**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 7th January 2022

**Year 3/4 Curriculum Letter-Spring 2022**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a joyful Christmas and managed to stay healthy and enjoy time with your families. I would like to say a big thank you for the wonderful gifts and cards we received at the end of term.

In RE this term, our focus will be ‘Jesus, the Teacher’, which will include studies of the Jewish faith and the parables Jesus used in his teaching. During the second half of the term, we will cover ‘Celebrating the Mass’. This topic will enable the children to have a better understanding of a Catholic mass and remind the children of the events of Easter.

We will be having our class act of worship on **Thursday 17th March** for St Patrick’s Day. COVID restrictions permitting, we hope to see you there!

We will continue to have daily Maths and English lessons, as well as weekly handwriting, spelling, grammar and regular group reading sessions. It remains important that the children practise times tables, spellings and reading at home frequently to support their learning in class.

Our history topic this term is focused on our local area. We will consider buildings of significance, looking at architecture and comparing them then and now. We will also be looking at listed buildings and considering others which should be preserved. We hope to get out into the village and explore first-hand. It would be wonderful if anyone has any old photographs of houses in the locality-if you do, please share via Seesaw or send in copies.

In geography, we will consider if we are damaging our world and how we can protect it. The children will investigate energy production, the oceans and minerals, as well as conducting an enquiry into how the school can become more sustainable.

The first of this term’s Science topics is about Sound and will be taught through both Science and music lessons. The children will encounter how sounds are made on a variety of instruments and how they can be changed in volume, pitch and over distance. They will explore making sounds on a range of objects that aren’t instruments, in order to investigate how sounds are created to make music. The second science topic looks at disposable nappies and provides opportunities for the children to ask their own questions and make decisions on how to answer their questions using different scientific enquiry activities. We will also think about the impact of disposable nappies on the environment.

In art our topic focuses on patterns and the work of William Morris. The topic will culminate with the children designing their own pattern and then printing it using a block printing technique. After half term we will focus on D&T and will investigate, design, make and evaluate juggling balls. This topic gives children the experience of a range of stitching techniques as well as tie die.

PSHE continues to be an important part of our weekly timetable. In the first half term, we will explore Dreams and Goals: different ways we learn and how we can improve, being confident and positive when sharing success with others. Our second topic is Healthy Me: how we can keep ourselves safe and healthy from people, things and places. We will also learn how to recognise anxiety, stress and feeling unwell.

The children will also be continuing their learning in French with Mrs K Clark and will have plenty of opportunities to practise using their developing French vocabulary, including virtual meet ups with our French partner school.

Mr Hill will continue to teach computing and Music each week, enabling the children to develop their skills in these specialist areas. He will also teach the class every Wednesday.

Our PE this term will include swimming, dance, gymnastics, football and sports leadership. PE lessons will generally be Tuesday, Wednesday or Fridays, but **children should have their kit in school every day (we had a number of children without correct kit last term)**; this should consist of a white t-shirt and white shorts, the outdoor rugby sweatshirts, black shorts, black jogging bottoms, black or gold socks and trainers.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to be set weekly on Seesaw and is due in on Thursdays. All work can be uploaded to your child’s journey via Seesaw, unless otherwise specified. Spellings will also be set weekly.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, either via email (MrsWClark@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk) or in person.

Kind regards,

Mrs W Clark
Year 3/4 Teacher