



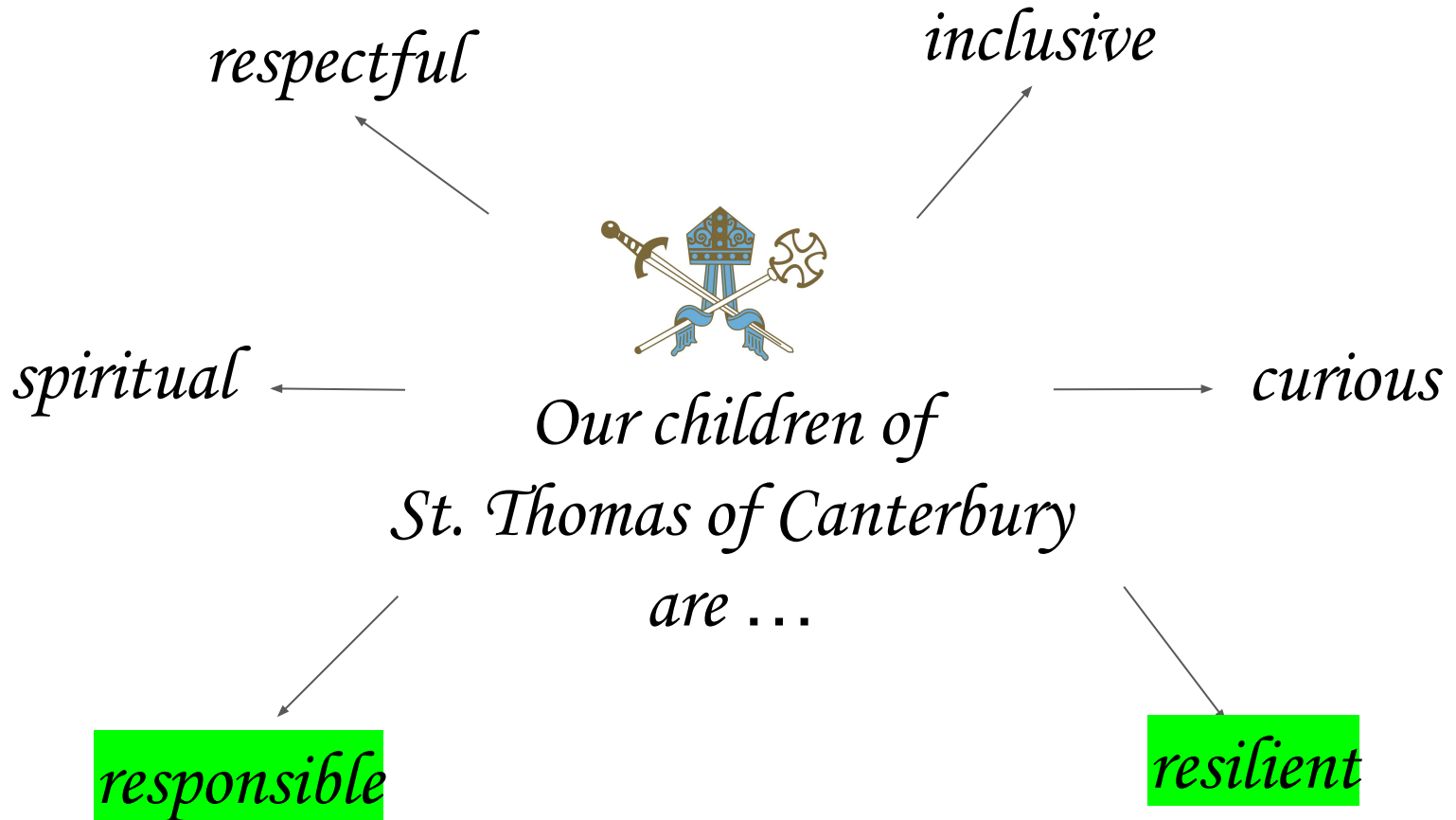
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Year 1
Parent Information

