



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! I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing summer. I'm excited to start this new school year and look forward to working with you and your child.

Staffing

Mrs Crowley, Mrs Lang and Mrs Obi will be supporting Year 1 and 2 this year. I will be teaching full time Monday to Friday.

Curriculum

Our R.E unit in the first half term will be 'Creation and Covenant' where we will explore the story of Noah, mainly focusing on God's promise, or covenant, with Noah and with all creatures that 'nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood (Gen 9:15), a promise symbolised by the rainbow. During the 2nd half of the Autumn Term, we will focus on 'Prophecy and Promise'. We will learn that a Prophet communicates a message from God inspired by the Holy Spirit and describe how Christians prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. **Our 'Festival of Light' Class Act of Worship is currently scheduled for Friday the 24th of October at 9.15am.**

We will have daily maths lessons following White Rose Maths scheme. We will be focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication. 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. The times tables we will be focusing on this year are 2-, 5- and 10-times tables.

English is also a daily occurrence, and we will focus on a range of genres including instructions, narrative poetry and letter writing. 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 three times a week. Oracy and spoken language will be a key focus.

In **History**, our Big Question is 'What is History?' We will learn about history and the concept of time. They will discover that a timeline shows the order of past events, and they'll practise reading one by starting with the present and looking back. They'll also understand the difference between the past and the present. A key part of their learning will be exploring their own personal history, recognising that people change over time and that some things in their lives will stay the same while others change. They will compare their lives today to those in the past and learn to investigate history by looking at photographs and talking to people who were there.

In the 2nd half of the Autumn Term, our Big Question in **Geography** is 'Where am I?' We will learn that the United Kingdom is often shortened to the UK. They will understand that a country is a land or nation with its own government and will learn the name of the country they live in. They will also be taught about different ways to see and represent places. They'll discover that an aerial photograph is a picture taken from the air and that atlases are books filled with maps that provide information about the world. We will learn that a map is a drawing of a place, usually seen from above. They will practise using simple directional language like "near," "far," "up," "down," "left," and "right" to describe locations. They'll also be introduced to the concept of symbols, which are used on maps to represent different features.

In **Art**, our topic is 'Painting and Mixed Media' and focuses on the formal elements of art, starting with the primary colours (red, yellow, blue) and how to mix them to create secondary colours (orange, green, purple). They will explore tone by learning how to make colours lighter or darker and recognize that patterns are made from repeated shapes or colours. Students will also develop hands-on making skills, such as how to properly use and clean a paintbrush, combine materials to mix colours, and create effects by blowing paint. Finally, they will analyse art by understanding that it is created in different ways by all kinds of people, and that an artist is simply someone who creates.

In **DT**, will be learning about 'Mechanisms'. The children will learn that a mechanism is a collection of moving parts that work together to create movement. They will understand that every mechanism has an input and an output. The children will learn about a lever, which is a part that turns on a pivot, and they'll discover that a linkage mechanism is simply a series of these levers connected to create a specific kind of motion.

Our **science** topic this term is 'Animal Safari'. The children will identify and group a variety of animals, identify carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children will compare structure of common animals and learn about basic needs of animals including humans. They will identify differences between living and dead things, habitats and micro-habitats. The children will learn that animals and humans have offspring which grow into adults.

Computing this term for Year 1, focuses on Technology around us – recognising technology in school and using it responsibly and use of painting software. Year 2's focus is IT Technology around us – Identifying IT and how it's responsible use improves our world in school and beyond. Use of MS PowerPoint.

In **PSHE**, we will cover two topics this term utilising the Jigsaw approach: 'Being me in my world' and learn how our class is a safe and happy place to learn and how we and others can make it happy and safe. After half term, we will focus on 'Celebrating Difference' and how we are similar and different to others in our class, what is bullying and how might someone who is bullied feel.

Mrs Goode will be leading weekly music lessons following Charanga, a Herts for Learning scheme. Topics will include 'Hey you! Rap/hip hop and Ho Ho Ho! – Christmas songs incorporating the glockenspiel.

PE

Our PE sessions will be Wednesday with me 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

A homework grid will be given to the children today; you have until October half term to complete it. Choose at least 4 of the activities. If you would like to do all 6, that would be fantastic! Upload it to tapestry once you have completed them. If you would like to send any work into class, we will make sure that we share it with the other children.

For **year 1**, we will follow our Little Wandle Phonics programme for spellings. The spelling sheets will be sent home each Friday for the children to practise what they have learnt in school that 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 learning.

For **year 2**, 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 practise 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: missneary@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk

I look forward to working with you all this year.

Kind regards,

Miss Neary

High Street, Puckeridge, Herts SG11 1RZ

Tel: 01920 821450 / Email: admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk

