



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 12th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a happy and restful summer. I am really looking forward to working with you and your child this academic year.

Staffing

Mrs Stevens, Mrs Healy and Mrs Pettitt will be supporting Year 3 and 4 this year. I will be teaching all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday mornings.

Curriculum

Our R.E unit in the first half term will be 'Creation and Covenant' where we will explore the story of Abraham and how he is the central figure and the model of faith in one God, recognise that God's covenant is the foundation of the Christian and Jewish Faith and describe and explain the links between virtues and the way a person lives their life. During the 2nd half of the Autumn Term, we will focus on 'Prophecy and Promise'. We will learn about Prophet's expectations of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus' ancestry and the season of Advent. **Our Class Act of Worship will take place on Friday the 5th of December at 9.15am.**

We will have daily maths lessons following White Rose Maths scheme. We will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and measurement. Learning times tables is also a regular part of our timetable. The children will each have a log in for Times Tables Rockstars which they are encouraged to engage with as frequently as possible to support them in learning their Times Tables.

English is also a daily occurrence, and we will focus on a range of genres including fiction, non-fiction, persuasive writing and poetry. Our topics cover a range of written and spoken skills and will be based on exciting texts. 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, our Big Question is 'How have children's lives changed?' We will learn and make inferences and deductions from primary and secondary sources, explain why children needed to work and identify the jobs Tudor and Victorian children had. We will explore and describe the working conditions of Tudor and Victorian children and how Lord Shaftesbury changed the lives of children and evaluate the impact of his work.

In the 2nd half of the Autumn Term, our Geography focus will be on Antarctica. We will understand that the Northern and Southern Hemispheres experience seasons at different times, define what climate zones are and understand Antarctica has a polar climate made up of ice sheets, snow and mountains. We will use globes and atlases to describe Antarctica's location in the far south of the globe. We will successfully plot four-figure grid references at the point where the vertical and horizontal line meet.

In Art, our topic is 'Growing Artists' and focuses on teaching children the use of shapes, shading, and texture in art to enhance their drawing skills. It emphasises developing a sense of light and dark, using frottage for texture, and experimenting with different tools to create expressive and abstract art.

In DT, will be learning about 'Mechanical Cars'. The children measure and compare the distance travelled by different mechanical cars, choose and use appropriate tools and materials to make mechanical cars and annotate sketches of different mechanical cars. Completing the unit by assessing the product against the design criteria.

Our science topic this term is 'The Amazing Human Body'. We will be learning about the functions and names of different organs including learning about the simple functions of the digestive system. We will learn that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. We will

explore that humans and animals need the right amount of nutrition and that they get nutrition from what they eat.

Computing this term for Year 4, focuses on two main aspects: 'The Internet' and 'Creating Media using Audio Production'. For Year 3 focuses on two main aspects: 'Connecting Computers – comparing inputs and outputs' and 'Stop-Frame Animation.'

All children in Key Stage 2 receive French lessons and there will be many opportunities to practise basic French phrases and increase fluency.

In PSHE, we will cover two topics this term utilising the Jigsaw approach: 'Being me in my world' where we learn about how our behaviour can affect others why we have rules to help us learn and why it is important to feel valued. After half term, we will be looking at 'Celebrating Difference' focusing on the effects of conflicts in the family and friendship groups, learn about strategies for dealing with conflicts and learn about anti-bullying.

Mrs Goode will be leading weekly music lessons following Charanga, a Herts for Learning scheme. Topics will include 'Mamma Mia' where the children will learn about the music of ABBA.

PE

Our PE sessions will be Monday (Swimming – please see separate letter for details) 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. **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 Thursday via Seesaw (you will be provided with a log in code and instructions for how to access the new platform) and will clearly indicate if the work should be submitted online or in person. The children will have two pieces of homework per week across all areas of the curriculum based upon what the children have learnt that week.

We will 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. This will allow for independent application of new knowledge to further consolidate previous learning.

Other notices

Children are welcome to bring a snack for break time, but these should be healthy snacks such as crackers or fruit rather than chocolate or crisps. Please ensure any food brought into school is completely nut free as we have children with severe allergies in school.

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 this year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbert

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