April 2026



Our School Values





The Year 1 Team

- ❑ **Miss K Theakston** - Year Group Leader & Class 1T teacher
- ❑ **Mrs C Gough** - Class 1G teacher
- ❑ **Mrs A Venables/Mrs S Coppin** - Class 1VC teachers
- ❑ **Mrs C Auvache** - HLTA
- ❑ **Mrs A Jachym, Mrs R Sutiene** - Year 1 support staff

- ❑ **Miss S Pellat** - SENCo
- ❑ **Mrs M 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

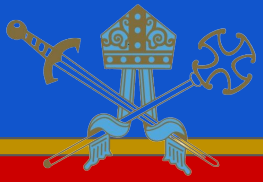
Where a pupil reaches the national threshold of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the school will consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Each case will be considered individually to determine whether a penalty notice or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

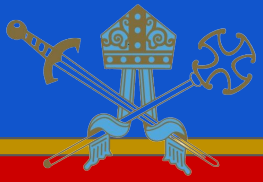


GIRLS

- **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 1's PE day is Friday.

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:

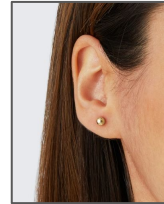
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





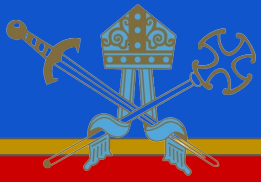
Hair/Accessories

- 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.



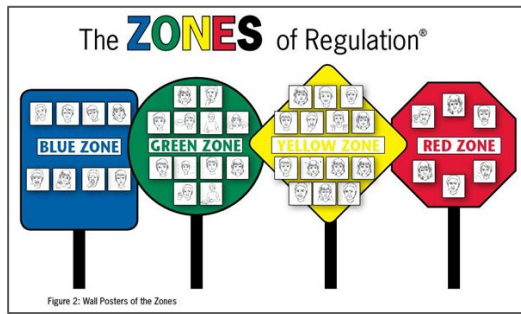
Behaviour

Expectations

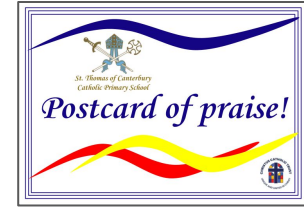
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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



- Celebration of the Word
- 1VC - Thursday 30th April
- 1G - Thursday 7th May

Summer 1 - Branch 5 To the ends of the Earth Key Theme for this branch :

Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost Key vocabulary : Emmaus, Holy Spirit, Ascension, Pentecost, Church, Glory Be, Gospel

You could share the following scriptures with your child - • The road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) • Promise of the Spirit and the Ascension (Acts 1:1-11) • Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)

Summer 2 - Branch 6 Dialogue and encounter Key Theme for this branch : Dialogue and encounter Key vocabulary : Christian Church, parish community, sign of the cross, Jew, Jewish/Judaism, Torah

You could share information about the Jewish faith with your child and discuss their church community.



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.





Phonics

Phonics Screening Check 8th - 12th June 2026

- Please support your child with their phonic knowledge by going through the sounds on the charts previously given and in the speed sounds books. The children should be confident in recognising whether the word has 'special friends' or not. They need to ensure that they are checking that the sounds are correct and not just assume that they know the word or sound.

Most of these words are real words but some are pseudo-words (Alien words). Pseudo-words are included to ensure that children are using their decoding skills and not just relying on their memory of words they've read before.





Our learning this term

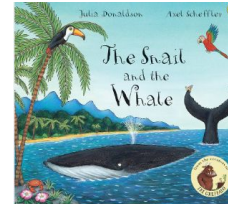
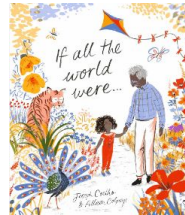
Throughout the Summer term, this is what we will be covering:

English: Features of a diary and Poetry

Suffixes 'ed' and 'est'

Adjectives

Time conjunctions



Maths:

Numbers 50 to 100 and beyond	Addition and subtraction	Money	Multiplication and division	Measures: Capacity and volume
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read, write, represent, compare and order numbers to 100 One more / fewer, ten more / fewer Identify number patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore addition and subtraction involving 2-digit numbers and ones Represent and explain addition and subtraction with regrouping Investigate number bonds within 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name coins and notes and understand their value Represent the same value using different coins Find change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore arrays Share equally into groups Doubling Link halving to fractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare capacities, volumes and lengths Explore litres Apply understanding of fractions to capacity

Science:





Our learning this term

Art & Design:
Sculpture linked to French Day.

