



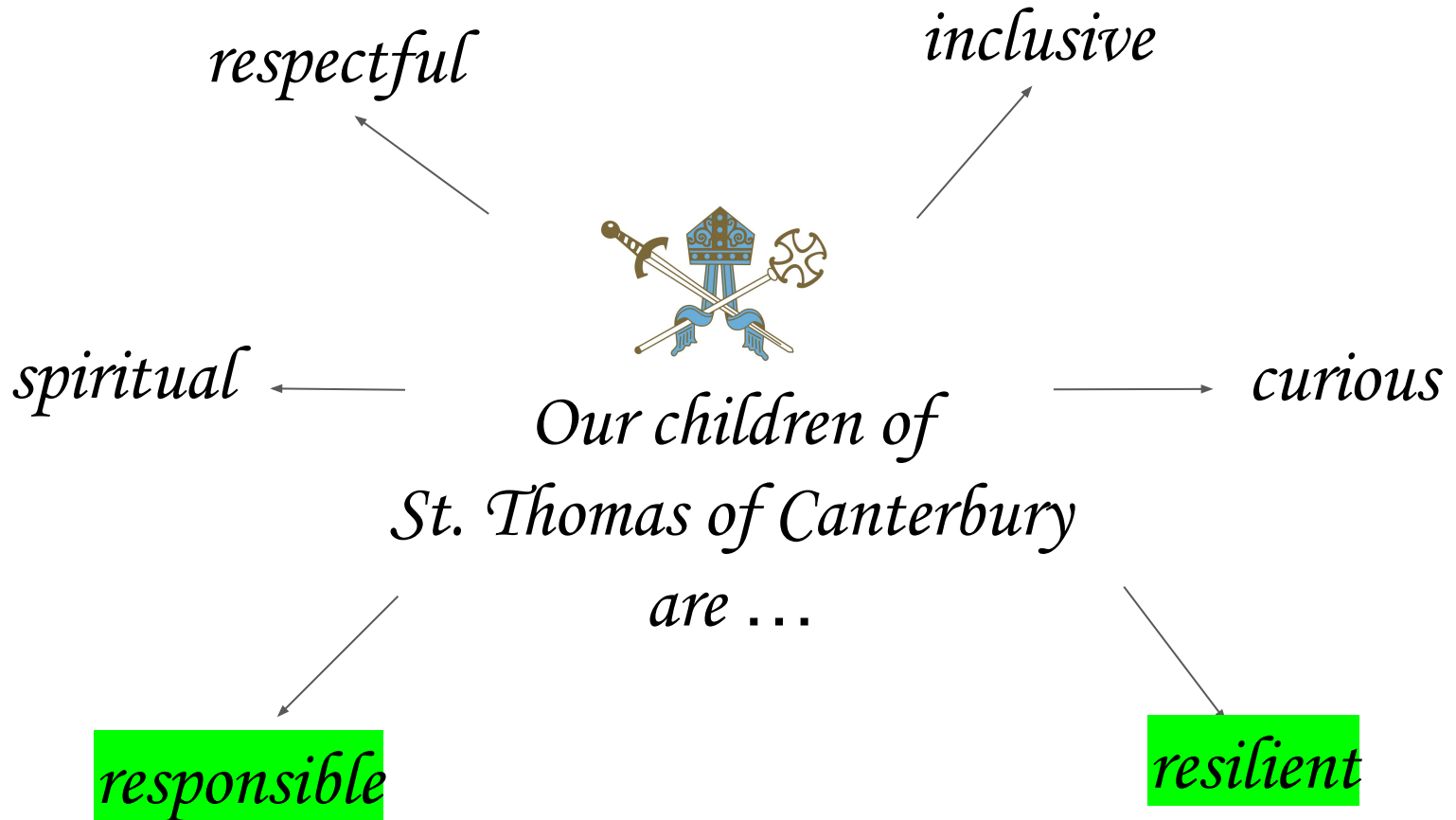
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

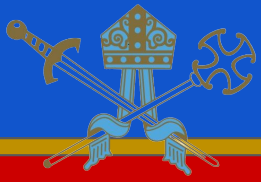
EYFS
Parent Information

April 2026



Our School Values





The Reception/EYFS Team

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

❑ **Miss K Sharomi** - Class RS teacher



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



❑ **Miss 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
Miss Pellat

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 the best way to inform us is by sending an email by 9am to attendance@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

Please ensure you include the following details:

* Child's name * Child's class * A description of the reason for absence

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

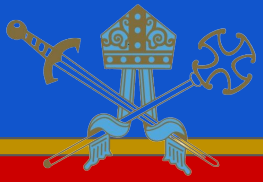
Where a pupil reaches the national threshold of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the school will consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Each case will be considered individually to determine whether a penalty notice or 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)

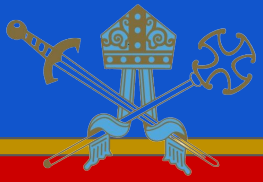


GIRLS

- **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)



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



PE kit

REMINDER

Year Reception's PE day is Tuesday.

