**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

## CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

12.01.2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school to all families. Please see the information below for this half term’s staffing and curriculum in the Early Years.

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|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Staffing | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Lang (Learning Support Assistant- AM only)  Mrs Reid (Teaching Assistant- PM only) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Lang (Learning Support Assistant- AM only)  Mrs Reid (Teaching Assistant- PM only) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Lang (Learning Support Assistant)  Mrs Reid (Teaching Assistant- PM only) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Reid (Teaching Assistant- PM only) | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant) |
| We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Scher back into school following her maternity leave in February! | | | | | |

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| Curriculum Information - Topics | | | | | |
| **Autumn 1 2021** | **Autumn 2 2021** | **Spring 1 2022** | **Spring 2 2022** | **Summer 1 2022** | **Summer 2 2022** |
| Who Am I And Who Are You? | Celebrations! | Out Of This World! | Treasure | Wild World | Them Bones, Them Bones |

Below we have highlighted some of the key learning intentions for the beginning of the Spring Term, however please note these are not exhaustive and will be adjusted and adapted to suit the needs of individual children and the entire cohort.

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| Spring 1 Curriculum | | |
| Curriculum Area | Nursery & Reception | Home Enrichment Activities |
| ***Personal, Social and Emotional Development*** | To listen to, and follow rules set. To take turns whilst playing and waiting patiently to have a go. Know that there are boundaries set and play within them. To know how to manage their emotions in different situations by seeking out an adult to solve a problem. To learn to look after resources and take responsibility for tidying, storing and sorting activities. To begin to understand how to make the right choices and the consequences of not making the right ones. | Reinforce expected behaviour in the home setting. Discuss the consequences of inappropriate behaviour/actions. Talk about feelings with your child and help them to understand: happy, sad, angry and scared. Encourage them to express how they might be feeling. |
| ***Physical Development*** | Children will access the outdoor classroom, and develop balance and coordination skills to enable them to travel in a variety of ways, including over, under, through and around obstacle equipment. Pupils will take part in PE in the school hall, playground or field. Children will engage in a variety of fine motor control activities including: scissor control, threading, construction, mark making and dough activities. Pupils will also access targeted Dough Gym and Funky Fingers activities to support pencil grip and strength. Pupils will practise health and self-care routines including: hand washing, blowing their nose and dressing for PE and the outdoor environment. | Encourage your child to be fully proficient when using the toilet and washing their hands.    Support pupils to develop the ability to cope with dressing and undressing. |
| ***Communication and Language***  ***Literacy*** | Children will continue to be encouraged to take part in circle time activities within small and large groups. There will continue to be lots of opportunities for pupils to express their views, share stories and become confident to speak in a familiar group and we will continue to support children in responding to ideas expressed by others with relevant comments and questions. Children will be introduced to a wide range of vocabulary linked to our Space theme, including *astronaut, forces, gravity, craters, asteroids, solar system, planets etc.*  We will read a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction books to support this learning. We will also continue to practice and apply our phonics knowledge through labelling and then sentence writing.  Wellcomm Language intervention will be delivered to target pupils to develop their expressive and receptive language and early language development. | We’d love for you to draw (and for Reception children to have a go at labelling) planets, star constellations, keep a moon diary or find out about famous astronauts!  Encourage your child to identify letters in the environment, e.g. number plates, signs, magazines etc and in Reception begin to read these with increased independence  Play oral segmenting and blending games with Nursery children to encourage them to hear sounds in words and blend sounds together to make words.  Reception children will continue to bring home phonics sheets weekly. It is really important that the children are encouraged to engage in these as they really do consolidate learning.  Read a story to your child every day. Encourage your child to talk about the illustrations in the stories. Model how to hold a book correctly and turn pages. Feed your child’s imagination and deepen their vocabulary by telling them a range of stories |
| ***Mathematics*** | Children will consolidate their understanding of numbers 0-5 and then be moving on to deepen their understanding of numbers beyond 5. They will find 1 more and 1 less, form the numbers and go on to find different ways of adding to each digit – finding all the possibilities through mathematical problem solving. They will compare values of numbers and look at how they can be shared equally. Children will learn to recognise number patterns as well as the numerals. We will look more closely at the properties of 2d and some 3d shapes and use them to build models and make pictures. Children will be learning to add and subtract 1 from a given number using practical resources. | Practise counting with your Nursery child. You might like to count objects in the home setting. Encourage your child to place objects in a line whilst counting and to touch count. Go on a ‘Number Hunt’ with your child, Draw their attention to numbers in the environment for example, on registration plates, buses, doors and encourage them to recognise and name the numerals they see. Children in Nursery should be consistently identifying numerals 1 – 5 correctly.    Please follow the links below for further information on Numicon or for educational games to access at home:  • Making Numbers Real-Numicon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYgwM5Z1tMo>  • Crickweb-free online educational games for children <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html> |
| ***Understanding of the World*** | Children will be learning about the famous astronaut Neil Armstrong and why his journey was so important. We will also look at how craters are made on the moon’s surface using a simple experiment and explore some differences between planets. Children will also learn about the jobs that other people do to help us and the changes in the seasons. | Go on walks and point out the changes that are taking place in the environment as we move towards spring.  Take a look at the Apollo 11 Moon Landing videos on YouTube and talk about the things you would like to do or learn about if you were an astronaut!  Talk about the members of your family and extended family and the different jobs that people do.  ***If any Parents would like to come in to share their profession with the children we’d love to welcome you in to the classroom. Please let us know if you think you can help.*** |
| ***Expressive Arts and Design*** | Children will be taught a range of skills to help them develop confidence and enjoyment of expressive arts. This term in particular we will focus on cutting skills and how to hold and turn paper to cut around curved edges. During child initiated learning pupils will have access to a wide variety of creative materials and will be able to express their own creativity. Pupils will be able to access a variety of small world and role play activities to develop expressive language. Pupils will develop their repertoire of Nursery Rhymes, Action Songs and themed songs. | Encourage your child to sing songs from school in the home setting. Allow your child to access a wide range of creative activities: painting, collage, creative role play etc.  Why not be brave and have a go at splatter painting to create a space effect?! This may be best performed outside!!  https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-lClrMedo3ag/W1kas4o7TWI/AAAAAAAABJg/ktRh2Ein5gYBhWhsLIkCn0-6Xlj6IZitgCLcBGAs/s1600/Space%2BSplatter%2BPainting%2B001.jpg |
| ***Religious Education*** | Our R.E topic this half term is Galilee to Jerusalem.  Children will learn about the Epiphany to start with and then they will hear the Bible story of Jesus welcomes the little children. We will also learn about the Trinity and the Glory Be Prayer. We will focus on ways that we can show love to others such as helping the vulnerable. | Maybe your child would like to think of a way in which they are a good friend and send in a photo or drawing of how they have helped others  Jesus Children Stock Illustrations – 2,273 Jesus Children Stock  Illustrations, Vectors &amp; Clipart - Dreamstime |

