

# St Thomas of Canterbury



# OCTOBER

## Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we approach the half-term break, we have so much to celebrate and share! The children should be incredibly proud of their achievements during this first half term of the academic year - they have worked hard, shown great enthusiasm, and are certainly ready for a well-deserved rest.

The month began with our Trust's celebration of the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. Our new Chaplaincy Team, along with teams from across the Trust, attended a special Liturgy at St Joseph's Primary School, Bishop's Stortford (see page 3). During the celebration, the Chaplaincy Team were officially presented with their badges. On returning to school, they led a beautiful whole-school Act of Worship to relaunch our Franciscan Values Award.

Mrs Clark said it was wonderful to see so many parents join us for our Early Years Harvest Sharing Morning. Many of our youngest children have only been with us for a few short weeks, and it was heart-warming to see their enthusiasm and confidence shining through. A huge thank you for the generous food donations, which have been gratefully received by the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.

October is Black History month. At St Thomas' Black History is celebrated throughout the academic year, for example Early Years have been focusing on different cultures and have invited various visitors in across the week to teach the children about different nationalities and immerse the children in some exciting multi-cultural experiences. The children have participated in flag making, cooking and even celebrating Divali with a party! It was also wonderful to see so many parents attending the KS 1 Assembly this morning which also focused on the Festival of Light.

Wishing all our families a safe and relaxing half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back, in winter uniform please, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Best wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head



Follow us on  
Instagram

[stthomasofcanterbury.herts](https://www.stthomasofcanterbury.herts)

# Catholic Life



Throughout October, we have been taking part in the Rosary Challenge, saying a decade of the Rosary each day.



October is the month of  
the Holy Rosary

# Chaplaincy Team

**The Chaplaincy Team were part of a very special Trust liturgy on Thursday 3rd October where they discussed their aims for the year, worked on plans for our annual Trust Charity week and received their official St Francis of Assisi Chaplaincy Team badges.**



**The following day, on the feast day of our Trust saint, St Francis, the Chaplaincy Team and Mrs Clark led a special liturgy dedicated to St Francis, and relaunched our Franciscan values.**

# Franciscan Values

Across the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust we work towards a shared set of values, our 'Franciscan Values'. The children are all taught to live out these values in their daily lives and those who demonstrate them well can be nominated for our special Franciscan Values awards. On the feast day of St Francis, the Chaplaincy Team led the whole school in a special liturgy that helped us revisit the values and how we can live them out.



*Congratulations to our Autumn 1 Award Winners...*

**Early  
Years/KS1**

**Simon**



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



**KS2**

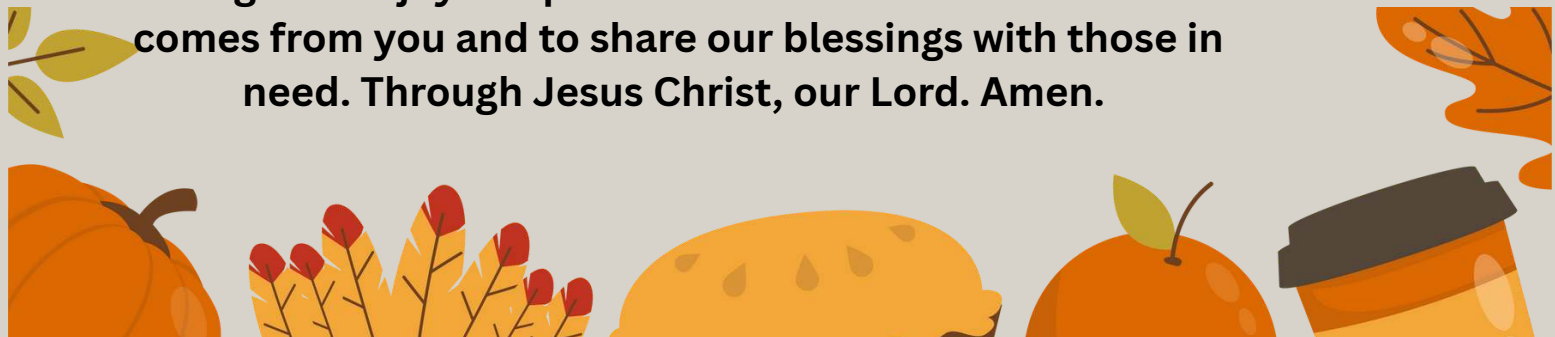
**Mason**

# HARVEST APPEAL

**A huge thank you for the incredible response to our annual harvest appeal. All donations were gratefully received by the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.**



