**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 25th April 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we hope you had a wonderful Easter break. We are looking forward to starting another exciting term with your children.

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

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| --- | --- |
| Monday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Miss Roux |
| Tuesday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Miss Roux, Mrs Goode (music) |
| Wednesday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Miss Roux |
| Thursday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Miss Roux |
| Friday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Miss Roux (am). Mrs Crowley, Mrs Hennessy, Mr Fitzgerald (PE) (pm) |

**Our Curriculum**

Our **R.E** units are **‘To the ends of the Earth’** - In this branch, pupils explore the Road to Emmaus, the Ascension, and Pentecost, completing the narrative of Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection. They encounter the Holy Spirit’s transformative power in the apostles and early Church. The focus is on consolidating the Gospel message and introducing the mystery of the Holy Trinity through artistic and experiential representations such as fire, wind, and shadow. This prepares pupils for future learning about the Sacrament of Baptism. Prayers, hymns, and global celebrations of Pentecost help develop a spiritual vocabulary and understanding of the Holy Spirit’s role in Christian life.

The second unit is **‘Dialogue and Encounter’**- In this branch, pupils explore the Catholic identity of their school as a foundation for dialogue with others. Through learning about the church building and its symbols, they discover how Catholics live and celebrate their faith. They learn that the Church is a global family, enriched by diverse traditions. Pupils reflect on the cross as a symbol of belief in Jesus and begin to understand the Sign of the Cross as a simple yet powerful prayer of faith in the Trinity. All children are encouraged to share their own experiences of faith, fostering a respectful and inclusive environment. In the encounter dimension, pupils are introduced to Judaism through the core belief in one God and the importance of the Torah. They learn that the Torah’s teachings shape Jewish life and culture, and that it is treated with great care and respect. Pupils explore Jewish practices such as Shabbat and listen to Torah chanting, gaining an authentic insight into the faith. Through this, they grow in understanding of others and learn how shared values can build a culture of kindness and dialogue.

Our **Class Prayer service** will be on **Friday** **9th May at 2:45pm**. You are warmly invited to join us for our prayer service.

The children will have a daily Maths, English and Phonics lessons.

**Maths.** Year 1 – we will be looking at multiplication and division, fractions, position and direction, place value (within 100), money and time.

Year 2 – will be looking at fractions, time, statistics, position and direction. We will also continue our weekly SATs booster sessions

**English.** Summer, first half term is a narrative unit featuring **‘The Lost Homework’** by Richard O’Neill, illustrated by Kirsti Beautyman. We will learn how to consistently use past tense to write about personal experiences. They will explore a range of past tense verbs and then write about a time when they personally attended a family event and what happened there. A range of punctuation and conjunctions are reviewed. Children will explore the use of the apostrophe in the contracted form through modelling, discussion and exploration of examples within the text. They will take part in a proofing activity before using this new learning within context. Children will learn to explore the apostrophe further but this time for possession. After modelling and practise, they will be guided to apply this new learning in a piece of descriptive writing.

Next is writing instructions unit featuring **‘How to wash a woolly mammoth’** by Michelle Robinson and Kate Hindley. Children will learn to explore how the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command. They will learn how to give instructions: commands rather than questions. Evaluate oral and written instructions for clarity as you try to follow them. Children rehearse the language of commands and then write a series of commands using imperative verbs. To use expanded noun phrases for specification and commas for lists. Children read and evaluate instructional texts. They consider the use of precise language using expanded noun phrases and write lists of equipment using commas correctly. They will encapsulate what they want to say, sentence by sentence. Children discuss the precise language around toothbrushing and turn a poor set of brushing teeth instructions into super instructions by adding list of equipment, numbered bullets, adverbs of time, better verbs than repeating ‘put’, add diagrams and a top tip. They will understand the need for clear language (specific noun phrases, specific verbs) as they write their own ordered steps for brushing teeth.

In the second half term we will be focusing on 3 books. The first is to inform: Recount (Here I Am),  the second is to Entertain: Narrative (Super Joe) and the last is Poetry: Take One Poet (Mandy Coe).

**Reading.** 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.

**Science**. Our topic is **Animals, The Human Body and Staying Healthy.** The children will be taught to: Ask simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways, observe closely, using simple equipment, perform simple tests, identify and classify, to use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions, gather and record data to help in answering questions.

**History.** We will be looking at Great Inventions – with a focus on Transport -The First Flight –thinking about how did the first flight change the world/why were the Rainhill trials important?

**Geography.** We will be looking at Animals and their Habitats – Where do our favourite animals live? Why do they live there? How have they adapted to survive? We will also take a look at how to use compass directions to describe features and routes on a map.

**PSHE.** Module 2: Created to Love Others: Session 1: Special People, Session 2: Treat Others Well, Session 3: …and say sorry, Session 4: Real Life Online, Session 5: Rules to Help Us, Session 6: Good and Bad Secrets, Session 7: Physical Contact, Session 8: Harmful Substances, Session 9: Can You Help Me? Part 1, Session 10: Can You Help Me? Part 2,

Module 1: Me, My Body and My Health

**Computing.** **Making Music** – using a computer as a tool to explore rhythms and melodies before creating a musical composition. **Programming animations** – design and program the movement of a character on a screen to tell a story. Coding through Scratch.

Mrs Goode will lead **music** with the children on a Tuesday where they will be looking at the music from a range of Genres and playing simple instruments by ear.

**P.E** will take place twice a week, **Thursdays (**with Mrs King) **and Fridays** (with Mr Fitzgerald). Please ensure the children come to school in their PE kit on those days. PE kit consists of a white t-shirt and white shorts, and black or brown tracksuit and trainers. The children will explore team games, agility, hand/eye co-ordination, throwing /catching, jumping and running. The second half of the summer term one of the PE sessions will be replaced with Forest school. This may take place on another day of the week.

**Art**. We will be taking inspiration from Mother Nature, the designer. We will look at artwork from Andy Goldsworthy focusing on sculpture and art using natural materials. We will be doing this as part of our Forest School sessions which will take place in the second half of the summer term.

**Homework**

**Spelling**s for year 2 which will follow the progression of spelling rules and skills beyond phonics. For both year 1 and 2 we will hand out spellings on a Friday to be tested the following Friday.

**Homework**. Year 2s will be given weekly SATs booster homework which will be given out every Friday. Year 1s will be set the usual grid of homework which they can complete in any order. It will be set each half term and any completed homework can be uploaded to Tapestry or bought in to school.

**Year 2 SATs** – I will be sending a message shortly via Tapestry about the Year 2 SATs.

**Class Trip** – Our class trip will be happening this term. Details to follow shortly.

If you need to make an appointment to see us, please either email (mrsking@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk) or contact us through the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs King and Mrs Crowley