**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

##  CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

9th September 2022

Welcome back we hope you had a great summer break. Year 5/6 (29 children) have made a really positive start to the year and I hope this will continue.

In class I will be supported (from the beginning of October) by Mrs Crowe and on Friday mornings I will be directing work delivered by Mrs Crowe, Mr Fitzgerald (Games) and Mr Hill (computing) whilst I am out of class.

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

**R.E.** :

* Creation
* Justice

We will continue to celebrate liturgical festivals of Harvest and All Saints as well as highlighting other Saints’ days. Our class assembly will be on Thursday 17th November and we anticipate a choral performance for KS2 before we break for Christmas.

Other topics covered this term will include:

* Science: identification and classification of living things; life cycles of plants and animals. We will also be revisiting work on food chains, habitats and adaptation to the environment.
* Computing: Year 5 will be looking at coding for games and code breaking technology. Year 6 will be looking at the planning and design of apps for mobile devices.
* Design and Technology: development of sewing skills through practising a range of stiches and using a pattern to make a soft toy.
* Art: still life studies, light and shade.

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 remain in school to be available every day.

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

Forest School – Each year group will have 6 Forest School sessions this term with Mrs Overett and Mrs Hennessy. This will be on Tuesday afternoons and will begin with Year 6. Please ensure appropriate Forest School clothing is in school on this day, including boots and waterproofs.

Year 5 will have a 30 minute ukulele lesson on Wednesdays throughout the year leading to a performance in the summer term.

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.

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

Assistant Headteacher