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:

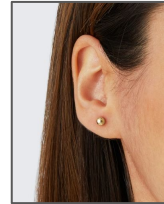
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





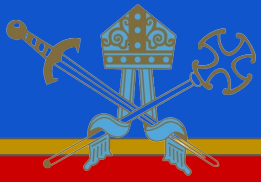
Hair/Accessories

- 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.



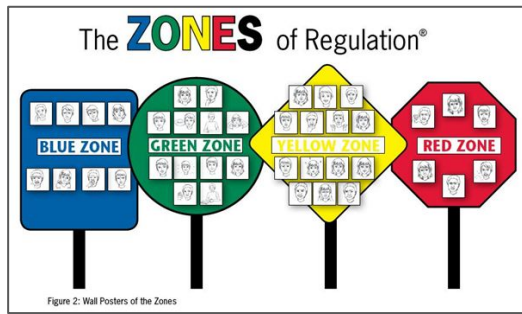
Behaviour

Expectations

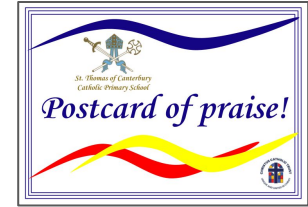
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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



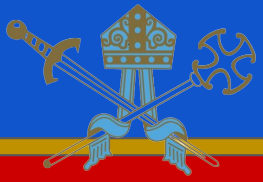


Religious Education

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

Summer term - New topic 'To the ends of the Earth'

We will be exploring when Jesus went back to His father in Heaven.

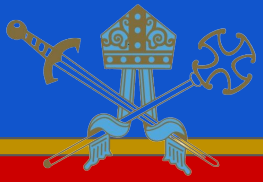
We will gain a further understanding on how we can support others.



We then move onto our topic 'Pentecost' and how this is celebrated in church.

We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.

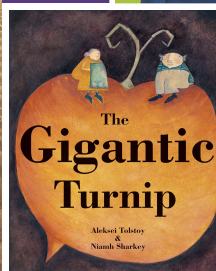
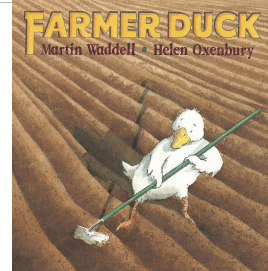
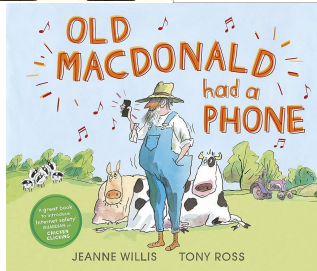
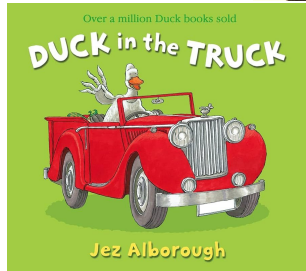
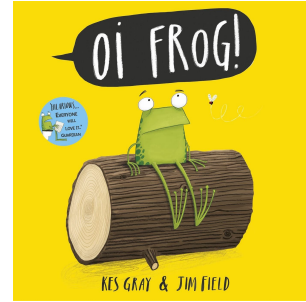
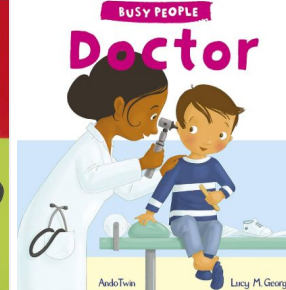
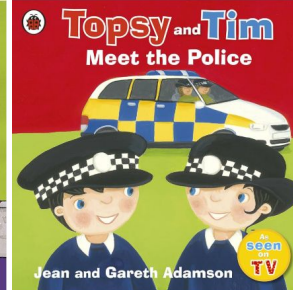
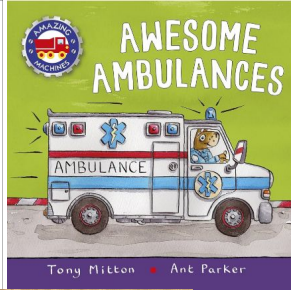
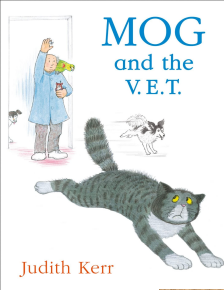
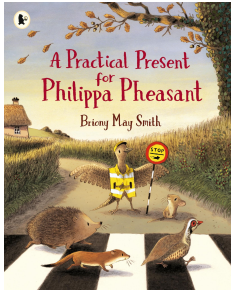




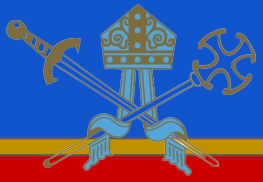
Our learning this term

Throughout the Summer term, We will be covering our topics 'People that help us' and Farms. Here are some of the topic books we will use.

