**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

12th January 2024

Dear Parents,

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.** :

* The Mass
* Reconciliation

We will continue to celebrate liturgical festivals of Lent and Easter as well as highlighting other Saints’ days. Our class prayer service will be on **Monday 25th March at 2.45pm**.

Other topics covered this term will include:

* Science: ‘Let’s get moving’ a look at forces in action around us and ‘Out of the World’ a study of Space and the influence of forces at work there.
* History: The Maya Civilisation – who were the Maya, what can we learn about their culture and why they should be remembered today. This, combined with our geography work will feed into some project work based around the countries of Central and South America.
* Geography: A study of the Amazon – looking at the river system, the environment, life for people who live there and the issues of deforestation.
* Year 5 will be cooking with Mrs Hennessy 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 and collage linked to our Mayan and space work.

***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

Senior Assistant Headteacher