



*St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School*

*Year 2*  
*Parent Information*

*April 2026*



# Our School Values

*respectful*

*inclusive*



*spiritual*

*curious*

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

*responsible*

*resilient*



## *The Year 2 Team*

- ❑ **Mrs S Coppin** - Assistant Headteacher and Acting Year Group Leader
- ❑ **Mrs D Damonse** - Class 2B teacher (maternity cover)
- ❑ **Miss R Gander** - Class 2G teacher
- ❑ **Mrs A Alexandru, Mrs A Cantwell** - Year 2 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

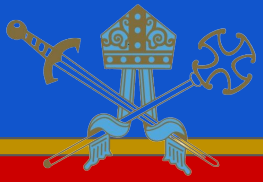
Where a pupil reaches the national threshold of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, the school will consider whether a penalty notice is appropriate. Each case will be considered individually to determine whether a penalty notice or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

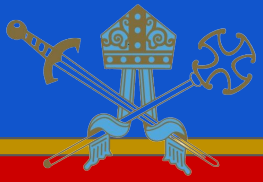


## GIRLS

- **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 2's PE day is Wednesday.

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:

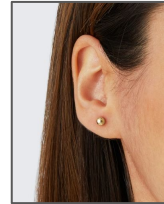
<https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=1831>





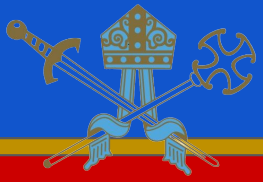
# *Hair/Accessories*

- 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.



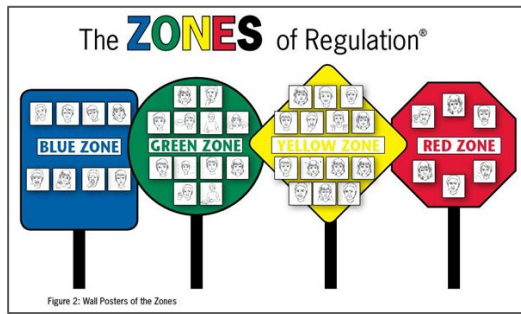
# Behaviour

## Expectations

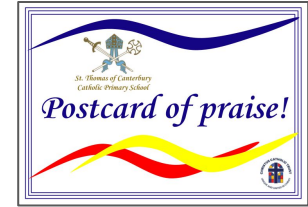
We believe that, in order to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. The school is committed to:

- 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 totalling 2½ hours. In addition to hearing the scripture, the children get to learn and develop their understanding of the scripture passages by watching the Jesus Bible Storybook series and Saddleback Kids animations. Throughout the lesson different methods of teaching are used (a range of art, written, drama and discussion activities) to help them further internalise their understanding of the Gospels taught.



## Summer term - themes and topics

In Summer 1, the topic is 'To the Ends of the Earth' which will focus on the Holy Spirit by looking at the Ascension and Pentecost. We look at how people are changed by the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



In Summer 2, the topic is 'Dialogue and Encounter' here we explore the links between the Catholic and the Jewish faith. The children will gain an in-depth understanding of the parable of the Good Samaritan and they will see how Christians within the local community collaborate.

Throughout all their lessons, the children's understanding of the Universal Church through stewardship, the common good, human dignity, distributive justice, option for the poor, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation and peace are interwoven thus developing their knowledge of the principles of the Catholic Social Teaching.



*We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.*



# KS1 SATs

Even though the end of KS1 assessments are now optional, the government encourages schools to administer them to inform teacher assessment and pupils' transition to KS2. Accordingly, we will be administering the assessments in the weeks commencing 22/6/26 and 29/6/26. The KS1 tests consist of:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: spelling
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: questions
- English reading Paper 1: combined reading prompt and answer booklet
- English reading Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet
- Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning

***Should you have any queries, please let us know.***





# Our learning this term



Throughout the Summer term, We will be covering:

**English:** Our class text this term will be **Man on the Moon** by **Simon Bartram** and we will base our writing upon this. We will be focusing on character descriptions, playscripts and alternative story endings.

**Maths:** Our Maths units this term will include Money, Shapes and Direction, Place Value, Capacity, Volume and Mass, Calculation Strategies and Multiplicative Thinking.



**Science:** This term we will be studying Plants. In addition to learning the parts of plants, the children will be planning and carrying out a number of scientific investigations to help them understand what conditions plants need to grow.





# *Our learning this term*

**Geography**: In Summer 1, we will be covering the Magical Mapping Unit, which looks at creating simple maps, using the compass points and gaining an understanding of aerial photography, using atlases to help us map the world's seas and oceans.



**History**: During the second half term, we will be studying a range of explorers and the achievements they are remembered for today. We will be learning about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong in particular, comparing and contrasting their achievements and the impact those had on the world.





# *Our learning this term*



**Music**: Throughout the Summer term, the children will continue to explore dynamics and tempo while practising playing the ocarina. They will then be considering ways to show of understanding of feeling and pulse when playing and singing .



**PE**: During the first half of the summer term, the children will be working on their ball skills. They will be learning to throw and catch a ball practising a range of skills and applying them when playing ball games. During the second half of the summer term we will be doing athletics.



