St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Welcome to the Year 1 Parent Information Meeting

September 2026

CHRISTUS CATHOLIC TRUST

UNIQUE AND UNITED IN CHRIST

Our School Values

respectful

inclusive

spiritual

curious

Our children of
St. Thomas of Canterbury
are …

responsible

resilient

The Year 1 Team

- **Miss K Theakston** - Year Group Lead & Class 1T teacher miss.theakston@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk
- **Mrs C Gough** - Class 1G teacher mrs.gough@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk
- **Mrs A Alexandru & Mrs C Auvache** - Year 1 support staff
- **Miss S Pellat** - SENCo
- **Mrs M Cuff** - Inclusion Manager
- **Miss N Judd** - Safeguarding Officer
- **Mrs C Smith** - Family Support Officer

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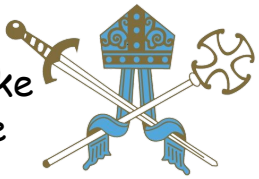
Communicating with the school

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

Talk with any of our Senior Leaders:
Mrs Coppin
Mrs Smith
Ms McAnally

Or the Headteacher
Mrs Poulteney

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

Email or call the school office to request to meet with a member of staff.
admin@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

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.

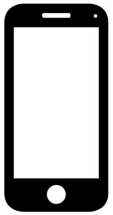
Attendance and Punctuality



It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or runny nose.
If they are unwell during the day we shall call you to collect your child.

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.

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Uniform - Autumn term

Winter uniform is compulsory after the Autumn half term holiday.

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 1's PE day is Friday.

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





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

If the weather is warm, 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

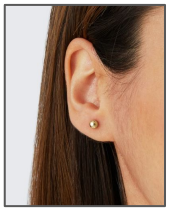
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Hair/ Accessories

- **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.

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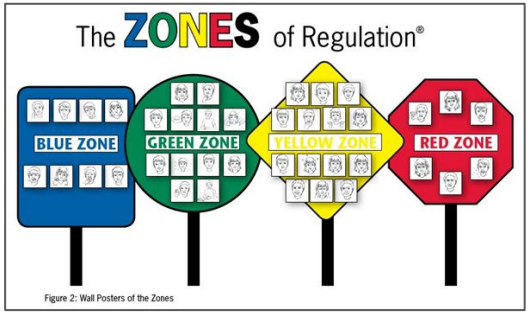
Behaviour

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.**

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Zones of Regulation



We believe in a preventative approach, where children are treated with respect and where sanctions, when applied, are consistent.



<u>Rewards for good behaviour at St Thomas's include:</u>

- Verbal praise
- Communicating praise to parents
- House Points and stickers
- Certificates linked to our school values
- Prize ceremonies and special assemblies



Religious Education

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 Advent
- invite Fr Stephen 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, such as CAFOD, donating to food banks and clothes banks.





Our learning this term - Religious Education

2 RE lessons per week



- Weekly Assembly
- Celebration of the Word
- Musical Celebration of the Word

Autumn Term - themes and topics

- Creation and Covenant (RED Branch 1)





- Prophecy and Promise (RED Branch 2)

Mass is celebrated regularly at school and church for the whole school and individual year groups. All parents welcome to attend.



We learn, achieve and love following Jesus.

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Phonics

At our school, we follow the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme, and all children take part in daily phonics lessons to support their reading development.

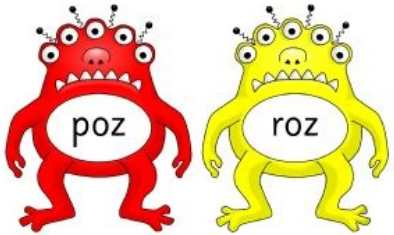
In June 2027, children currently in Year 1 will take the statutory **Phonics Screening Check**. This is a short assessment where children are asked to read 40 words, using their phonics knowledge to decode them.

The check includes a mix of real words and *Alien words*. These made-up words are included to assess whether children can apply their decoding skills to unfamiliar words, rather than relying on memory.

Reading RWI phonics books at home plays a vital role in helping children practise the sounds they are learning in school. Your support with reading at home makes a big difference in building your child's confidence and fluency.

