

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Head Teachers

1873 - 1973

Sheet 1

From	To	Name	Comment
1873		Miss Mary Donohoe	Only known at date shown
1874		Miss Anastasia Richardson	Only known at date shown
1882		Miss Sarah Gerard	Only known at date shown
1886		Miss Margaret Heggarty	Only known at date shown
1890	1894	Miss Annie Carpenter	
1894	20/12/1895	Miss Louisa Leary	
07/01/1896	31/12/1900	Miss A. Ryan	
10/09/1900	31/12/1900	Miss Elizabeth Cave	3 Months
07/01/1901	31/08/1906	Miss Agnes Cunningham	
01/09/1906	31/08/1907	Miss Christina Hutchinson	
01/09/1907	30/01/1911	Miss Mary Lanahan	
01/02/1911	23/07/1915	Miss Mary Coghlan	End date uncertain
31/08/1915	30/09/1917	Mrs. Mary Crowley	Start date uncertain
04/09/1917	31/01/1918	Mrs. Olive Bere	4 Months
01/02/1918	23/12/1927	Miss Lily O'Brien	
02/02/1928	29/07/1937	Miss Bridget Hevey	
07/09/1937	27/07/1945	Mr. Vincent Nevard	
10/09/1945	01/11/1945	Miss Ellen Hurley	Acting Head Teacher
02/11/1945	12/04/1949	Mr. William Rogers	
02/05/1949	04/04/1952	Mr. Richard Green	
24/04/1952	31/08/1952	Mr. Francis Pitts	Acting Head Teacher
08/09/1952	29/03/1961	Mr. Michael Regan	
20/04/1961	03/08/1966	Mr. Henry Rundell	
07/09/1966	09/11/1967	Mr. James Gleason**	Acting Head Teacher
10/01/1967	31/07/1973	Mr. Peter Matthews	

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Head Teachers

From 1973

Sheet 2

From	To	Name	Comment
04/09/1973	23/07/1992	Mr. Kevin O'Neill	
03/09/1992	31/07/1998	Sister Collette Keane	
04/09/1998	31/07/1999	Mrs. Catherine Gibson	
04/09/1999	01/03/2000	Mr. Charles Hardingham**	Acting Head Teacher
01/03/2000	31/07/2003	Mr. Charles Hardingham*	Head Teacher
03/09/2002	31/12/2002	Mrs. Elizabeth Stockley**	Acting Head Teacher
03/01/2003	31/12/2003	Mr. Peter Coldwell***	Acting Head Teacher
03/01/2004	31/07/2004	Mrs. Elizabeth Stockley**	Acting Head Teacher
04/09/2004	31/12/2004	Mrs. Diann Ross****	Acting Head Teacher
05/01/2005	30/04/2012	Mrs. Judith Higgon	
01/05/2012	31/08/2012	Mrs. Michelle Keating*****	Acting Head Teacher
01/09/2012	03/09/2025	Mrs. Michelle Keating*****	Head Teacher"
24/01/2014	14/12/2014	Mr. Andy Booth*****	Acting Head Teacher
03/09/2025	31/08/2026	Mrs. W. Clark	Acting Head of School"
01/09/26		Mrs Lisa Crook	Acting Head of School""

NOTE: * Seconded to St. Cross School, Hoddesdon, from 03/01/03 to 31/07/2003

** Deputy Head Teacher

*** Head Teacher at Sacred Heart School, Ware (part time at St. Thomas)

**** Head Teacher at St. Vincent de Paul School, Stevenage. (ditto)

***** Assistant Head Teacher

***** Maternity Leave from 24/01/2014 to 15/12/2014

" Mrs Michelle Keating - Executive Head from 01/09/2022

"" Mrs Katie Worton-Geer - Executive Head from 01/09/26

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Period 1810 - 1894: see Notes from Kathryn Shreeve