**PSHE**: We will be focusing on the different roles and careers within the community, career choices and economic well being. Our “A Journey in Love” program helps us to guide our children towards a progressive understanding of love, relationships and gender in line with the teachings of the Catholic church.





# *Our learning this term*

## **Art & Design:**

Sculpture linked to French Day.



## **Computing:**

In Summer 1, we will be looking at Creating Media - Stop Motion.

In Summer 2, we will be investigating handling data.



## **Design & Technology:**

Cooking linked to Cultural Diversity Day.






# Reading


Please listen to your child read at least **5 times a week** and write a short comment in his/her reading record. Reading records should be brought to school every day and will be checked on Fridays.

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.



Name: ..... Class: .....

 **KS1 English Reading Comprehension**





**Year 2**

**Targeted Question Book**

Includes answers Book One

*Top 100 Recommended Reads for Year 2*



 [TheReaderTeacher.com/Year2](http://TheReaderTeacher.com/Year2)

#gms4primary @TheReaderTeacher





# Homework

**Homework is set every FRIDAY and is due to be returned on the following THURSDAY.**

Your child's homework will generally consist of spelling words, which we will test in class, and a Maths sheet which covers our learning in class that week.

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

We also encourage the children to regularly practise their Times Tables on TT Rockstars.





# 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.





# *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/>





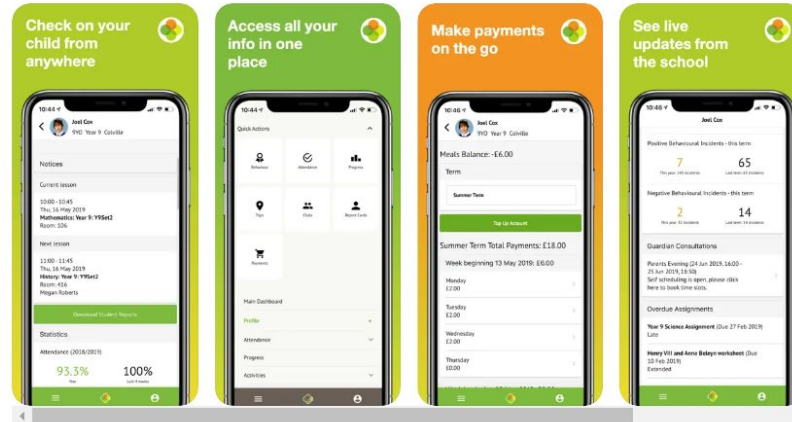
# Arbor

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*

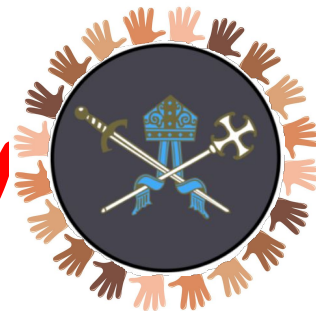
- **Monday 4th May** - May Bank Holiday - school closed
  - **Monday 18th May** - KS1 Sports Day (at school)
- **Thursday 21st May** - KS2 Sports Day (Thurrock Harriers Athletics Club)
  - Half term: **Monday 25th - Friday 29th May**
    - **Wednesday 3rd June** - Class photos
    - **Monday 22nd June** - French Music Day
    - **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**



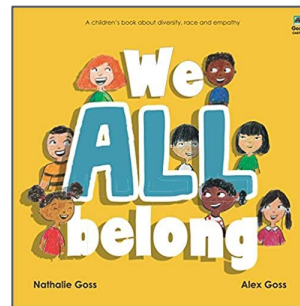
# Cultural Diversity Day

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.

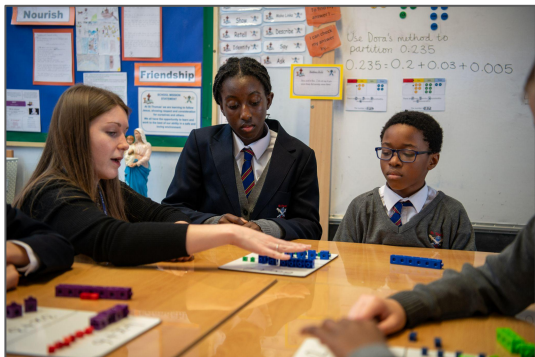
We would be delighted to hear from you!



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*

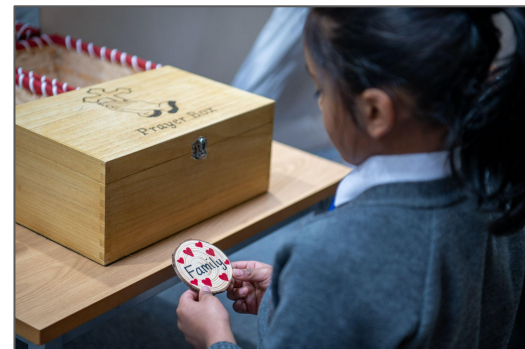
*New Religious  
Education Directory:*

*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](mailto: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;**

