the most effective support in school.

Congratulations to Mrs Byrne who gave birth to a baby girl this week, albeit a few weeks earlier than expected! Mother and baby are both doing well.

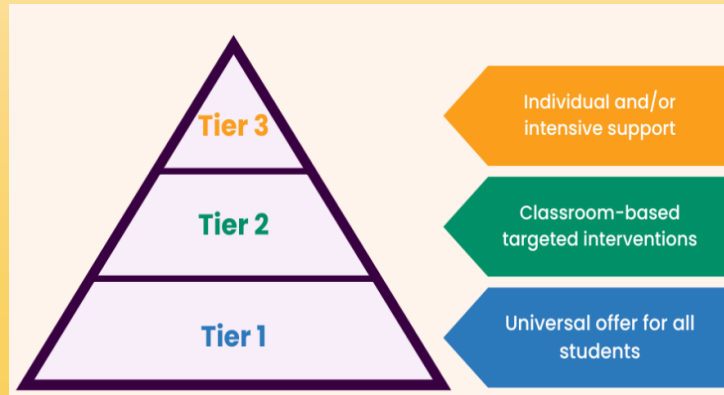
We welcome Mrs Damonse who is 2B's class teacher for the remainder of the academic year.

Best wishes.

**Mrs Poulteney**  
Headteacher

## The Three Tiers of SEN Support

- **Tier 1: Universal Offer (All Pupils)**
  - Focus: High-quality, inclusive teaching for all students in the classroom.
- **Tier 2: Targeted Support (Some Pupils with a SEN Support Plan)**
  - Focus: Small-group interventions for pupils not making adequate progress with Tier 1 support.
- **Tier 3: Intensive Individualised Support ( Few pupils with an EHCP)**
  - Focus: Highly tailored, individual support for students with significant or complex needs.



## Diary Dates

23.02.26	Pupils to return to school at 8.40am
24.02.26	Booster lessons resume at 8.00am
26.02.26	Netball match (away) vs Woodside
27.02.26	Football match (away) vs Giffards
02.03.26	Netball match (away) vs Thameside
05.03.26	📖 World Book Day! 📖
06.03.26	Class 4S Celebration of the word at 2.45pm



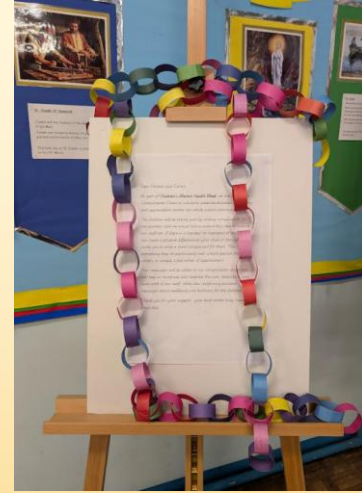
We welcome Mrs Damonse.



## Children's Mental Health Week



Throughout Children's Mental Health Week, our school focused on kindness, belonging and self-worth. Each class built a compliments chain filled with affirming messages. During parent consultations, families created meaningful displays about who they are and the places where they feel safe. Our closing assembly brought all our compliments together and reminded us that we are wonderfully made by God and that every single person is important.





# Safer Internet Day

This year on safer internet day we had a big school focus on communication and behaviour online to support our learning about mental health. Across all year groups, we discussed how to speak kindly and respectful online, then with the older children we focused on group chats, sharing of photos and the use of AI in social situations.

The children took part in a variety of activities including all year groups using the 'Now Press Play' resources to support the e-safety side of the learning.

The children really enjoyed taking part in the activities and learnt a lot that will support them in the future.





## Science week 9th-13th March

This year's theme is Curiosity-what's your question?

On Monday 9th March we will be starting the week by dressing up as our favourite scientist so please send your children in dressed up.

All children will take part in a drama based science workshop either on Monday or Tuesday. There will be a small fee for this. Details to follow.

The home learning task is to make a curiosity box which the children will need to bring in by Wednesday 11th March so they can present them to their classes before taking them to the hall to create a whole school curiosity museum. There are some links and ideas below to support this.