School on present site opened in 1873

Sheet 1

- 17 June 1894:** First entry in School Managers Minute Book (previous Minute Book not found)
- 29 November 1909:** First entry in School Log Book (previous Log Book not found)
- 31 March 1915:** Report from Mr. F. S. Marvin, H.M. Inspector of Schools, stating that 'unless there is a marked improvement in the work of the School, the Board (of Education) will be obliged to consider the question of removing it from the annual grant list'.
- 1 September 1915:** School closed for a fortnight to enable children to help finish the harvest.
- 21 October 1915:** Collection from pupils for Red Cross Fund for troops.
- 22 April 1918:** Pupils begin gardening
- 26 February 1919:** Pupils take part in a 'Fairy Play' in aid of the Hertford Hospital.
- 23 November 1920:** Suggested that a house be provided for the Mistress (Head Teacher).
- 29 September 1921:** Pupils have use of Mr. Long's Field (Pump's Land) on Thursday afternoons for organised games. Pupils pay 1d. each per week to meet the charge of 2 shillings per week for the use of the land.
- 22 December 1921:** William White aged 14 years leaves School today having been a pupil since the age of 3 years. He was Head Boy for 4 years and Captain of both cricket and football clubs.
- 27 July 1923:** Patrick Donoghue aged 11 years wins free scholarship to Hertford Grammar School.
- 8 September 1924:** Partition erected during summer holiday to separate the senior and junior classes.
- 8 April 1925:** School uniform for girls 'brown gymslips with tussore silk blouses with 'PAX' (for the school motto) embroidered on the slips'
- 18 July 1926:** Opening of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Puckeridge. Pupils provide a Communion Bell for the new Church
- 26 July 1927:** Pupils taken to London by charabanc to see the film 'Ben Hur' (1925 with Ramon Novarro in the title role). Also, they visited Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Bridge, Victoria and Charing Cross Railway Stations.
- 1 October 1927:** Pupils have religious instruction in the newly opened Church in Puckeridge.
- 5 October 1927:** For the past month School has been held in Church owing to the school roof being repaired.

- 5 December 1928:** School Managers (Governors) meeting held in School House for the first time.
- 28 November 1928:** Medical Officer orders School to be closed for two weeks because of an outbreak of Diphtheria.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 2

- 13 December 1928:** 14-year Lease (at £5 p.a.) of land behind School for playing field.
- 7 April 1930:** School and Head Teacher's house fitted with electric lighting and in use today at School.
- 30 July 1931:** Hilda Barker wins free scholarship to Ware Grammar School.
- 24 May 1932:** Empire Day, pupils collect £1.14s for the Disabled Soldiers and Sailors Help Society.
- 27 October 1933:** Managers advised that the Diocesan Trustees had bought the field behind the School from Hamels Park for £5, as an addition to the school property.
- 29 November 1934:** School closed for National Holiday in honour of the Royal Wedding between H.R.H. Duke of Kent and Princess Marina.
- 30 July 1936:** Sheila Morgan wins free scholarship to Ware Grammar School.
- 9 October 1936:** Penny Savings Bank started for pupils.
- 20 February 1937:** Managers advised that Report from H. M. Inspector of School was 'very bad' and as a consequence the Head Teacher (Bridget Hevey) had tendered her resignation. The Diocesan Schools Commission to be consulted before advertising for a new Head Teacher.
- 23 April 1937:** Managers advised that Diocesan Authorities do not wish pupils over 11 years to attend the school. H.C.C. will deal with re-organisation after appointment of new Head Teacher (Vincent Nevard).
- 6 October 1937:** First Whist Drive raises £5.10s.3d. for the School Fund.
- 21 October 1937:** Head Master opens a Post Office Savings Account (Puckeridge 2243) for the School Fund.
- 4 November 1937:** First Fire Drill held today. School emptied in one and a half minutes.
- 1 December 1937:** A photograph of the whole School taken today.
- 17 December 1937:** School Uniform arrived today, comprising: Boys - brown caps, yellow and brown ties. Girls - brown berets and drill tunics. Caps and berets bear the arms of St. Thomas of Canterbury (a Bishop's Mitre pierced by a sword). Separate badges with the same arms are available for sewing onto tunics and blazers.
- 11 January 1938:** School piano arrived today.
- 5 July 1938:** Senior pupils have an educational visit to the Tower of London and Houses of Parliament
- 10 January 1939:** Pupils from Buntingford travel to and from School by train.
- 17 April 1939:** School Houses established: St. John Fisher, colour brown and badge a Cardinal's Hat; St. Thomas More, colour yellow and badge a Chancellor's hat with palm.
- 29 May 1939:** Break in at School. Police called.
- 4 September 1939:** Delayed opening of School following Declaration of War.
- 8 September 1939:** Staff begin preparing the School for Air Raids.

