

ISSUE
01



St. Thomas of Canterbury

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School
Puckeridge, Herts
SG11 1RZ

Tel: 01920 821450

Head Teacher: Mrs Michelle Keating
BEd (Hons)

“Learn, Love and
Respect Through Jesus”



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! It's wonderful to see how well the children have settled into the new school routine.

Thank you for attending our Year 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 Parent Information sessions earlier this month, we hope you found these useful.

We have an exciting year ahead with a wide range of curriculum enriched opportunities for the children.

On pages 4 and 5 you will get an insight of learning across the school.

I look forward to working in partnership with you over the forthcoming year.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keating

A prayer to St Francis

(the patron saint of our Catholic Academy Trust)

We pray that you may help us to open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Amen



House Points:

St David

60

St George

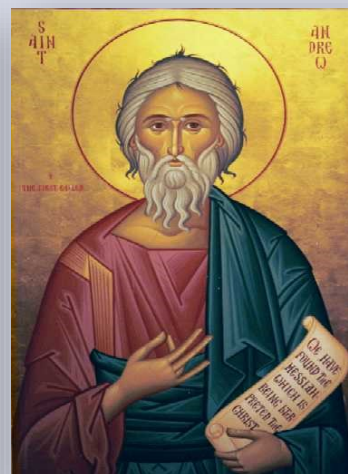
39

St Andrew

44

St Patrick

45



Catholic Life of the School



Chaplaincy Team 2022/2023

Chair: Patrick

Vice Chair: Ben

**Members: Hollie; Emilia; Eliza; Shay;
Orla; Olivia; Caitlin; Amelia**

Following the death of HM The Queen on 8th September 2022, we are united in our grief for the loss of a truly remarkable monarch. Her dedication to country and commonwealth was exemplary and she was a role model to us all in her unwavering commitment to serve.

For the happy repose of HM The Queen

Almighty God, you are the author and sustainer of all human life; grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen, to whom you granted a long and happy reign as Monarch of these lands, may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life promised to all those born again in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen

Prayer for the Royal Family

Almighty God, source of all consolation, we pray for the members of the Royal Family who mourn the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Uphold them in your love and pour out on them the consolation of your healing Spirit. Let them find in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, comfort in their sadness, certainty in their doubt and courage to live through this hour.

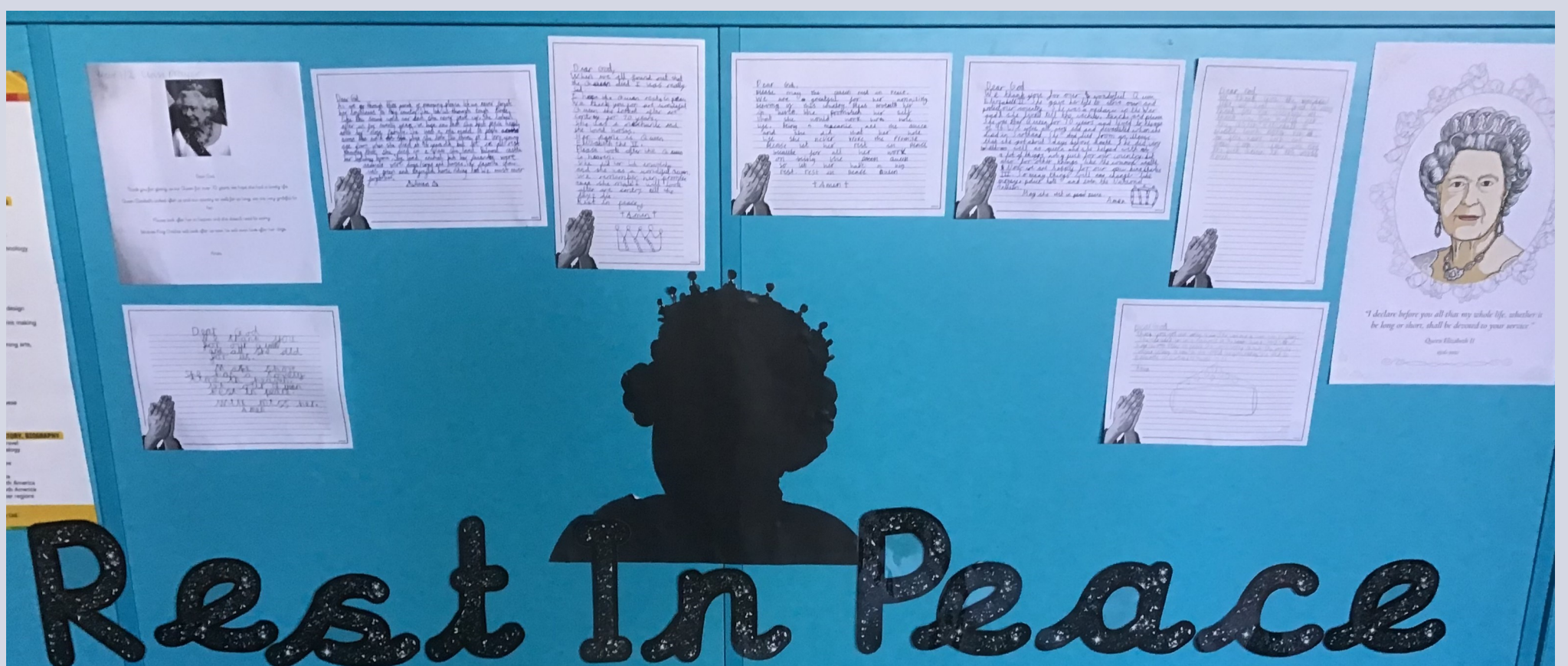
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen

