**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

 “Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus” St Francis of Assisi

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a happy and restful summer.

**Staffing**

Mrs Hennessy will the Year 3/4 Teaching Assistant this year, with Ms Roux, Mr Gooding and Mrs Stevens also working in the classroom as LSAs. Mrs King will be teaching the class on a Wednesday.

**Curriculum**

Our R.E unit in the first half term will be ‘The Bible’. We will explore a range of Bible stories, which focus on God’s call to his people. In the second half term the topic is ‘Mary our mother’. We will also learn about Judaism and studying two aspects of Catholic Social Teaching, Care of Creation and Preferential Option for the Poor. Our class act of worship will mark the beginning of the Advent season and will be held on **Friday 1st December at 9.15am**. We hope that you can join us!

We will have daily maths lessons focusing on place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. Year 4 will also look at measurement. Learning times tables is also a regular part of our timetable.

English is also a daily occurrence, and we are excited to be working with Herts for Learning to pilot a new scheme. Our topics cover a range of genres and skills and will be based on exciting texts. We will also have some discrete sessions on grammar, spelling and handwriting. We will have group reading sessions twice a week and visits to the school library on a Thursday.

We have a very exciting history topic this term! Through our topic on Ancient Egypt, we will be exploring life in Ancient Egypt including the importance of the Nile, beliefs on life after death, Egyptian gods, and burials. We are in the process of arranging an exciting Ancient Egyptian workshop day-details will follow soon!

Other areas of our learning will be linked to this topic, especially Art in which we will be designing and making Egyptian death masks in both clay and papier Mache. The children will also be invited to complete a project on Ancient Egypt as part of their homework later in the term.

In science, we will be investigating light, reflection and electricity which will link into our DT work on building circuits and making lights.

Computing this term focuses on two main aspects: ‘Computing Systems and Networks’ and ‘Creating Media’. eSafety skills will be developed throughout.

Through our geography unit ‘Why is climate important?’, the children will learn to read weather and climate maps and learn how weather and climate are generalised into world climates. The concept of biomes will also be explored.

All children in Key Stage 2 receive French lessons with our expert teacher, Mrs K. Clark. There will be many opportunities to practice basic French phrases and increase fluency.

In PSHE we will cover two topics this term utilising the Jigsaw approach: ‘Being me in my world’ and ‘Celebrating Difference’.

Mrs Earl will be teaching music until she goes on maternity leave at half term, at which time music will be taken on by myself or Mrs King.

**PE**

Our PE sessions will be Wednesday (Swimming) and Friday but ideally the children **should have their kit in school every day**. Kit should consist of a white t-shirt and white shorts, the outdoor rugby sweatshirts, black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms, black or gold socks and trainers. **Please ensure that all kit is clearly labelled. Earrings must not be worn for P.E. (if they cannot be removed, please send in micropore tape to ensure they can be safely covered)**

**Homework**

Homework will be set on a Thursday via Seesaw (you will be provided with a log in code) and will clearly indicate if the work should be submitted online or in person. Weekly spellings will also be sent home each Thursday and will be tested the following week.

**Other notices**

Please ensure that children have sun hats and water bottles in school each day, especially considering the glorious September we are currently experiencing! Children are welcome to bring a snack for breaktime, but these should be healthy snacks such as crackers or fruit rather than chocolate or crisps. Please ensure any food brought into school is completely nut free as we have children with severe allergies in school.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or via email: MrsWClark@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk.

I look forward to working with you all this year.

Kind regards,

Mrs W Clark

Year 3/4 Class Teacher