If you have any questions about phonics or the screening check, please don't hesitate to speak to us.

Read Write Inc.

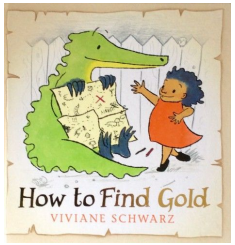


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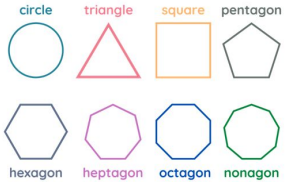
Our learning this term

Throughout the Autumn term, this is what we will be covering:
English: Descriptive writing - Character description,
retelling stories, Setting descriptions.
Information Text - Non Chronological Report





Maths: Numbers within ten including addition and subtraction
Shapes and patterns
Numbers within ten including addition and subtraction





Science: Seasonal Changes,
Animals including Humans





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Key Maths Vocabulary

Here are the key words for Maths this term - please encourage the children to use them when possible.

Word	Definition	Example
Number bonds	Addition and subtraction facts that equal up to 20.	3 + 7 = 10 10 = 3 + 7
Digit	One of the ten Arabic numerals 0 to 9, from which we compose numbers.	The number 54 has the digit five in the tens column and the digit four in the ones column. The digit five has a value of fifty.
Fact - Fact family	Related to the four operations (+, -, ×, ÷). Pupils should be supported in achieving fluency, i.e. very fast recall, in these facts. These then become known facts.	Number bonds to and within 10 and 20 are facts, e.g. 3 + 7 = 10
Place value	A system for writing numbers, in which the value of a digit is defined by its position within the number.	In the number 452 , the digit four has a value of 400, the five has a value of 50 and the two has a value of two.
Partition	To split a number into two or more parts.	The number 23 can be partitioned (by place value) into 20 and 3, or partitioned in many different ways, including 18 and 5, 17 and 6, etc.

Our learning this term

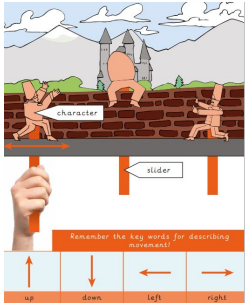
Art & Design:
Exploring lines and shapes



Computing:
Computing systems and networks
Improving mouse skills



Design & Technology:
Mechanisms -
Making a moving story book

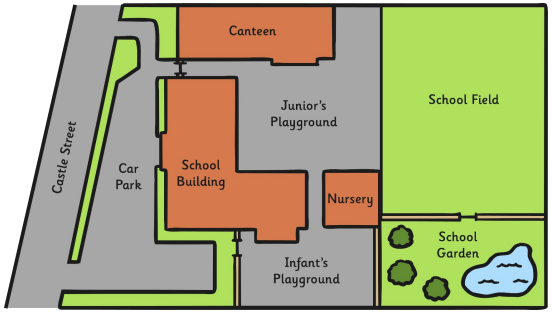


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Our learning this term

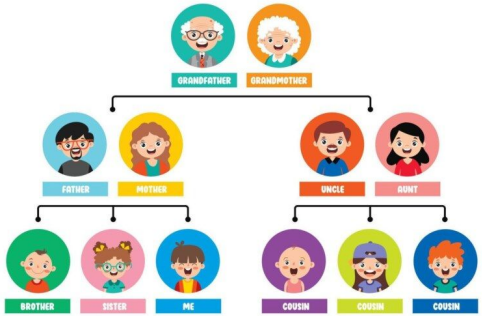
Geography: What is it like here?

The children will be developing their understanding of what it is like here, describing geography features and comparing places.



History: What is my family tree?

The children will explore their family trees looking at their lives and heritage.