Prayer for the King

O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant His Majesty King Charles, wisdom in the exercise of his high office, so that, always revering you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from unity and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, for ever and ever.

Amen



Pupil Voice

SPORTS COMMITTEE 2022 2023

This year, the members of our Sports Committee (pictured below) are: Amelie, Aoife, Eliseo, Alasdair, Amelia, Leo, Seth, Dotty, Florence, Lenny



SCHOOL COUNCIL 2022 2023



The role of the Sports Committee is as follows:

- Promoting PE and extra curricular sports in school
- Assisting at sporting events
- Being an active role model for all children and helping to ensure fair play and sportsmanship both in organized games and during break times

Alasdair and Amelia (pictured below) are our “**Sports Ambassadors**”. They have recently attended Wodson Park to receive training for this role.



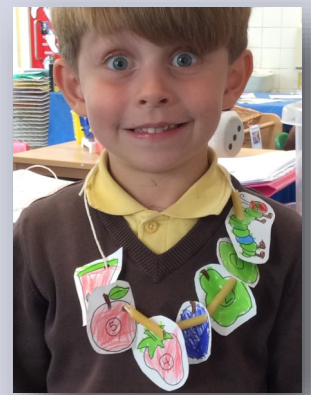
The **School Council** consists of a boy and a girl representative from Years 1 to 6. This year, our members are: Shay, Olivia, Jake, Eva, Tallulah, Ben, Jack, Sofia, Eva Grace, Thomas, Vincenzo, Penny

Their focus this year is:

- Being safe in school
- Caring for our school environment and being aware of environmental issues
- Fundraising towards a linked project later in the term

Our Classes

EARLY YEARS



Early Years have been listening to the story of The Hungry Caterpillar! They have been very busy making and trying food for the Caterpillar!

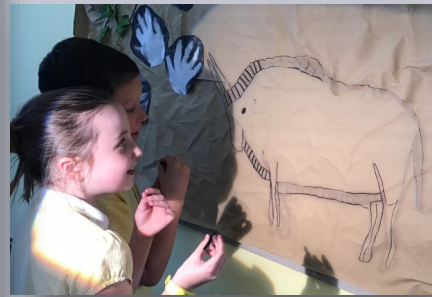
YEAR ONE / TWO



Year 1 and 2 enjoying their PE lesson with Mr Fitzgerald

Our Classes

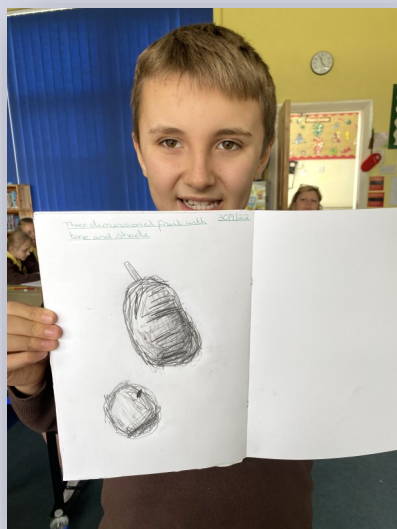
YEAR 3 / 4



Year 3/4 have been studying the Stone Age. They have been making cave paintings



YEAR 5 / 6



Year 5/6 doing art and computer work



Notices

Important:

A reminder that we have a strict **"No Nuts"** policy. Please adhere to this for snacks and lunch boxes, we have several children in the school with epipens and are at high risk of anaphylaxis.

Admissions for September 2023:

- We welcome Nursery Applications from Saturday 1st October 2022 (deadline for receipt of application is 15th December 2022; acknowledgement from Office by 22nd December 2022).
- Reception Applications open on Tuesday 1st November 2022 (deadline for receipt of online and paper application is 15th January 2023; acknowledgement from the Office by 22nd January 2023).
- Follow [the link on our website](#) for full details of our Admissions process.
- We will be holding two Open Mornings for Early Years Applications, both start at 09:30 prompt (Thursday 3rd November and Thursday 17th November 2022.) Visitors will be given a tour of our school and will meet our Early Years staff and Leadership Team. Refreshments will be served and prospective parents are encouraged to bring along their children who are invited to come and get creative with arts and crafts activities under the supervision of our Early Years staff.

