



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Keating

Acting Head of School: Mrs W Clark

"Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus" ☒

9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school to all families. Please see the information below for this half term's staffing and curriculum in the Early Years.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)	Mrs Smith (Class Teacher)	Mrs Smith (Class Teacher)	Mrs Smith (Class Teacher)	Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)
Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)	Mrs Obi (Teaching Assistant)	Mr Kitteridge (PE Teacher)
Ms Roux (Learning Support Assistant)	Ms Roux (Learning Support Assistant)	Ms Roux (Learning Support Assistant)	Ms Roux (Learning Support Assistant)	Ms Roux (Learning Support Assistant)


Curriculum Information - Topics					
Autumn 1 2025	Autumn 2 2025	Spring 1 2026	Spring 2 2026	Summer 1 2026	Summer 2 2026
Who Am I and Who Are You?	Celebrations!	Out of This World!	Treasure	Wild World	Them Bones, Them Bones

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Below we have highlighted some of the key learning intentions for the beginning of the Spring Term, however, please note these are not exhaustive and will be adjusted and adapted to suit the needs of individual children and the entire cohort.

Spring 1 Curriculum		
Curriculum Area	Nursery & Reception	Home Enrichment Activities
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>Children will be learning to understand that if we persevere, we can tackle challenges.</p> <p>We will be setting goals and working towards them and learning to recognise when we feel proud.</p> <p>Children will be thinking about ways we can use kind words to encourage others.</p> <p>We will also begin to understand the link between the things we are learning now and the job we might like to do when we're older.</p> <p>The children will also be developing their understanding of how to make the right choices and the consequences of not making the right ones.</p>	<p>Reinforce expected behaviour in the home setting. Discuss the consequences of inappropriate behaviour/actions. Talk about feelings with your child and help them to understand happy, sad, angry and scared. Encourage them to express how they might be feeling. Have fun looking in a mirror and pulling funny faces to express emotions!</p> 
	Physical Development	<p>Children will access the outdoor classroom and develop balance and coordination skills to enable them to travel in a variety of ways, including over, under, through and around obstacle equipment.</p>



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	<p>Children will take part in PE sessions each week in the school hall, playground or field with Mr Kitteridge.</p> <p>Children will engage in a variety of fine motor control activities including scissor control, threading, construction, mark making and dough activities. Reception will also be developing their core strength and ability to sit at a table to write.</p> <p>Children will practise health and self-care routines including hand washing, blowing their nose and putting on their coats and wellies.</p>	<p>cope with dressing and undressing by putting their school shoes and coats on themselves each morning.</p>
<p>Communication and Language</p> <p>Literacy</p>	<p>Children will continue to be encouraged to take part in circle time activities within small and large groups. There will continue to be lots of opportunities for pupils to express their views, share stories and become confident to speak in a familiar group and we will continue to support children in responding to ideas expressed by others with relevant comments and questions.</p> <p>Children will be introduced to a wide range of vocabulary linked to our Out of This</p>	<p>Reception children will continue to bring home phonics sheets to help consolidate our phonics learning each week as well as a decodable word book. Please listen to your child read this book over the weekend and return it to class on the Monday.</p> <p>All Nursery children will continue to bring home a story sack or wordless book each week. These are to share at home to encourage children to retell stories / describe what they see in as much detail as possible.</p> <p>Endeavour to read to your child every day to foster the love of reading and books. Encourage your child to talk about the illustrations in the stories. Model how to hold a book correctly and turn pages. Feed your child's imagination and</p>