English:



Targets for writing: Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences. Write sentences with a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces. Write two sentences joined together with 'and'. Use 'red' words spelt correctly. Read my writing back. Write sentences that others can read because I have checked them.



Our learning this term

Maths/Number:

Number/Maths:

Cardinality, ordinality and counting

- Counting to 20 (beyond if they are more able) and understanding cardinality: That the last number in the count tells us how many things there are altogether.
- Learning to count on from different numbers. - Learning to sequence numbers and find missing numbers. - Forming their numbers correctly and ensuring that 1 is the first number in their ten numbers.

Subitising

- Children will continue to develop their subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements.
- A key focus this term is the ongoing development of visualising skills: encouraging the children to look carefully at structured arrangements, such as those shown on dice and 10-frames, and then to close their eyes and explain what they see.

Composition

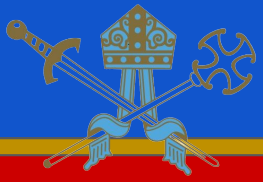
- Children will consolidate their understanding of the composition when one part is not visible
- Children will have an opportunity to build on previous work on the composition and understand groups of numbers. A key representation to support this will be the double dice frame.

Comparison

- Children focus on ordinality: considering where numbers are in relation to each other. - Children will reason about numbers and think carefully about more or less

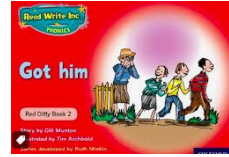
3D shapes and positional language





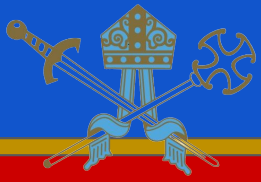
Reading

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.

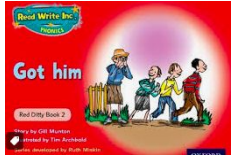


Books are changed weekly. Please listen to your child read every day and leave a comment in his/her reading record. A prize draw takes place weekly and those that have read their Phonics book 5 times will be entered into it. Please also read to your child their library 'reading for pleasure book'.



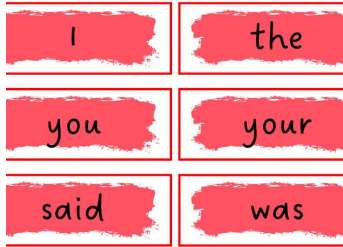


Homework



Daily reading of Phonics books is part of our home-school agreement. Without this, the children will not build the speed and fluency to comprehend what is read. This is why, they keep books for 3-5 days, to ensure they begin reading whole words (not sounding out), especially as we move into Summer term.

Daily practice of reading the 'red tub' words is essential. We have taught all the Reception red words now. So, they should be able to read all of their red tub words. If not, please keep practising until they do.



Homework is set every FRIDAY and is due to be returned on the following Tuesday. This is usually based around our current learning. As Communication and Language is a particular focus, we have been sending lots of requests of videos to be sent in, with the children speaking to adults, talking about gifts they have recieved etc. Please do continue to send in videos of your children.

Numbots and Bug club should be accessed for additional learning opportunities. Especially if the homework is completed with ease and they need an additional challenge.



Please send in a video of your child reading their bug club books at least once every 4 weeks. If they have finished reading all the books in their Bug Club library, please speak to the class teacher, who is able to allocate more. We can only do this if a video of your child reading the books has been sent in via Evidence Me.





Forest School



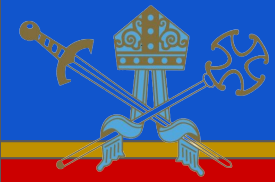
Forest School is a fun and adventurous way for children to learn outdoors. It helps build confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills while letting children explore nature. Pupils will learn how to use tools safely, care for the environment, and, most importantly, have lots of fun, including fire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



Changes to Break & Lunch Timings

- Change:
 - Lunchtime reduced from 60 minutes to 45 minutes.
 - Morning break increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Overall Impact on Pupils:
 - No reduction in total break/outdoor time for pupils across the day.
 - Timings are simply rebalanced to better support learning, play, and wellbeing.
- Educational Rationale:
 - The extended 30-minute morning break allows meaningful play opportunities.
 - Staff on duty can lead and participate in structured games with pupils.





