**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 6th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we hope you had a wonderful Christmas and restful New Year. We are looking forward to starting another exciting term with your children.

Staffing in Year 1/2 for this term will be as follows -

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| Monday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Stevens. Miss Roux , Mr Brooks |
| Tuesday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Stevens, Miss Roux |
| Wednesday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Stevens, Miss Roux, Mr Brooks, Mrs Crowley (pm) |
| Thursday | Mrs King, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Stevens, Miss Roux, Mr Brooks, Mr Hill (pm) |
| Friday | Mrs King, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Stevens, Miss Roux, Mr Brooks, Mr Fitzgerald (PE) |

We offer a warm welcome to Mr Brooks who will be joining us in Year 1 and 2 for this half term as part of his primary teacher training course.

Our Curriculum

Our R.E units will cover ‘Families and Celebrations’ which will focus on Jesus in the temple, the church as a family and the Sacrament of Baptism. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will be covering ‘The Mass’. The topic covers the different parts of the Mass and their importance and meaning.

Our class Act of Worship will be on **Thursday 23rd February** at **9.15am**. You are warmly invited to join us for our Lenten Celebration.

The children will have a daily Maths, English and Phonics lesson. We will also be focusing on learning our times tables and taking part in group reading sessions three times a week. Alongside our work in school, it is very important for you to continue to read with your child daily. The children will bring home their reading books on a Friday and we would kindly ask they are returned to class by the following Tuesday.

Our Science topics this term are ‘Plants and animals where we live’ and ‘Our local environment’. During the first half term the children will explore their local environment (school grounds) to find out about the plants and animals that live in their locality. Children will learn to name and identify common wild and garden plants, including trees, so they are familiar with common names. In the second half children will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive, they will identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.

In History we will be learning about the ‘Our Local Heroes’. The children will develop their historical research skills, understand and recall events in the past in chronological order and use historical vocabulary. They will be focusing on who are our local heroes and why do we remember them? In Geography, we will be learning about ‘People and their communities’. The children will learn how to use maps to understand the geography of the world. Where in the world different communities live and to understand geographical features by contrasting the UK and a non-European country.

Mr Hill will be leading both Music and Computing on a Thursday afternoon.

PE will take place twice a week (**Mondays and Fridays**). Please ensure the children come to school in their PE kit on those days. PE kit consists of a white t-shirt and white shorts, and black or brown tracksuit and trainers.

Year 1 and 2 will take part in Forest School in the summer term (more details will follow later in the academic year.)

Homework

Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please practise these regularly with your child.

Homework will be set via Tapestry and any completed homework can be uploaded to hand in. We will provide a cross curricular activity grid of six home learning opportunities which can be completed at home in any order.

Year 2 will now be introduced to 2’s, 5’s and 10’s times tables during a weekly lesson at school. You are welcome to practise these at home to help your child gain fluency at recalling times table facts.

School Diaries

We will be using home/school diaries which you can use to send us a message or comment regarding your child’s learning or reading. We will record your child’s reading comments via the diary. The diaries will be checked in school daily so please make sure it is in your child’s bag.

If you need to make an appointment to see us, please either email or contact us through the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs S Gilbert and Mrs V King – Year 1/2 Class Teachers