



# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Keating BEd (Hons); NPQEL

Acting Head of School: Mrs W Clark BA (Hons); NPQSL



*"Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus"*

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear parents,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break and Happy New Year.

## Staffing

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

## Curriculum

Our R.E unit in the first half term will be 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. In this branch the pupils will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring Term, we will focus on 'Desert to Garden'. We will learn about the season of Lent and the events of Holy Week, focusing on the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Church's life and worship. They will explore the journey from Lent to Easter, understanding how this reflects the Christian belief in moving from darkness to light, death to life, and new beginnings through the Resurrection. **Our prayer service is currently scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2:45pm.**

We will have daily maths lessons following White Rose Maths scheme. We will be focusing on shape, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. 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 short narratives, rules and recount, poetry (rhyme and nonsense) and performance poetry. 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 'How was school different in the past?' The children will learn about schools in the past and how they have changed over time. They will use photographs and timelines to order events and understand when things happened. Children will compare schools today with schools from 100 years ago, looking at what is the same and what is different. They will ask questions, use sources to find out more, and share their own opinions about whether they would have liked to go to school in the past and why.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring Term, our Big Question in **Geography** is 'Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?' In Geography, children will learn about the world around them, including the seven continents, the Equator, and the North and South Poles. They will use world maps to explore where different places are and learn about hot and cold climates. Children will compare life in the UK and Kenya, investigate the weather, and describe the features of places with different climates using key vocabulary. They will also locate countries with hot or cold climates on a world map.

In **Art**, the children will explore colour, texture, and collage. They will learn about primary and secondary colours and investigate what happens when colours are mixed. Children will experiment with a range of materials and tools to create different textures and choose the most effective ones for their work. They will plan and create collages by selecting colours and textures carefully, trying different layouts, and overlapping shapes. Children will also talk about their ideas, share what they like about their own and others' artwork, and suggest ways to improve their designs.

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In **DT**, The children will identify man-made and natural structures. They will identify stable and unstable structural shapes and contribute to discussions. They will identify features that make a chair stable and work independently to make a stable structure, following a demonstration. They will explain how their ideas would be suitable for Baby Bear and produce a model that supports a teddy, using the appropriate materials and construction techniques. They will explain how they made their model strong, stiff and stable.

Our **science** topic this term is 'Changing Materials'. The children will be naming objects and materials it is made of. The children will identify a variety of everyday materials and describe physical properties of objects. The children will discover how shapes of solids can be changed.

**Computing** this term for Year 1, focuses on digital painting – choosing appropriate tools In the programme to create art, and making comparisons with working non-digitally. Year 2 will focus on digital photography – capturing and changing digital photographs for different purposes.

In **PSHE**, we will cover two topics this term utilising the Jigsaw approach: 'Dreams and Goals' and discuss how we feel when we are successful and how we store positive feelings. After half term, we will focus on 'Healthy Me' and discuss how we can keep our bodies safe and healthy.

Mrs Goode will be leading weekly music lessons following Charanga, a Herts for Learning scheme. Topics will include 'I wanna play in a band – classic rock and ensemble playing. Round and Round – Latin music and percussion.

## **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 practice 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](mailto:missneary@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk)

I look forward to working with you all this year.

Kind regards,

Miss Neary

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