Educational Visits/Arbor

Our Educational visits this term:

17-04-26 Library visit (Please let Mrs Foley know if you are able to walk with us).

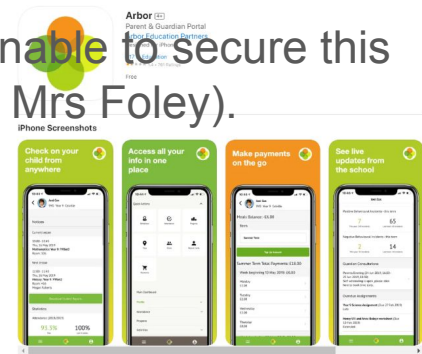
21-04-26 Dentist visit for our people that help us topic

24-05-26 Nurse visit for our people that help us topic

27-04-26 or 11-04-26 we would a police officer to visit but have been unable to secure this (if you know any police officers that would be willing to visit-please see Mrs Foley).

04-05-26 Fire fighter visit for our people that help us topic

22-05-26 Road safety road show



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/>





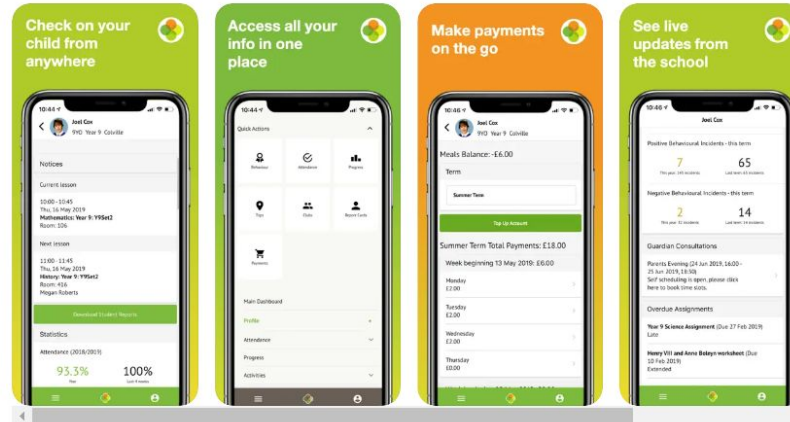
Arbor

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

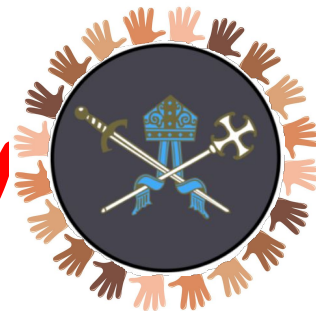
- 17-04-26 Library visit (Please let Mrs Foley know, if you are able to walk with us).
 - Monday 4th May - May Bank Holiday - school closed
 - Monday 18th May - KS1 Sports Day (at school)
- Thursday 21st May - KS2 Sports Day (Thurrock Harriers Athletics Club)
 - Half term: Monday 25th - Friday 29th May
 - Wednesday 3rd June - Class photos
 - Monday 22nd June - French Music Day
- Tuesday 7th July - Royal Opera House Dance for Rights Day
 - Thursday 9th July - Cultural Diversity Day
- End of term: Friday 17th July at 1:30pm (Early close)

Children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2026



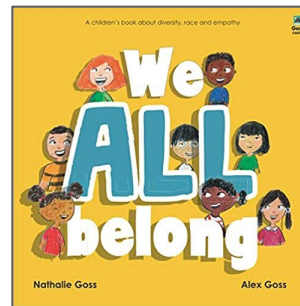
Cultural Diversity Day

Thursday 9th July 2026



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.

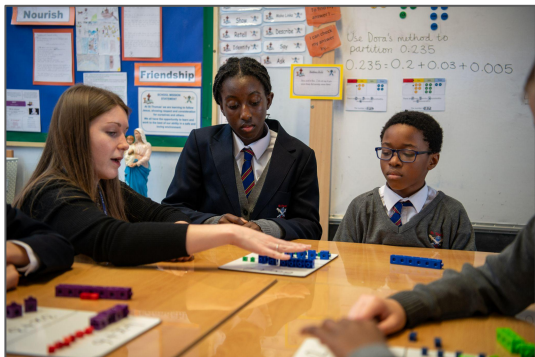
We would be delighted to hear from you!



God had a plan to make you unique.



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



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](#)





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, 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;

