**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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we hope you all had a restful Christmas break and you are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term ahead! We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children.

A warm St Thomas’ welcome to Mr House who joins us as part of his teacher training and will be supporting the children and working closely with us this term.

Staffing in Year 1/2 for this term will be as follows -

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| Monday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Pettitt, Mr House |
| Tuesday | Mrs King, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Stockwell, Mr House |
| Wednesday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Pettitt, Mr House |
| Thursday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Pettitt, Mr House |
| Friday | Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Crowley, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Pettitt, Mr Fitzgerald (PE) |

**Our Curriculum**

Our **R.E** units will cover “The Good News”, where we will look at Jesus in the temple choosing the disciples and feeding the large crowd, and other miracles. We will also look at “Following Jesus”, discussing “The Good Samaritan” leading up to the events of Easter.

Our class Prayer Service will be focused on our “Following Jesus” theme and will be on **Tuesday 19th March, 2:45pm to 3:15pm.** This will be held in the classroom and you are warmly welcomed to join us for this special service with Father John.

The children will have daily Maths, English and Phonics lessons.

**Maths** focus this term for Year 1 is place value within 50, addition and subtraction, length and height, mass and volume. Year 2 will focus on money, multiplication and division, length and height, mass, capacity and temperature.

**English**. Our narrative book is ‘Stanley’s Stick’, we will be using our imagination to write our own stories. Our poetry unit will be focusing on rhyming couplets. Our recount unit will focus on speech bubbles, inverted commas and using the personal pronoun ‘I’.

**Reading**. We will also be taking part in group reading sessions three times a week. Alongside our work in school, it is very important for you to continue to read with your child daily. The children will bring home their reading books on a Thursday and we would kindly ask they are returned to class by the following Tuesday.

In **History** we will be looking at the greatest explorers. We will learn who they were and what they did. **Geography** will be focusing on the journey of our food, where it comes from and looking at aspects of human geography including trade links.

Our **Science** topics this term are ‘Little Master Chefs’ and ‘Material Monsters’. We will be discovering how to eat a balanced diet and how we classify food groups. We will end the topic with creating our own balanced menu and then cooking a meal. After half term we will be identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials such as wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, paper and cardboard.

In our **Art** topic, we will be creating a piece of art work by weaving. We plan on recycling old yarn and fabrics to weave a beautiful final piece. Our **DT** topic is ‘Building Houses’. We will be looking at what makes a strong structure. We will design, use tools, construct and evaluate our models.

**Music** will take place each Thursday with Mrs Gilbert. First topic is ‘Wanna Play in A Band?’. We will learn about singing and playing together in an ensemble. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise classic Rock songs. The second part of the term will be ‘Round and Round’. We will be listening to Latin music and learning how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together. We will be learning how to play percussion instruments such as the glockenspiel, to accompany the music.

In **Computing** we will be introducing early programming concepts. Learners will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each command for the floor robot does, and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. We will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

**PE** will take place twice per week. On a Thursday and Friday. The first topic is ‘Feet’. We will focus on how to kick (dribble) a ball with increasing control, to move into space avoiding other pupils, adjust their speed and change direction to avoid other pupils, explore kicking the ball in different ways and play by the rules. The second topic is ‘Zoo’. We will be thinking about moving as big and small animals, showing expression when moving as animals and building confidence to dance in imaginative ways.

**Homework -** Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Monday to be tested the following Monday. These will be closely linked to the weekly phonics being taught. Please practise these with your child.

Homework will be set via Tapestry and any completed homework can be uploaded onto Tapestry or your child can bring it into school to share with the class. We will provide a cross curricular activity grid of four home learning opportunities which can be completed at home in any order.

If you wish to make an appointment to see us, please either email or contact us through the school office or Tapestry if you have any questions or concerns. Alternatively, you can speak to us at the end of the day once all children have left our care. **Please can we request that ALL email correspondence includes both Mrs King and Mrs Gilbert.**

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you throughout this term.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Gilbert and Mrs V King – Year 1/2 Class Teachers