Reception and Nursery children will continue to need to wear a **named P.E kit** to school every Friday for P.E with Mr Fitzgerald.

Our Forest School sessions will now stop until after the February half term. This is to give our forest the chance to rest over the winter. Children will no longer need to bring Forest School kits to school this half term. We will notify you when sessions will start again.

Please be reminded that Reception children will be bringing home a worded reading book every Friday. **This will need to be returned to school and ticked off on the return list every Monday please**. We are unable to issue the following book until the previous one has been returned and ticked off on the return list.

Nursery children will also bring home a new book or story sack to share with you every Friday. **This will need to be returned and ticked off on the returns list by the following Friday please.**

We would like to invite you to our Class Prayer Service alongside Father John on **Friday 15th March at 2.45pm.**

As we continue to develop the children’s self-help and independence skills and prepare them for the next step in their EYFS journey, we now ask that parents do not enter the classroom with the children in the morning. We would like the children to be dropped at the classroom door with their belongings and begin to hang up their own coats, bags, lunch boxes and water bottles. This is an important step in achieving their Early learning Goal and being ready for their Key Stage One journey. This will now include Nursery children.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to a member of the Early Years Team at drop off or collection times and we will be happy to make an appointment to discuss all queries or concerns.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term ahead!

Mrs Overett Mrs Clark

EYFS Teacher EYFS Teacher