13 September 1939: School re-opens. 21 Evacuees join School. Total of 72 pupils on roll.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 3

- 23 January 1940:** School attendance low due to inclement weather (eighth day of snow with 10ft. drifts) School closed. Poor weather lasts for two weeks.
- 10 May 1940:** 12 senior boys taken to watch Mr. Barker ploughing.
- 16 May 1940:** School connected to the main water supply.
- 3 September 1940:** Air Raids in morning and afternoon. These continue intermittently for several years and disrupt schooling.
- 31 October 1940:** 29 Evacuees in a total of 71 pupils
- 23 February 1941:** Six boys went to Ware Fire Station to learn how to use a Stirrup Pump.
- 16 March 1941:** His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley makes Canonical Visitation and confirms several pupils at the Church of St. Edmund and the English Martyrs, Old Hall Green.
- 9 June 1941:** Patricia Morgan obtains a Junior County Scholarship to Ware Grammar School.
- 11 June 1941:** Report of Diocesan Inspection received. Only 26 of 87 pupils are catholic.
- 31 July 1941:** Summer Holiday activities arranged for our pupils and those of Puckeridge C of E school.
- 2 December 1941:** Headmaster attends Ware Police Court to be sworn in as a Special Constable.
- 6 January 1942:** School Canteen opened at The Century Hall, Puckeridge.
- 15 December 1943:** Miss Margaret Mary Gurney, Supplementary Mistress at the School since 9 January 1928, died today. Her funeral held at Old Hall Green Church on 17 December 1943, staff and pupils in attendance.
- 10 January 1944:** School re-opened today. The telephone was installed during the School Holiday.
- 5 October 1944:** Headmaster and senior girls visit Allen & Hanbury's in Ware to see the pasteurisation of milk. Further visits during October, November and December.
- 13 October 1944:** School closes for one week to enable pupils to help gather potatoes.
- 9 April 1945:** Mrs. J. E. Bentley starts work as Headmaster's Secretary.
- 8 May 1945:** School closed for two days for public holiday to celebrate 'Victory in Europe'.
- 9 July 1945:** At a meeting of the Managers, it was reported that 60 applications were received for the post of Headmaster following the resignation of Mr. V. Nevard.
- 3 July 1946:** Robert Jackson aged 9 years and John Mason win scholarships to Hertford Grammar School.
- 25 July 1946:** Managers advised that new Rules of Management were adopted by the County Council on 19 February 1945 which provided, amongst other things, that the Headmaster should attend meetings of the Managers.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 4