**Lord of the harvest, with joy we give thanks for your love in creation and for the bounty we have received. We ask that you plant within us a reverence for all you give us, and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy. Help us to remember that all we have comes from you and to share our blessings with those in need. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**





# SPORT UPDATES

Lower Key Stage 2 had an exciting trip to Hertford Rugby Club, where they took part in a fantastic skills session with the Saracens. The children then enjoyed playing tag rugby mini-matches against other schools in our partnership. Everyone had a brilliant time developing their teamwork, confidence, and rugby skills!



# SPORT UPDATES



A reminder we have places available on the Bows Soccer and Kitteridge All Sports Clubs. A variety of exciting clubs on offer before and after school, and lunch times! Both clubs are also offering half term activities, see flyers below!



**KAS & MJFC  
FOOTBALL CAMP**

»»»» OCTOBER HALF-TERM ««««  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup> & Thu 30<sup>th</sup>

**9AM  
-  
3PM**



**CAMPS INCLUDE:**

- 1 Warm-up Activities
- 2 Skill practices
- 3 Scoring and defending games
- 4 Match play scenarios

**WHO CAN JOIN?**  
Boys and girls  
Ages 5-12  
All skill levels welcome

**MANUDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
9am - 3pm  
Book online  
[www.kitteridgeallsportsltd.com](http://www.kitteridgeallsportsltd.com)



## Bows Soccer Academy

Bows Soccer Academy. Providing boys and girls of all abilities from 18 months to 16 years old a professional, fun, safe and educational football enviro

 Bows Soccer Academy

### Camp Details

- Goffs Oak and Bishops Stortford
- 5 years to 13 years (Reception class to Year 8)
- Girls and boys welcome of all abilities
- 3G astro turf, grass, indoor sports hall facilities

### Cost + Times

- 9.30am-3.30pm (FREE drop-off from 9am)
- Single day or full camp bookings available
- ECost per camp in information below
- 10% off additional sibling bookings
- Online, advance bookings only

### What you need

- Football boots and trainers
- Shin pads must be worn
- Spare clothes recommended
- Packed lunch, snacks and plenty to drink
- Sun cream and hats advised

## Upcoming Camps - GOFFS OAK

OCTOBER HALF TERM
28th - 30th October 2025
<b>£30 per day/£75 full camp</b> 10% off second sibling
Bookings: NOW LIVE



# Top of the Hops

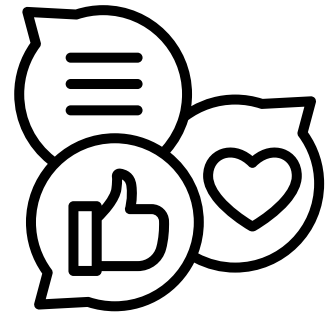
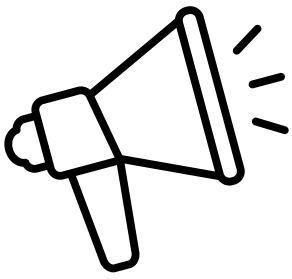
## *Skipping Challenge*



In November, we're excited to launch "Top of the Hops!" — a fun, weekly skipping competition for all our pupils. This challenge encourages children to develop their fitness, coordination, and perseverance through skipping.

Each month, there will be special prizes awarded to the most improved skippers — so grab your ropes over half term and get practising!