"Curiosity Boxes" - My Wonder in a Box

<https://www.peterdriley.com/the-curiosity-box/>

[https://www.britishscienceweek.org/activity-packs/?\\_gl=1\\*13exhc9\\*\\_up\\*MQ..\\*\\_ga\\*MTM2Nzc3NjExOC4xNzY5MzQ4NDMy\\*\\_ga\\_DVXQMTJLCS\\*cze3NjkzNDg0MzEkbzEKZzEKdDE3NjkzNDg0MzckajU0JGwwJGgw](https://www.britishscienceweek.org/activity-packs/?_gl=1*13exhc9*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTM2Nzc3NjExOC4xNzY5MzQ4NDMy*_ga_DVXQMTJLCS*cze3NjkzNDg0MzEkbzEKZzEKdDE3NjkzNDg0MzckajU0JGwwJGgw)

Each child decorates a small box (shoebox, cereal box or recycled container) to represent a question they're curious about.

Ideas of what to include:

- Write their question inside the lid: "Have you ever wondered why rainbows appear?"
- Add drawings, models or objects connected to that curiosity.
- Optionally include a card showing what they discovered after researching or testing.
- Can include photos



# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



This year's theme for World Book Day (WBD) on **Thursday 5th March** is 'Going all in'. We will be dressing as our favourite book characters this year.

For WBD homework, you will be asked to take a photograph of you reading. This could be reading a football programme at a match, reading instructions to build Lego sets, reading the Bible at church on Sunday or looking at a book during dancing lessons etc. Your photos need to be sent to Mrs Foley and Mrs Dale using this email address: [wbd@stocs.uk](mailto:wbd@stocs.uk) by **27th February**. The winning photos in each year group will be announced in our special Assembly on WBD.

Also, all children have been sent home with a paper plate to decorate, over the half term break, with a scene or character from their favourite book. Please send these back in on WBD.

We will be welcoming another author this year: **Toyin Owoseje**

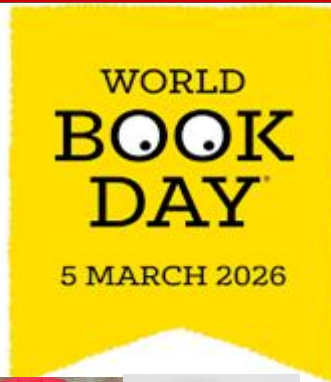
Books will be available **to pre-order via parent pay and will be signed like in previous years during lunch time.**

Lastly, parents, we would like to invite you in to our 'Reading Cafe' to read **your** favourite book or comic with children at the end of the day.

KS1 at 2.30pm,

KS2 at 2.45pm.

You will be kindly asked to leave classes at 3.05 and children will be dismissed from their usual collection points.





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](mailto:admin@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk)

Talk with any of our Senior Leaders:  
Mrs Coppin  
Mrs Smith  
Ms McAnally  
Miss Pellat (SENCO)

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.



4

Meet with the Headteacher, Mrs Poulteney.





We promote a **caring and supportive environment** where children are taught how to **recognise, manage and de-escalate their behaviour**. Staff focus on education, early support and positive relationships rather than punishment alone.

## Managing Behaviour

### Supporting Children to Self-Regulate and Succeed

**Zones of Regulation** is used across the school to help pupils understand and manage emotions

The **ZONES** of Regulation™

<b>BLUE ZONE</b>	<b>GREEN ZONE</b>	<b>YELLOW ZONE</b>	<b>RED ZONE</b>
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Relaxed	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Terrified Elated/Ecstatic Devastated Out of Control

## Behaviour Strategies

Staff use professional judgement to apply reasonable and appropriate responses, including:

- Positive reinforcement and reminders of expectations
- Reflection time (in class or another classroom)
- Completion of unfinished work during part of lunchtime (where appropriate)
- S.T.A.R. forms, referrals to SLT/SENCO, and meetings with parents for more serious concerns.

Our focus is always on **learning from behaviour, restoring relationships and supporting pupils to succeed.**

**We value open communication with parents.** If you have any concerns about your child's behaviour or wellbeing, please speak to us—early conversations help us work together to support every child.

## Support and Intervention

- Early discussions with pupils and communication with parents
- Consideration of factors outside of school
- Use of strategies to prevent behaviours recurring
- Support tailored to individual needs (classroom, small group or one-to-one)