**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

21st April 2023

Welcome back and we hope you had an enjoyable Easter break. This term will fly by very quickly particularly this first half with all its Bank Holidays. Later in the term, we can look forward to some of the usual end-of-year activities such as a production, sport’s day etc and this year we hope to be able to offer cycling training and of course we have Mass with Cardinal Vincent Nicholls as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Thomas’. We hope for Year 6 to complete their time in Primary school with positive memories and for Year 5 to feel prepared for their final year at St Thomas’ as they enter Year 6 in September.

In class I will continue to be supported by Mrs Crowe with Mrs Lang and Mrs Pettit assisting. On Friday mornings Mrs Crowe will lead the class with Mrs Crowe and Mr Fitzgerald (PE) in the afternoon. On Thursday mornings Mrs Crowe will lead Year 5 with maths and English consolidation work and cooking while I deliver a programme of consolidation work with Year 6.

Our class assembly this term will be on Thursday 25th May at 09:15.

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

R.E.:

* Life in the Risen Jesus – the importance of prayer
* Called to Serve – a study of the Sacraments.

In history this term we will be looking at the significance of journeys through a range of themes including: Viking voyages, Tudor exploration, the Titanic and refugee journeys.

Geography: Journeys – Trade – Where do our food and clothes come from? A research project will be set soon to support this learning.

Science will continue with a focus on planning investigations scientifically through our topic – Amazing Change which will look at dissolving and reversible/non-reversible changes.

Art: landscape work. How to create perspective in drawings and painting. This will involve a study of the artist Henry Moore looking at sculpture in the landscape and there will be a class visit to the Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green later in the term.

Please ensure that all P.E./Games kit is named clearly – including socks! and that it is available in school every day.

We often struggle to reunite unnamed, lost items with their owners and at year end we end up discarding many unclaimed items.

Homework - In Years 5 and 6 homework is used as part of the process of preparing the children for the demands of independent work in secondary school. Parental support for encouraging a good homework routine can be of great assistance with this; 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 tasks to the night before it is due.

Guidance is that Year 6 children are expected to spend an average of 40 minutes per night on homework activities and Year 5 35 minutes per night. 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 of course reading. Children are often asked to submit written homework on SeeSaw.

This term the majority of Year 6’s homework time will be taken up with booster work which will generally be given out on a Wednesday for handing in latest the following Monday. They will still, however, have weekly spelling lists and be expected to spend some time on their project when not doing this.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or through the Home/School Diary should you have any queries or concerns.

Mr A Booth

Assistant Headteacher