Secondary School Applications:

The deadline for Secondary School Applications is 31st October. Dates and times of Open Days events have been sent to parents in Year 6.

Staff:

- We welcome Mrs Folan (MSA) to our staff team, who started with us in September.
- We said goodbye to Mrs Coles, our Teaching Assistant in Year 5/6 and will welcome Mrs Crowe who will replace her at the start of October.
- We currently have three staff vacancies as follows:
 - Learning Support Assistant (Monday to Friday mornings across Years 3 and 4)
 - Learning Support Assistant (Monday and Tuesday all day in Year 5 and 6)
 - Midday Supervisory Assistant (Thursday and Friday 1.25 hours per day)

School Car Park and Parking in general:

You will have noticed that we have installed a post and chain barrier to prevent people walking across the car park. Please be reminded that:

- Access to the school for those on foot is via the steps by the road
- Access to the school for those with pushchairs, wheelchairs, scooters and bikes is via the ramp and the perimeter of the car park. **Do not under any circumstances cut through the middle of the car park. This is a serious risk and we have had several near miss incidents**
- The car park is for **staff and visitors only**. We have a disabled bay which can be used with our prior agreement
- Please refrain from bringing dogs onto the premises, this is a health and safety risk
- Please park sensibly and courteously along the road when dropping off and collecting

Individual and Sibling Photos:

- The children had their photos taken on Thursday by Pret-a-Portrait. Each child was given a unique card with which you can make an online order when the proofs are ready.

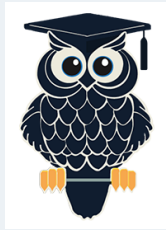
Flu Vaccine (Reception to Year 6)

- This year the consent forms from the Vaccination Team are online. If you would like your child to receive the vaccine, you will need to complete the consent form online by 4th October latest.

Increase in Scarlet Fever cases

- We have been advised by the Director of Public Health in Hertfordshire, that there is a continued national increase in notification of scarlet fever cases. Please refer to the following link for further information on scarlet fever: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

Governance



I am delighted to welcome Mr Daniel D'Cruz as a Foundation Governor, and shortly Mr Tim Mills (who is currently going through the application process).

We officially welcome Mr David Lang (pictured below) as our new Chair of Governors; Mr Jerry Walsh continues to serve as our Vice Chair.

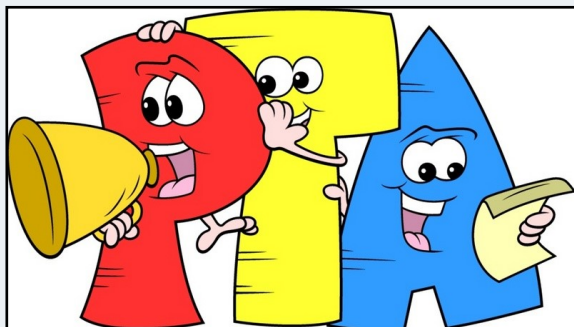


Hello: My name is David Lang. I became a Foundation Governor (a governor appointed by the Diocese) in October 2021 and in September 2022 took over as Chair of the Local Governing Body. I am looking forward to working with the talented and dedicated team of staff members who have achieved so much at St Thomas and together with the other Governors feel confident that we can deliver an outstanding catholic education to all pupils in the school.

My wife is currently working as a Learning Support Assistant in Year 5 and my daughter is in Year 2. We are Catholics and live near to High Cross with our two dogs and several fish.

I would be happy to chat to or meet with any parent who wishes to discuss any matter concerning the school. Please contact the School Office should you wish to do so.

At the end of the last academic year we said goodbye to four of our Foundation Governors: Dr Mary Lennon (chair), Mrs Jennifer Hesketh and two of our very long standing Governors: Dr Breda Jackson and Mr Tony Walker. We celebrated their commitment and service to the school at the Leavers' Mass and presented them with leaving gifts to commemorate their time at St Thomas'. We wish them every success for the future.



Please come along to our PTA Annual General Meeting, held at St Thomas' on Tuesday 11th October at 10:00 am.

There are a variety of small ways you can help and be involved—from helping at an event, gathering raffle prizes or coordinating a coffee morning. If you would like any further information about joining our PTA, please contact the School Office

FORTHCOMING DATES: (CLICK ON [LINK](#) FOR CALENDAR ON WEBSITE)

6th October 3:30 pm	Thomas Tigers Home Match against Larkspur
7th October	Year 6 Tag Rugby Festival
11th October	Flu Vaccines (Rec to Year 6)
11th October 10:00 am	PTA AGM (All welcome)
12th October	Year 3/4 Class Trip to Celtic Harmony
13th October 3:30 pm	Thomas Tigers Away Match Against Ponsbourne
13th October 09:15 am	Early Years Harvest Festival (EY families welcome)
20th October 3:30 pm	Thomas Tigers Home Match against Bayford
24th - 28th October	Half Term
24th October 09:00 - 3:00	Forest Fun and Craft Camp
25th October 09:00 - 3:00	Forest Fun and Craft Camp