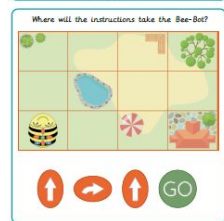


Design & Technology:
Cooking linked to Cultural Diversity Day.

Computing:

Computing - Programming 2: Digital Bee-Bots

command	One instruction that tells a computer or robot what to do.
error	A mistake that stops instructions from working correctly.
instructions	A set of commands that make a computer or robot do a job.
program	To give a computer or robot a set of instructions to follow.



Digital Bee-Bot commands

move the Bee-Bot to its home space	forward (one square)	stop the program
rotate left one quarter turn	start the program	rotate right one quarter turn
pause for one second	backward (one square)	clear the memory

Memory - where commands are stored until cleared.

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Rocket to the moon

Computer	Electronic machines that accept and process information, to produce an output, and then store the results.
Computer program	A series of instructions, that are written for a computer to follow. Also known as apps.
Create	To make something.
Data	Information used for a specific purpose or investigation.
Digital content	Information and media such as videos and pictures stored on a computer.
e-Document	An electronic file which includes text.
Folder	An electronic storage file that holds other digital content for example text, pictures, videos.
List	A number of things, one after the other.
Save	To store something for use later.
Sequence	An set order or pattern for something to follow.
Share	To show or give a part of something to someone else.
Spreadsheet	An electronic document that lets you store data in rows and columns.



Key facts

My computer

Writing program - Rocket materials

A list of bottle rocket materials:

1. Empty plastic bottle
2. Roll of sticky tape
3. Sugar paper or coloured card





Our learning this term

Geography:

Ask and answer geographical questions.

Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom.

Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country.

Diagrams/symbols

Physical Geography



Human Geography



History:

The children will be looking at the the Royal Family, creating a fact file of King Charles III as well as participating in a workshop from the Drama Hut.

Kings and Queens		KS1				
Key Vocabulary		1199-1216 King John	1509-1547 Henry VIII	1558-1603 Queen Elizabeth I	Significant Kings and Queens Timeline since 1066	
reign	The time that someone is king or queen for.					
royal	A way of describing the monarch and their family.	1066-1087 William the Conqueror	1483-1485 King Richard III	1837-1901 Queen Victoria	2022-present King Charles III	
rule	This is how a monarch tells people what to do.					
Key People						



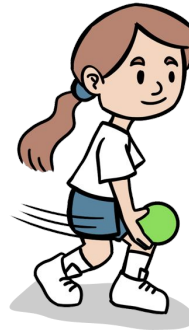


Our learning this term

Music: Using their voices and instruments to experiment with, create and combine sounds



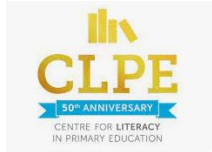
PE: Athletics and Striking and Fielding Games





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 and leave a comment in his/her reading record.



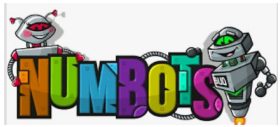


Homework

Homework is set every Friday and is due to be returned on the following Tuesday.

Your child's homework will include a piece of work in either Maths, Writing or Reading.

At times, we may give children a project to complete that involves research and/or artwork.



We also encourage the children to regularly practise their Maths skills on Numbots.





