**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

## CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Staffing | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Clark (Class Teacher)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Scher (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Healy (Teaching Assistant)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant) | Mrs Overett (Class Teacher)  Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant) |
| ⃰Parent volunteers are always welcome in the Early Years class. This term, we are particularly looking for volunteers to share their professions with the children. Please contact a member of the team if you think you can help! | | | | | |

This term we will be celebrating ‘Mother’s Day’ with our class act of worship on **Thursday 16th March 2023 at 9.15am** which you are invited to come and watch. We hope that you can join us!

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| Curriculum Information - Topics | | | | | |
| **Autumn 1 2022** | **Autumn 2 2022** | **Spring 1 2023** | **Spring 2 2023** | **Summer 1 2023** | **Summer 2 2023** |
| 5 Senses | Light and Shadows | Fantasy and Adventure | Jurassic Journey | Materials | People Who Help Us |

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.

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| Spring 1 Curriculum | | |
| Curriculum Area | Nursery & Reception | Home Enrichment Activities |
| ***Personal, Social and Emotional Development*** | To listen to, and follow rules set. To take turns whilst playing and waiting patiently to have a go. Know that there are boundaries set and play within them. To know how to manage their emotions in different situations by seeking out an adult to solve a problem. To learn to look after resources and take responsibility for tidying, storing and sorting activities. To begin to understand how to make the right choices and the consequences of not making the right ones. | 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. |
| ***Physical Development*** | 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. Pupils will take part in PE in the school hall, playground or field. Children will engage in a variety of fine motor control activities including: scissor control, threading, construction, mark making and dough activities. Pupils will also access targeted Dough Gym and Funky Fingers activities to support pencil grip and strength. Pupils will practise health and self-care routines including: hand washing, blowing their nose and dressing for PE and the outdoor environment. | Encourage your child to be fully proficient when using the toilet and washing their hands.    Support pupils to develop the ability to cope with dressing and undressing. |
| ***Communication and Language***  ***Literacy*** | 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. Children will be introduced to a wide range of vocabulary linked to our Fantasy and Adventure theme*.*  Wellcomm Language intervention will be delivered to target pupils to develop their expressive and receptive language and early language development. | We’d love for you to draw (and for Reception children to have a go at labelling and phrase writing) your favourite book character. You could share your drawings and any photos of you reading your favourite books at home via Tapestry. We’d love to share these with the rest of the class and use your work from home for a new display!  Encourage your child to identify letters in the environment, e.g. number plates, signs, magazines etc.  Reception children will bring home phonics sheets or flashcards to help consolidate our phonics learning each week.  Read a story to your child every day. 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 deepen their vocabulary by telling them a range of stories |
| ***Mathematics*** | Children will consolidate their understanding of numbers 0-5 and then be moving on to deepen their understanding of numbers beyond 5 through learning number binds to 5 and beyond, recording number sentences and early additional and subtraction skills. Children will learn to recognise number patterns as well as the formation of numerals. We will look more closely at the properties of 2d and some 3d shapes and use them to build models and make pictures. Children will be learning to add and subtract 1 from a given number using practical resources and find one more and one less. | Practise counting with your child. You might like to count objects in the home setting. 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.    Please follow the links below for further information on Numicon or for educational games to access at home:  • 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> |
| ***Understanding of the World*** | Children will be learning about growing plants from seed to grow our own beanstalks, the influence of light, water and oxygen on growth. We will explore adventure stories through mapping skills and looking at countries around the world. We will also begin to learn how to use computers for recording, creating and early programming. | Go on walks and point out the changes that are taking place in the environment as we move towards spring.  Take a look at the Apollo 11 Moon Landing videos on YouTube and talk about the things you would like to do or learn about if you were an astronaut!  Talk about the members of your family and extended family and the different jobs that people do.  ***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.*** |
| ***Expressive Arts and Design*** | Children will be taught a range of skills to help them develop confidence and enjoyment of expressive arts. This term in particular we will focus on cutting skills and how to hold and turn paper to cut around curved edges in nursery. During child initiated learning pupils will have access to a wide variety of creative materials and will be able to express their own creativity. Pupils will be able to access a variety of small world and role play activities to develop expressive language. Pupils will develop their repertoire of Nursery Rhymes, Action Songs and themed songs. | Encourage your child to sing songs from school in the home setting. Allow your child to access a wide range of creative activities: painting, collage, creative role play etc. The focus should be placed upon thinking about what we want to create, draw or paint before beginning, thinking about colour and shape selection in order to create recognisable pictures and creation. |
| ***Religious Education*** | Our R.E topic this half term is The Holy Family.-  Children will learn about Jesus as a child and some of the miracles he performed, including how Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda. We will also hear about Jesus’ disciples and how Jesus asks us to help him and how Jesus loves each one of us. | Maybe your child would like to think of a way in which they are a good friend and send in a photo or drawing of how they have helped others  Jesus Children Stock Illustrations – 2,273 Jesus Children Stock  Illustrations, Vectors &amp; Clipart - Dreamstime |

Reception and Nursery children will continue to come into school in their **named** P.E kit each Friday. If your child wears earrings they must be removed on this day. The children will also need a Forest School kit in school at all times. We will begin Forest School sessions as the weather continues to improve and more consistently after February half term.

Home-School diaries will be checked every morning for messages by a member of staff. Please use these to communicate any messages you’d like us to read and to comment on your child’s reading at home. We will also use the diaries to let you know if your child has any minor incidents throughout the day.

Reading books will be sent home every Friday for Reception and must be returned every Tuesday. Please place in the box outside of the classroom and ensure your child’s name is ticked off. Nursery books will be changed weekly and should remain in the children’s bags until a member of staff changes them.

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.

We look forward to another busy and exciting term ahead!

Mrs Overett Mrs Clark

EYFS Teacher EYFS Teacher