**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

6th January 2023

Welcome back we hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Mrs Crowe and I would like to thank you for all the cards and gifts we received from the children – they really are greatly appreciated.

Below are the main areas of study to be covered in each area of learning this term:

**R.E.** :

* Inspirational People
* Jesus the Messiah

We will continue to celebrate liturgical festivals of Lent and Easter as well as highlighting other Saint’s days. Our class assembly will be on **Thursday 23rd March at 9.15am**.

Other topics covered this term will include:

* Science: ‘Evolution and Inheritance’ a study of what fossils can tell us, inherited features and the work of Charles Darwin; and ‘Material World’ a study of properties of materials with a focus on dissolving and reversible/non-reversible changes.
* History: The Vikings – the reasons they came to this country and their legacy.
* Geography: What will our world be like in the future? A study of planned change in our area linked to housing and infrastructure development.
* Computing: year 5 will be looking at coding for games and code breaking technology. Year 6 will be continuing the process of learning how to develop apps.
* Year 5 will be cooking with Mrs Crowe on Wednesdays while Year 6 are having booster lessons in preparation for SATs. They will be making a range of predominantly savoury snacks and meals.
* Art: a focus on portrait and figure drawing.

Please ensure that all P.E./Games kit is named clearly – including socks!

Children should have the specified school kit (see website) A pair of trainers should be provided for games use and these should be left in school to be available every day – these should not be the same pair that are used for Forest School.

Homework - In Years 5 and 6 we encourage children to become independent with their homework as we begin the preparation for the transition to secondary school. Parental support for encouraging a good homework routine is essential; enabling children to become confident and independent in completing tasks with minimal parental input. Following lessons often depend on this work having been completed. Children are encouraged to plan their homework schedule carefully to meet deadlines in a way that does not leave everything until the night before it is due.

Year 6 children are expected to spend an average of 40 minutes per night and Year 5 35 minutes per night on homework tasks. Apart from weekly English and maths tasks there may be theme based, history, science or R.E. research, and there are always spellings to learn, times-tables to practise and, when all that is done, reading. For Year 6 this term much of their homework will take the part of booster/revision type materials to be completed over several nights.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or via email at MrBooth@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk should you have any queries or concerns.

Mr A Booth

Assistant Headteacher