



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Keating BEd (Hons); NPQEL

Acting Head of School: Mrs W Clark BA (Hons); NPQSL

"Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus"

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas break.

Curriculum

Our R.E unit in the first half term will be 'Galilee to Jerusalem.' The children will explore Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?", and learn how Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah who brings God's Kingdom through love, service and compassion. They will study stories of Jesus' miracles and healings, especially how he welcomed and restored people who were excluded or marginalised in society. Pupils will learn how these actions reveal God's mercy and continue today through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. They will also reflect on how Christians are called to follow Jesus' example by caring for others and building God's Kingdom in their own lives and communities.

In the second half term, the topic will be 'Desert to Garden.' Year 3 and 4 will explore Lent as a journey from forgiveness to action, learning about God's mercy through key Gospel stories such as the Prodigal Son, the Judgement of Nations, and events of Holy Week. Pupils will develop their understanding of forgiveness, repentance, and the works of mercy, making links between loving God and showing compassion and service to others. They will reflect on how these teachings shape Christian life, encouraging personal change and acts of mercy within the school and wider community. Our class prayer service is scheduled for Friday the 6th of March at 2.45pm.

This term in Maths, Year 3 and 4 will be focusing on key areas to build confidence and fluency. The children will be learning about fractions, including finding, comparing, and adding them. In length and perimeter, they will measure and calculate the size and boundaries of different shapes. Multiplication and division will help them solve problems with larger numbers, while mass and capacity will develop their understanding of measuring weight and volume in real-life contexts. Throughout all topics, the children will also be practicing their problem-solving and reasoning skills, applying what they learn in practical and engaging ways.

English will continue to focus on a range of genres including fiction, non-fiction, persuasive speeches and poetry. Our topics cover a range of written and spoken skills and will be based on exciting texts such as 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll as well as writing Persuasive Speeches featuring a text, 'Stella and the Seagull' We will also have some discrete sessions on grammar, spelling and handwriting. We will have group reading sessions twice a week and visits to the school library on a Thursday with Mr Walker.

In History, children will take part in an exciting History topic on Ancient Egypt, discovering where and when early civilisations first appeared. They will learn about Egypt's location and geography, the importance of the River Nile, the role of gods and goddesses, and why beliefs about the afterlife led to practices such as mummification. The children will also explore historical sources, including the significance of the Rosetta Stone, and ask thoughtful questions about what these sources tell us about the past. To bring our learning to life, we will celebrate an Egyptian Day on Friday 6th February (further details to be sent separately), giving children the opportunity to immerse themselves in Ancient Egyptian culture and learning.

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In the 2nd half of the Spring term, our Geography unit will focus on the Big Question 'Are all settlements the same?' The children will develop their map skills by locating cities and regions within the UK and learning the differences between villages, towns and cities. They will use OS maps to identify symbols, follow routes and understand different types of land use, while discussing why human and physical features are located where they are. Pupils will also explore changes in the local area over time. In addition, they will study New Delhi, identify its human and physical features and comparing land use and environments with our local area.

In Art, children will explore the importance of Ancient Egyptian art and use it as inspiration for their own creative work. They will develop observational drawing skills, recording colours, patterns and shapes, while experimenting with a range of drawing and painting techniques. Children will create sketches to explore ideas before producing a final piece with a clear purpose, choosing appropriate materials and demonstrating effective composition. They will also discuss and evaluate their creative process and outcomes, working increasingly independently and confidently.

In Design and Technology this term, children will design and create an Egyptian collar, developing their sewing and fabric-handling skills. They will select, measure and cut fabrics accurately, use techniques such as cross-stitch, running stitch and appliqué, and decorate their work with beads, buttons and ribbon. The children will work with increasing independence when threading needles, tying knots and joining materials, while recognising different fabric types and their qualities. They will evaluate their finished product, explaining how their material choices meet both aesthetic and functional design criteria.

Our science topic this term is The Amazon to Antarctica. The children will explore *States of Matter* and *Living Things and Habitats* through hands-on investigations and practical experiments. They will learn to identify and compare solids, liquids and gases, observe how materials change when heated or cooled, and understand key processes such as melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation, including the water cycle. Later in the term, pupils will develop their knowledge of living things by classifying animals and plants, exploring habitats from different parts of the world, and learning how animals adapt to their environments. The unit also highlights how human activity can impact environments and why conservation is important.

In Computing this term, Year 3 pupils will develop their programming skills by creating musical sequences using a block-based programming language, while Year 4 pupils will explore text-based programming by using count-controlled loops to draw repeating shapes. Children will also build their understanding of data and information, with Year 3 learning how to create and use branching databases to group objects using yes/no questions and simple data software. Year 4 will investigate data logging, recognising how and why data is collected over time and using data loggers and specialist software to support scientific investigations.

In French, the children will learn to use verbs in the infinitive and develop vocabulary related to fruits. They will also practise expressing opinions, using gendered articles and forming plurals accurately in spoken and written French.

In PSHE this term, we will be using the *Jigsaw* programme to explore *Dreams and Goals*, helping children understand different ways we learn and how they can improve through a positive mindset. Pupils will develop confidence in sharing successes and supporting others. Through the *Healthy Me* unit, children will learn how to keep themselves safe and healthy, including understanding personal safety, e-safety and responsible use of social media. They will also learn to recognise feelings such as anxiety, stress and illness, and explore basic money awareness to support real-life decision making.

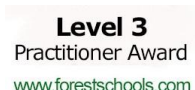
Mrs Goode will be leading weekly music lessons following Charanga, a Herts for Learning scheme. Topics will include 'Three Little Birds - Reggae Music' and in the second half term 'Lean on Me' – Gospel based music.

PE

Our PE sessions will be Wednesday and Friday with Mr Kitteridge, our new Sports Coach. The children are required to have their PE Kit in school every day and will not be permitted to wear their PE kit to school.

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Please ensure that all kit is clearly labelled and kept in a separate PE bag which can stay in school. Earrings must not be worn for P.E. (if they cannot be removed, please send in micropore tape to ensure they can be safely covered)

Homework and Spellings

Homework will be set on a Friday via Seesaw and will clearly indicate if the work should be submitted online or in person. The children will continue to have two pieces of homework per week across all areas of the curriculum based upon what the children have learnt that week.

We continue to follow the scheme Spelling Shed and weekly spelling rules and practice sheets will also be sent home each Friday for the children to practice what they will learn in school the following week. On Friday, the children will take part in an independent spelling test which assesses how well they have learnt the new spelling rule/ pattern.

Reading and Times tables

Regular reading at home is extremely important and helps children to develop fluency, comprehension and a love of books. Children are encouraged to independently bring their reading books home and change them regularly to ensure they are reading texts that support their progress and enjoyment. I also encourage frequent times tables practice using Times Tables Rock Stars, as this builds speed, accuracy and confidence in multiplication, which supports learning across the curriculum.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or via email: mrsgilbert@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk.

I look forward to working with you all again this term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbert

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