We are delighted to announce the launch of the Junior Duke Award at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School! This exciting programme gives our pupils the chance to develop important life skills, build confidence, and show independence through a series of fun and practical challenges.

From cooking a simple meal and learning to tie a tie, to helping in the community and exploring the outdoors, the Junior Duke encourages every child to discover their talents and persevere through new experiences.

Rooted in our school's values of love respect, and learning, the Junior Duke Award helps our pupils grow not just academically, but personally – preparing them to shine as confident, caring members of our community.

We can't wait to see our young learners take on the challenge and celebrate their achievements along the way!

Let the adventure begin! 🌈🌟

**Please refer to the email sent by Mrs Clark for information about signing your child up to the award.**

# Governance

The Governors held their first meeting of the academic year on Tuesday 7th October 2025. During this meeting, we are delighted to announce that a new chair and vice chair were elected:

**Chair: Mr Tim Mills**

**Vice Chair: Mr Daniel D' Cruz**

**Attendance is a high priority for Staff and Governors, and the impact of term time absences might be bigger than you realise:**

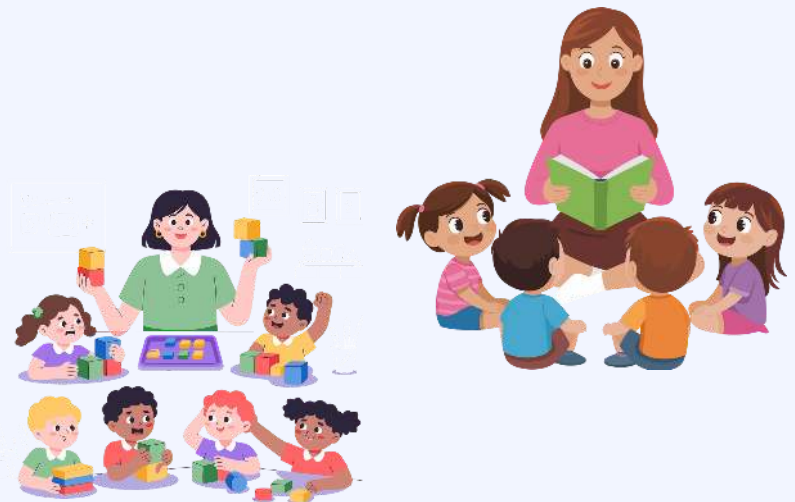
- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- 90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

goodbye

BEST  
OF LUCK

We will  
miss  
you

After 15 dedicated years as an Early Years Teacher at St Thomas of Canterbury, Mrs K Clark has decided to leave teaching to focus on tutoring English to foreign language students at the end of the Autumn Term. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs Clark for her hard work, dedication and passion, and we wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter.



We are fortunate that Mrs Smith, who is a qualified teacher, will be stepping up her role to take over the Early Years Teacher position. Already teaching the class one day a week, Mrs Smith will gradually up her time leading the class as part of the transition.




# Notices

NEWSFLASH - WE HAVE AN EXCITING PTA SPONSORED BOUNCE EVENT ON THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER. THE JUST GIVING PAGE WILL BE SHORTLY LIVE SHORTLY AND YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT EACH YEAR GROUP WILL HAVE AN ALLOCATED AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE BOUNCY CASTLE ALL FUNDS WILL BE GOING TOWARDS SPORTS EQUIPMENT FOR THE SCHOOL



 The deadline for Secondary applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October, see website for details: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-and-upper-schools/secondary-and-upper-school-places.aspx>

 We are holding two Open Mornings in November (see flyer below for details). Admission applications open on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 25 and close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 26.

Safety Area bleed

## St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School Open Mornings:

Tuesday 11th and 18th November at 09:00 am



Experience the warmth of our small Catholic school, where strong values, love, and respect guide every child's journey...



Discover the magic of learning in nature at our Forest School, where children grow in confidence, independence, and curiosity through hands-on exploration and play.









Book your place by emailing your preferred date to:  
[admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk)

[www.stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk)