**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 January 2024

**Year 3/4 Curriculum Letter-Spring 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a joyful Christmas. We would like to say a big thank you for the wonderful gifts and cards we received at the end of term.

**RE**

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. Father John will be coming in for a question and answer session based on our topic on Monday 5th February to help the children.

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. On Friday 22nd March at 2:45pm Father John will be leading a class prayer service, which you are warmly welcomed to attend.

**Maths**

**Year 3:** Multiplication and Division B, Length and Perimeter, Fractions A, Mass and Capacity
**Year 4:** Multiplication and Division B, Length and Perimeter, Fractions, Decimals A.

We are using White Rose Maths this year and they provide advice and resources for parents, as well as home learning that can be access at home for consolidation or if your child misses something at school. See their website for details <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths>

**English**

Our English units for the term are: Non-Chronological Reports-Atlas of Adventures; Narrative-Alice in Wonderland; Persuasive Speech-Stella the Seagull.

In addition to core English lessons, the children will also have group reading sessions, weekly library visits, handwriting and spelling input.

**Humanities**

We will have a big focus on geography this term. Through our geography unit ‘Why is climate important?’, the children will learn to read weather and climate maps and learn how weather and climate are generalised into world climates. The concept of biomes will also be explored. Following that 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.

Our history topic for later 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 after half term.

**Science**

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.

**Computing**

In Computing Year 3 are learning about programming using Scratch to create a musical instrument. After half term they will look at branching databases – building and using branching databases to group objects using Y/N questions. They will also use of pictogram and database software.

Year 4 will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language. After half term they will look at data logging – recognising how and why data is collected over time, before using data loggers to carry out an investigation. They will use specific data logging software.

**Art and D&T**

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**

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.

**MFL**

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.

**Music**

While Mrs Earl is on maternity leave, the children will continue to have weekly music lessons with me. This term we will explore reggae and gospel music.

**PE**

Our PE this term will include dance, gymnastics, football and sports leadership. PE lessons will generally be Wednesdays and Fridays, but **children should have their kit in school every day (we had a number of children regularly without correct kit last term)**. Kit 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. If you do not have a full kit, the PTA uniform shop is very well stocked.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to be set weekly on Seesaw and is due in on Thursdays. Work can be uploaded to your child’s journey via Seesaw, but sheets can be handed back into class. 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

Class Teacher/Assistant Head