



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MARCH
EDITION

Dear Parents,

As the end of term is nearly here and Holy week is fast approaching, we reflect back on the many successes during the month.

World Book Day was a tremendous success. Children came in dressed as their favourite book characters - see pages 5 to 7 for photos and congratulations to our winners. Our first ever 'breakfast with a book' was a huge success, a huge thank you for all children who supported this event.

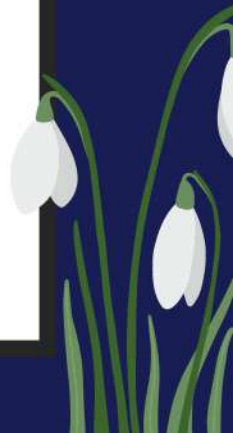
Our recent Trust Science Week, planned to coincide with National Science Week, was a very exciting event! The children thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in science and the staff were so impressed with the children's science projects and experiments, (please refer to pages 8 for further details).

A huge thank you to parents for supporting this week's Trust Charity Week in aid of Mary's Meals. We hosted a number of events including a crafty breakfast club, whole school 'March for Meals', cinema afternoon and non-uniform day. I am delighted to announce, so far we have raised over £500 (see pages 9 and 10 for photos). You can still donate via the justgiving page.

Finally, thank you for your continued support over the past 25 years. I have many fond memories and I have been privileged to be part of such a wonderful school. Thank you for the generous gifts and cards and all the kind messages. I wish the children, staff, governors and families every success in the future, as the school continues to go from strength to strength. Have a wonderful, Holy and restful Easter break.

Best wishes,

Mrs M Keating
Executive Headteacher



GOODBYE

Mrs Keating



A huge thank you to everyone who was part of Mrs Keating's special leaving events. It was a truly wonderful afternoon celebrating Mrs Keating's 25 years at St Thomas of Canterbury.





This week we gathered to say goodbye to Mrs Keating, a headteacher who has been at the heart of St Thomas' for 25 years. That number alone is incredible, but what really makes those years special is the impact she has had on every pupil, every member of staff, and the whole school community.

From the very beginning, her passion for Early Years has been clear to everyone. She has always believed that the very start of a child's journey matters the most, and because of that, generations of children have begun their time at St Thomas' feeling safe, happy, and ready to learn. She reminded us that the foundations built in those first years last a lifetime, and she made sure those foundations were strong.

St Thomas' has always been more than just a school — it is a Catholic community, a family, and Mrs Keating has led it with faith, care, and a strong sense of purpose. Our mission statement, "Learn, Love and Respect," has never just been words on a wall during her time as headteacher. She has lived those values every day: encouraging us to learn with curiosity, to love one another as a community, and to show respect to everyone around us. Because of her leadership, those values are part of who we are.

But her care has never stopped with the children. One of the things that always stood out is how much she believed in the staff. She didn't just see newly qualified teachers — she saw future leaders. Over the years, she has supported, encouraged, and guided so many people from their very first days in the classroom to becoming confident, experienced teachers and leaders, with Mrs Overett and myself prime examples!

Mrs Keating has given her time, her energy, and her heart to St Thomas', and the school we know today is the result of her dedication. The values she built, the opportunities she created, and the people she inspired will stay here long after today.

On behalf of all the staff, pupils, and families — past and present — thank you Mrs Keating for 25 years of commitment, care, and leadership. We wish you every happiness and success in your new role, and we know that wherever you go, you will continue to inspire others just as you have inspired us.

Mrs Keating, you will always be a part of St Thomas', and St Thomas' will always be a part of you.

Mrs Clark and Mrs Overett

*We will
miss
you*



WORLD BOOK DAY

BREAKFAST WITH A BOOK





Early
Years
and KS1

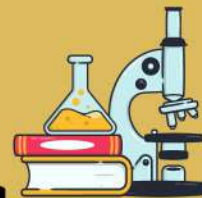






SCIENCE WEEK

Curiosity in Action!



We had a fantastic time celebrating British Science Week in school. This year's theme, "Curiosity: What's Your Question?", inspired our pupils to think like scientists by asking questions, making predictions and exploring the world around them.

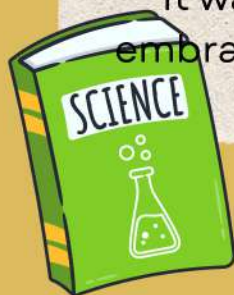
We launched the week with a whole-school assembly, encouraging children to share their own scientific questions. Throughout the week, there was a strong focus on oracy, with pupils engaging in thoughtful discussions and developing their curiosity during additional daily science lessons.

A highlight of the week was our whole-school investigation into how and where bacteria grow. Pupils made predictions, learned about helpful and harmful bacteria, and explored how germs spread across different surfaces.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Kaplunov, a scientist, who worked with pupils to collect samples from around the school using real lab equipment. She returned later in the week to help children carry out the experiment, analyse results and take part in an engaging Q&A session. Science clubs held after school and at lunchtime were very popular and gave pupils an exciting opportunity to get hands-on with scientific investigation.

We also launched our Trust-wide Science Competition, where children created imaginative projects based on their own scientific questions. The creativity and enthusiasm shown in entries across the school were outstanding, and we look forward to seeing our class winners progress to the next stage.

It was a truly inspiring week, and we are proud of how our pupils embraced curiosity, developed their scientific thinking and explored the world around them.



Charity Week

We have had a very successful Charity Week in aid of Mary's Meals. We enjoyed a range of activities including a crafty breakfast club, a rather chilly run, a cinema afternoon and a non-uniform day. Thank you so much for all your donations!



Charity Week

March for Meals



SPORTS

NEWS



DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!

GO TIGERS!

Our amazing Year 6 Thomas Tigers are District Champions. The team displayed amazing sportsmanship and went on to win the whole tournament. We are so proud of them all!



TAG RUGBY

Year 2 attended a Tag Rugby Festival at St Edmund's. They showed great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. They supported each other and gave their best effort in every game, we were very proud of them!





St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

NURSERY Academic Year 2026/2027

SPACES AVAILABLE



We continue to welcome applications for our Nursery class, a nurturing and inspiring start for your child's learning journey.

As a Catholic school, we warmly welcome and embrace children and staff from all faith backgrounds, and those with no faith.

Discover more or book a bespoke tour with our EYFS team today!



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**St Francis of Assisi
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To find out more, please contact us.

 **01920 821450**

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 @stthomasofcanterbury.herts

 High Street, Puckeridge Herts, SG11 1RZ

Reminders and Notices

NURSERY:



Parents of children in our current Nursery are reminded to ensure their eligibility is reconfirmed for the summer term. If parents wish to discuss adding some extra hours for their Nursery child in the summer term, please do so with Mrs Overett and Mrs Sellers.

A reminder we have places available for our Nursery in September 2026 and welcome applications! Please contact the Office for details



MEDICATION:

Please ensure any medication is returned to school on the first day back. It is your responsibility to ensure the medicine is within its expiry date and that it is brought back and signed in at the School Office on the first day of term.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Children should return to school after Easter in their summer uniform. We have a good stock of second hand items if you require anything.



SUMMER TERM CLUBS AND ALL PAYMENTS DUE:

You will shortly be receiving information about the clubs available in the summer term. As per this term, the clubs have limited spaces so please sign up your child up promptly through Arbor and ensure payment is settled where applicable by the end of this term.

Please also ensure payment is settled for trips, books, charity donations, thank you.





School Week at a Glance

Week Com:

Monday:

Inset Day

Tuesday:

Choir Lunchtime Club

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Mass for beginning of Term at 2pm

Friday:

Kitteridge All Sports Morning Athletics

Club Kitteridge All Sports Lunchtime Darts

Club Kitteridge All Sports KS2 Cricket

After School Club

NOTES

Pupils return
to school
Tuesday
14th April