**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we hope you all had a restful summer break and you are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year! We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children.

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

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| Monday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Lang |
| Tuesday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Lang, Mrs Earl (music) |
| Wednesday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Lang |
| Thursday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Lang |
| Friday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Lang, Mr Fitzgerald (PE) |

Our Curriculum

Our R.E units will cover ‘Chosen People!’ which will have a focus on the stories of Abraham, Moses and Daniel. In the second half of the Autumn term we will be covering ‘Mary, the Mother of God’ through which we will focus on the Visitation, the birth of Jesus and Advent. Our class Act of Worship will be on **Tuesday 3rd October at 9:15am.** You are warmly welcomed to join us for our St. Francis of Assisi feast day.

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 Thursday and we would kindly ask they are returned to class by the following Tuesday.

In History we will be looking at our family history and focusing on what life might have looked like for our grandparents. We will be thinking about how much toys, transport, homes and schools have changed in living memory.

Our Science topics this term are ‘Who am I?’ and ‘Healthy Me’. We will be discovering our 5 senses and how we rely on them, we will also explore what happens when you have a sense taken away! We will look at what makes a healthy balanced diet and how you can help stay healthy with exercise and good hygiene.

Linked to these themes is our Art topic, where we will be looking closely at facial features and creating a self-portrait.

Music will take place each Tuesday with Mrs Earl.

Computing in Year 1 will develop the children’s understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. Children will also consider how to use technology responsibly. In Year 2, children will develop their understanding of what information technology (IT) is and will begin to identify examples. They will discuss where they have seen IT in school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. Learners will then investigate how IT improves our world.

PE will take place twice per week. During the Autumn term one of the PE sessions will be Forest School. This will take place on a Monday afternoon. All children must bring in suitable Forest school clothing appropriate for the weather. During hot weather children’s legs need to be covered, old trainers, sun-cream, sun hats and water bottles. During cold or wet weather children will need, wellies, warm clothing, woolly hat, gloves and waterproof trousers and jacket. The second PE session will take place on Fridays and children need to come to school dressed in their PE kits.

Homework

Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Monday to be tested the following Monday. These will be closely linked to the weekly phonics being taught. Please practice these with your child.

Homework will be set via Tapestry and any completed homework can be uploaded to hand it in. We will provide a cross curricular activity grid of 6 home learning opportunities which can be completed at home in any order.

School Diaries

We will not have home/school diaries this year. If you wish to make an appointment to see us, please either email or contact us through the school office or Tapestry if you have any questions or concerns. Alternatively, you can speak to us at the end of the day once all children have left our care.

Please can we request that ALL email correspondence includes both Mrs King and Mrs Gilbert.

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