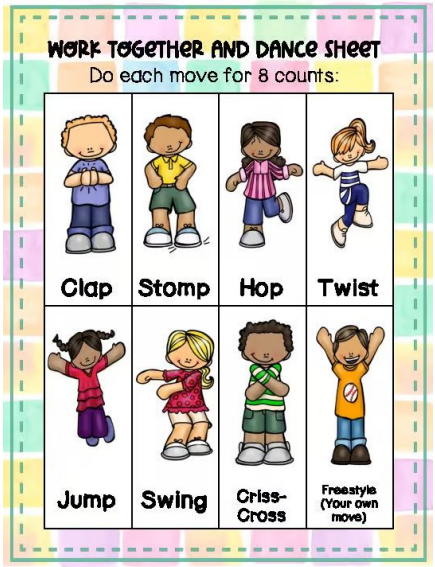
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Our learning this term

Music: We have been looking at famous composers and discussed musical vocabulary such as pitch, tempo and pulse. We will be learning to perform songs confidently.

PE:
PE fundamentals
Dance
Ball skills
Team Building





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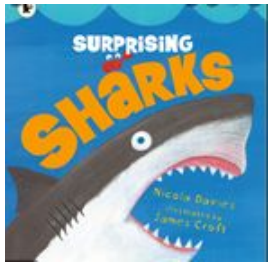
Reading

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.

CLPE
50th ANNIVERSARY
CENTRE FOR LITERACY IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Bug Club

Read Write Inc. Phonics







Pollyanna



Books are changed weekly. Please listen to your child read every day.

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Homework

- Homework will be given out on a Friday. It will be placed into your child's homework folder in their book bag. **Please ensure that homework is completed and returned by Tuesday.**

- Spell Checks will take place every **Thursday** in Year 1. You will find a copy of the words in your child's reading record, please practise these words at home with your child so they become confident in how to spell them .

- Alongside the homework, please ensure that your child is reading at least 5 times and week and that you are signing their reading books to reflect this. The children should regularly be practising the sounds in their Phonics book in order for them to become a more confident reader. Children are rewarded when they have read their Phonics book 5 times in a 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 also 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 Tuesday, in our dedicated Forest School outdoor learning area. This is beginning with Year 2 and Year 5 in Autumn 1, then other year groups will follow. 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

Over the course of the year the children will go on an educational visit, a trip to the library and we will also have a drama workshop come into school to develop the children's historical knowledge.

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 here: Jules et Lis From this academic year, after school clubs delivered by Super Star Sport will also be available.

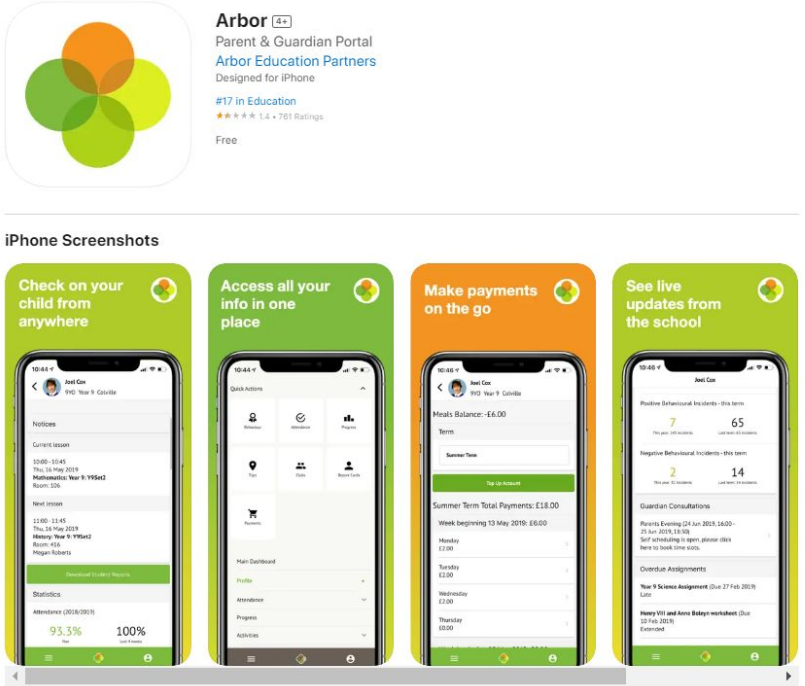
SUPER STAR SPORT

JULES ET LIS OUT OF SCHOOL CLUBS

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Arbor

All correspondence, payments, club bookings and consent for trips will be sent electronically through Arbor.



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Dates for your diary

- Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th September - Year 6 to Norfolk Lakes
- Thursday 1st October onwards - Black History Month
- Friday 2nd October - St Thomas's 140 Year Celebration
- Tuesday 13th October & Thursday 15th October - Parents' Evening
- Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October
- Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October - INSET Days. School closed to pupils.
- Monday 2nd November - INSET Day. School closed to pupils.
- Thursday 5th November - Individual and sibling photos
- Wednesday 4th November - Whole school Mass led by Year 6 at school, 10:15am
- Wednesday 16th December - Whole school Mass led by Year 3 at school, 2:00pm
- End of term: Friday 18th December at 1:30pm (Early close)

Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2027

Christmas at St Thomas's

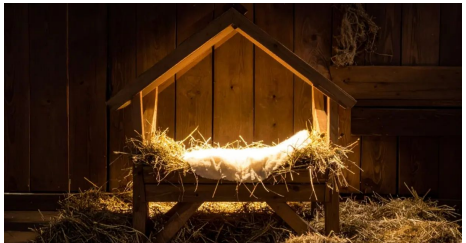
It will be here before we know it! Here are the dates of our Christmas events this December. More details will follow in due course.



- Wednesday 2nd December - Year 1 & 2 Advent service
- Thursday 3rd December - Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert (Y5 parents to attend)
- Friday 4th December - Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert (Y6 parents to attend)
- Thursday 10th December - Year 1 & 2 Nativity (Y1 parents to attend)
- Friday 11th December - Year 1 & 2 Nativity (Y2 parents to attend)
- Monday 14th December - EYFS Nativity (EYFS parents to attend)
- Tuesday 15th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 17th December - Class parties
- Friday 18th December - School closes for the Christmas holiday at 1:30pm



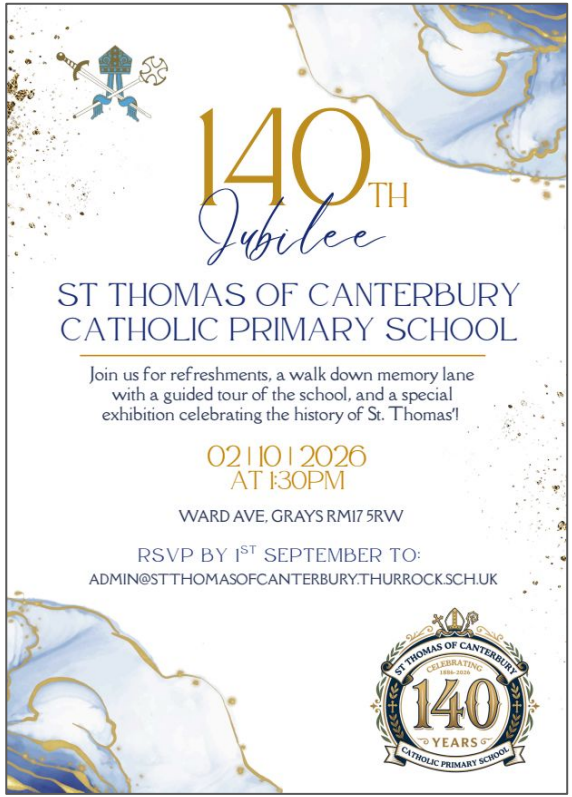




Celebration!

Our school will be 140 years old! We are looking forward to celebrating - more details to follow soon!





School Priorities 2026-27



Digital World:

Use of technology and our Computing Curriculum

Boost writing through the power of drama



St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Active Learning

New School Nursery



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.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEW NURSERY OPENING

Monday 22nd February 2027

- Children aged 3 - 4 years
- Children of all faiths welcome
- Morning, afternoon or all day sessions available
- Taught by a qualified teacher
- Access to Forest School
- Newly refurbished classroom & outdoor area





Ward Avenue
Grays
RM17 5RW

EMAIL YOUR INTEREST TODAY!

01375 375 826
Nursery@stthomasofcanterbury.thurrock.sch.uk

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; 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;