Forest School



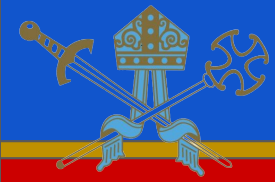
Forest School is a fun and adventurous way for children to learn outdoors. It helps build confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills while letting children explore nature. Pupils will learn how to use tools safely, care for the environment, and, most importantly, have lots of fun, including fire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

Tuesday 19th May - King Charles Coronation workshop at School with the Drama Hut - Linking to our History unit on Kings and Queens

Library Visits - 1G Monday 1st June 2026

1VC Tuesday 2nd June 2026

1T Thursday 4th June 2026

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/>





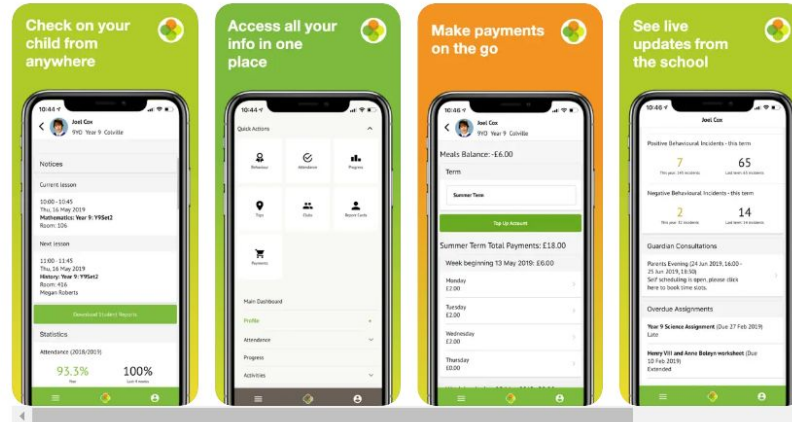
Arbor

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

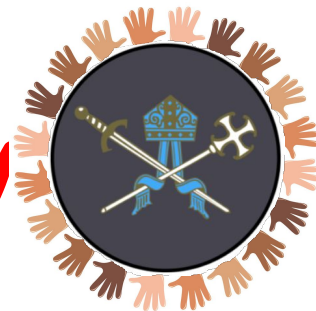
- **Thursday 30th April** - 1VC Celebration of the Word 2:45pm
- **Monday 4th May** - May Bank Holiday - school closed
- **Thursday 7th May** - 1G Celebration of the Word 2:45pm
 - **Monday 18th May** - KS1 Sports Day (at school)
- **Tuesday 19th May** - King Charles Coronation Workshop
- **Thursday 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
 - **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



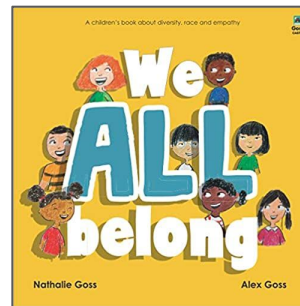
Cultural Diversity Day

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.

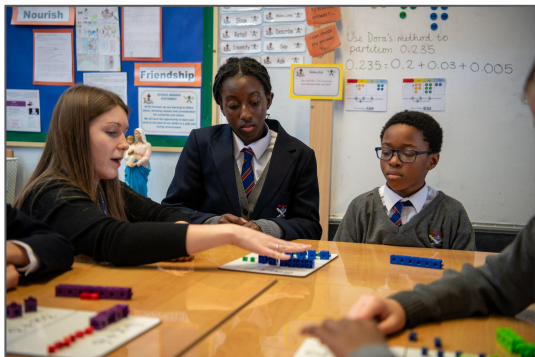
We would be delighted to hear from you!



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.



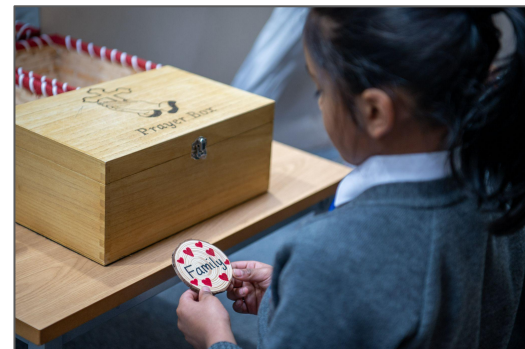
Embedding phase of Maths Mastery



*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;

