



# 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Year 5/6 Curriculum Letter-Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break. Thank you very much for the thoughtful cards and treats given to the Year 5/6 team at the end of last term – they were greatly appreciated.

This term, we are pleased to welcome Miss Carew, who will be teaching Year 5/6 on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Crowley and Mrs Healy will also be supporting the class throughout the week.

We have a busy but exciting term ahead, filled with a wide range of learning opportunities. Weekly summaries of classroom learning will continue to be shared on Seesaw; however, below is an overview of the curriculum for the Spring term.

### Religious Education

Our RE unit for the first half of the term is 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. Pupils will explore key miracles including *The Wedding at Cana*, *The Healing of the Blind Man* and *The Raising of Lazarus*. They will also learn about the Sacraments as meeting points in our relationship with God.

Later in the unit, children will study *Desert to Garden*, focusing on Holy Week, Jesus' actions at the Last Supper (including the washing of the apostles' feet), and the Stations of the Cross as a prayerful reflection of Christ's journey.

We will be holding our class prayer service with Father John on **Friday 20th March at 2:45pm**, and we would be delighted if you could join us.

### Mathematics

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 pupils will continue to develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Topics this term include:

- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
- Area, Perimeter and Volume

Multiplication fluency underpins much of this learning, so children are encouraged to continue using **Times Tables Rock Stars** both at school and at home.

### English

Our English lessons will cover a wide range of genres, including:

- Persuasive letters

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- Non-chronological reports
- Descriptive recounts
- Narrative writing
- Poetry

We will also focus on handwriting, discrete grammar lessons, and whole-class guided reading using the novel ***Millions***.

Spelling lessons will continue using Spelling Shed. Due to a timetable change, spelling lessons and tests will now take place on **Mondays**, with new spelling lists also being sent home on this day.

### Science

We will complete our 'Bright Sparks' topic by focusing on electricity, exploring: How and why components function differently; How brightness and volume change with the number and voltage of cells and how to represent circuits using recognised symbols.

Later in the term, pupils will move on to 'Following in Darwin's Footsteps', learning about evolution and inheritance. Children will explore how plants and animals are adapted to their environments, how species have evolved over time, and how fossils provide evidence of life millions of years ago.

### History

Our History topic this term is 'What is the legacy of the Ancient Greek civilisation?' We will:

- Learn about key periods in Ancient Greece
- Explore Greek gods and philosophers
- Compare Athens and Sparta
- Understand democracy and how it worked in Ancient Athens
- Identify the lasting legacy of Ancient Greece and its impact today

### Geography

In Geography, our topic is 'Why do oceans matter?' We will study:

- The water cycle
- Human use of the oceans
- How oceans regulate Earth's climate
- The Great Barrier Reef and its importance
- Human impact on oceans and how we can protect them

Children will also practise geographical fieldwork skills, including data collection, mapping and presenting information using charts.

### Art and Design & Technology

In Art, pupils will explore Painting and Mixed Media, focusing on the work of David Hockney.

In the second half of the Spring term, our focus will shift to Design and Technology, where children will design and create an electrical 'Steady Hand' game.

### Computing

Year 5 will explore: Selection in physical computing using programmable microcontrollers and Flat-file databases, including sorting data and creating charts.

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Year 6 will focus on variables in games using Scratch and an Introduction to spreadsheets, using data to answer questions.

## PSHE

Our PSHE focus areas this term are:

- Dreams and Goals – exploring hopes, aspirations and cultural perspectives
- Healthy Me – covering diet, substance abuse, body respect, eating disorders and money awareness

## PE

Before half term, PE lessons will focus on Dance and Gymnastics (matching and mirroring). After half term, pupils will move on to Hockey and Dodgeball.

Please note a slight change to PE teaching days: **Thursday** – Miss Carew      **Friday** – Mr Kitteridge

## Music

Mrs Goode will continue to teach Music every Tuesday. In Spring 1 the topic is: Make you feel my love – Ballads and singing styles. In Spring 2 the topic is: You've got a friend – exploring the music of Carole King and cover versions

## French

Using the Language Angels programme, pupils will learn about:

- Indefinite articles and connectives
- Negative forms and questioning (pets topic)
- Olympic sports
- Present tense (faire) and gender agreement

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This is an important term for Year 6 in the run up to SATS, and we will continue to set Booster homework each week. Please could you remind your child to bring in their completed work in their Booster files every Wednesday. Marking the work together and discussing any misconceptions or areas of difficulty is an important part of our preparation. We will also be running additional before/after school booster classes. If we felt your child would benefit, you will receive an invitation letter. Most importantly, although a little pressure is beneficial, we don't want any children to feel anxious about the SATs. If you, or your child have any concerns, or would like to know more about the SATS process, please contact us and we can work together to find ways to manage any worries.

Year 5 will also continue to be given homework on a Friday.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the curriculum or your child's learning, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

**Mrs W Clark**

**Miss R Carew**

**Y5/6 Teacher**

**Year 5/6 Teacher**

**Acting Head of School**

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