**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

Year 3/4 Curriculum Letter-Spring 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful festive break. Thank you all so much for the generous gifts given at the end of term.

This term is set to be another busy one and we will begin to prepare for our residential trip in May. I will shortly be arranging a meeting to discuss the details with you, date TBC.

In RE we will cover two important topics, ‘The Sacrament of Reconciliation’ and ‘Jesus the Saviour’. These will help us prepare for Lent and lead us on the journey towards Easter. Please join us for our class act of worship on: **Thursday 30th March at 9:15am**.

Our English units this term cover a range of skills including a fiction topic called Dragon Slayer, a grammar unit that involves us becoming word detectives, exploring poetic form and reading a non-fiction text on the Worlds Weirdest Sports! We will also continue to have weekly group reads, spelling skills sessions and handwriting.

In Maths we will cover a wide range of skills including shape, measure and calculation alongside problem solving and reasoning. Year 4 will continue to practice ready for the Multiplication Check in June.

Rocks, Soils and Fossils is our first Science unit of the term and will cover the properties and uses of rocks, the rock family, soils and finally fossils (it even includes making metamorphic rocks from chocolate-we do love a food-based activity in Year 3/4!). This will then be followed by a topic entitled ‘How does your garden grow?’ in which we will learn about parts of the plants, what plants need to live, water transportation in plants and pollination.

We start this term by finishing off our history that we started before Christmas, drawing conclusions about whether the Bronze Age or the Iron Age would have been a better time to live. We will revisit the Iron Age in the summer term when we begin to look at the Roman invasion of Britain. The rest of this term will be Geography based-firstly learning about the Earth as a sphere, and how we can use the Equator, latitude, longitude, tropics, and the international Date Line to pinpoint global locations. In the second half of the term, we introduce the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’ and consider why people chose to live on the flanks of volcanoes and in earthquake zones when both can be life threatening. We will even be making our own erupting volcanoes (always a favourite!).

In D&T we will be learning different stitches and designing and making money containers. Our Art topic will be drawing, and sculpture based and will link to our topic on plants.

Mrs K Clark will continue to deliver French, broadening the children’s language with topics based around vegetables and Ancient Britain. Mr Hill’s computing lessons will be focused on programming, data and information and music lessons centred around singing, rhythm and layers.

In PSHE we have two key topics-firstly ‘Dreams and Goals’ which includes creating dreams, achieving goals and dealing with disappointments. Our second topic is ‘Healthy Me’ which helps the children understand healthy friendships and explores the effects of alcohol and smoking. We will also explore peer pressure and how to act assertively.

Year 4 have their swimming lessons this half term and as a class we will cover dance, gymnastics, football and problem solving in PE lessons. PE will be every other Wednesday afternoon, as well as every Friday afternoon with Mr Fitzgerald. Please ensure the children have named PE kits in school-white kit for indoor PE and black kits (including joggers) for outdoor PE.

Homework

I will continue to set homework on Seesaw and indicate whether it is to be uploaded or handed in at school. This will be set on a Thursday and the children will have the week to complete unless otherwise indicated. Spellings will also be set weekly and tested on a Wednesday. Please support your child with reading and times tables practice in addition to more formal homework when possible.

As ever, should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, either via email (MrsWClark@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk) or in person.

Best wishes,

Mrs W Clark
Year 3/4 Teacher