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	<p>World and Treasure topics for example, <i>planets, space, gravity, solar system, map, key, direction etc.</i> We will look at the characteristics of non fiction texts and use them to guide us through our topics.</p> <p>Language interventions will be delivered to target pupils to develop their expressive and receptive language and early language development.</p> <p>Our whole school and class Oracy focus will continue. This will be woven through the entire curriculum and children will have regular opportunities to practice speaking with clarity and confidence as well as extending their sentence construction using and, because, but and so. They will practice agreeing and disagreeing with each other in a constructive way.</p>	<p>deepen their vocabulary by telling them a range of stories</p>  <p>Encourage your child to spot letters in the environment, e.g. number plates, signs, magazines etc.</p> <p>☐</p> <p>To support Oracy development, encourage your child to expand their sentences whenever possible by encouraging the use of connectives 'because, but or so'. Question your child to prompt thinking about everyday events or things you notice together e.g.</p>  <p>I wonder if..</p> <p>What might happen if...</p> <p>Why do you think...</p> <p>I wonder if you agree...</p> <p>Tell me more about ...</p>
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<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>Children will consolidate their understanding of numbers 0-5 and then be moving on to deepen their understanding of numbers beyond 5.</p> <p>Reception will become familiar with the language associated with weight, height and capacity. They will also build confidence using Part-Whole models to deconstruct numbers.</p> <p>Children will be learning to add and subtract 1 from a given number using practical resources.</p> <p>Nursery will continue to develop the skill of subitising, and they will explore repeated patterns, position and learn to compare quantities.</p>	<p>Practise counting with your child. You might like to count objects at home. Encourage your child to place objects in a line whilst counting and to touch count. Go on a 'Number Hunt' with your child. Draw their attention to numbers in the environment, for example, on registration plates, buses, doors and encourage them to recognise and name the numerals they see.</p> <div data-bbox="1011 443 1241 763" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Please follow the links below for further information on Numicon or for educational games to access at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Numbers Real-Numicon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYgwM5Z1tMo • Crickweb-free online educational games for children http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html
<p>Understanding of the World</p>	<p>The children will know that we live on planet Earth and that other planets exist. We will learn the names of some of the planets and be able to describe contrasting features of Earth and other planets in our Solar System.</p> <p>We will find out about the job of an astronaut and the</p>	<p><i>If any Parents would like to come in to share their profession with the children we'd love to welcome you in to the classroom. Please let us know if you think you can help.</i></p>


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	<p>famous astronaut Neil Armstrong and understand the impact of his journey. We will find out how craters are made and learn about gravity.</p> <p>Later in the term we will make treasure maps with a key noticing the importance of landmarks on a map.</p> <p>We will experiment with simple directional commands on a Beebots.</p>	
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>Children will be taught a range of skills to help them develop confidence and enjoyment of expressive arts. This term we will focus on cutting skills and how to hold and turn paper to cut around curved edges.</p> <p>During child-initiated learning pupils will have access to a wide variety of creative materials and will be able to express their own creativity.</p> <p>Children will be able to access a variety of small world and role play activities to develop expressive language. Children will develop their repertoire of Nursery Rhymes, Action Songs and themed songs.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to sing songs from school in the home setting.</p> <p>Allow your child to access a wide range of creative activities: painting, collage, creative role play etc.</p>
Religious Education	<p>Our R.E topic this half term is Galilee to Jerusalem.</p>	<p>Maybe your child would like to think of a way in which they are a good friend like Jesus and send</p>

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	<p>Children will learn about the Epiphany to start with and then they will hear the Bible story of Jesus welcomes the little children.</p> <p>We will also learn about the Trinity and the Glory Be Prayer.</p> <p>We will focus on ways that we can show love to others such as helping the vulnerable.</p>	<p>in a photo or drawing of how they have helped others.</p> <p>Prayer Bear will continue to come home with a different child each week, we hope you enjoy your turn with him!</p> 
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Nursery and Reception children will resume PE sessions with Mr Kitteridge on Fridays. They will need to have a full named P.E kit in school to change into every Friday please. Please note if your child has ear piercings these must be removed on a Friday for PE.

All Parents are welcome to celebrate our Early Years Prayer Service with us on **30th January 2026 at 2.45pm**. Further details to follow.

Our Forest School sessions will not begin until after the February half term. This is to give our forest the chance to rest over the winter and to get through the worst of the weather for our youngest children.

Please be reminded that Reception children will be bringing home a worded reading book every Friday. This will need to be returned to school and ticked off on the return list every Monday please. We are unable to issue the following book until the previous one has been returned and ticked off on the return list.

Nursery children will also continue to bring home a new book or story sack to share with you every Friday. This will need to be returned and ticked off on the returns list by the following Friday please.

Parent volunteers are always welcome in the Early Years class. This term we are looking for volunteers to read a favourite story to the children. Please contact a member of the team if you think you can help!

If you have any questions, please feel free to catch us at drop off or collection times and we will be happy to make an appointment to discuss all queries or concerns. Alternatively, please direct any questions via email to emma.overett@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk or sarahjane.smith@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk and a member of the Early Years Team will get back to you.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term ahead!

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Mrs Overett

Mrs Smith

EYFS Teacher
Ass. Head

EYFS Teacher

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