- 8 February 1947:** Managers are advised of the changes required under the new Education Act.
- 11 February 1947:** A party of pupils, accompanied by Rev. Fr. Lynam, Parish Priest, visited Westminster Cathedral and took part in the Lourdes Procession.
- 6 March 1947:** Snow drifts block the Buntingford to Puckeridge Road. The coach unable to make journey to Much Hadham.
- 15 October 1947:** His Eminence Cardinal Griffin confirms 12 pupils in St. Edmunds College Chapel.
- 20 November 1947:** School closed for public holiday in honour of the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth to Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.
- 3 May 1948:** Swimming Instruction commenced today. Pupils travel by bus to Ware on Mondays (boys) and Tuesdays (girls).
- 18 December 1948:** Managers discuss plans for an extension to the School to provide sanitary facilities. Internal partition to be provided during Christmas holiday. Application made to Ministry of Education for 'aided status' to enable the School to qualify for 50% Grant towards improvements.
- 7 March 1949:** Managers were advised that new partition between junior and senior pupils was completed during Christmas holidays.
- 1 November 1949:** New arrangements for Senior girls to travel to Ware on Monday afternoons for Domestic Science classes and senior boys to Walkern every Thursday (all day) for woodwork classes. Also, a new all-wave Murphy Radio Receiver installed in School for pupils to listen to broadcasts for Schools.
- 12 November 1949:** A bazaar organised by parishioners and held at Century Hall, Puckeridge raised £130 towards the cost of building 'flush' lavatories.
- 10 December 1949:** Managers were advised that an additional 'Elsan' toilet had been installed at the School. Also, the estimated cost of an extension to the School and hard playground behind the School is £8,150.
- 9 January 1950:** A loudspeaker has been installed in the infants and junior classes for use with the radio receiver.
- 17 January 1950:** Senior girls denied all day Domestic Science class as they would miss their religious instruction class on that day.
- 9 February 1950:** As a result of the publication of a photograph of the school Christmas play 'The Three Roses' appearing in the 'Universe' newspaper, pupils from St. Thomas' School in San Francisco have started correspondence with our pupils.
- 23 February 1950:** Mr. Archard, Architect, on site to prepare for the beginning of the works for the extension of the School
- 27 March 1950:** A new 'Shrine of Our Lady' was completed today.
- 4 April 1950:** The collecting boxes for the Lenten Collection raised £9.14s.0d. for the Crusade of Rescue.
- 22 April 1950:** The Managers were advised that 'aided status' has been granted to the

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History - Highlights

Sheet 5

- 26 April 1950:** The new statue of 'Our Lady and the Holy Child' arrived today and was placed in the shrine.
- 11 July 1950:** H.M. Inspector of Schools places future limit on the number of pupils allowed in each class. Numbers to be reduced gradually. Only catholic pupils to be taken on roll for the time being.
- 22 July 1950:** Messrs. Ekins & Co. Ltd. awarded contract for the extension to the School in the sum of £5,869. Also, an addition of two and a half acres to the School Playing Field has been decided upon.
- 8 August 1950:** The Managers are advised that the Ministry of Education have agreed to the extension of the school provided costs do not exceed £140 per school place. The work on the extension is proceeding but unlikely to be completed before Easter 1951. The provision of a new radiator system to existing classrooms is put in hand
- 30 September 1950:** The School Choir attend Westminster Cathedral to sing with 1,400 schoolchildren at the Children's Mass to mark the centenary of the restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850. The Archbishop of Armagh was the celebrant.
- 29 November 1950:** School receives a special commendation from His Eminence Cardinal Archbishop Griffin following the good report from the Chief Inspector of Religious Studies. The Commendation is to be framed and is the first such Commendation to be received by the School.
- 23 May 1951:** Maureen Taylor, 13 years of age, is the first pupil at the School to be received into the Church, with conditional Baptism, following special instruction in the Faith.
- 20 June 1951:** The School choir taken to Cambridge to visit King's College Chapel and other colleges and spent the afternoon on the river.
- 18 June 1951:** Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the opening of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church.
- 21 July 1951:** Rt. Rev. Mgr. J. B. Bagshawe opened the new School extension. The opening was followed by a Fete and sports on the new playing field. The extension includes a sanitary block, cloakrooms, teachers' room and installation of electrics in the old School building. A new fence is erected around extended playing field.
- 3 March 1952:** The School receives a gift of 80lbs of fat sent under the 'New Zealand Fat for Britain' Scheme and pupils write 'thank you' letters.
- 8 March 1952:** Managers demand the Headmaster's immediate resignation following his unacceptable attitude towards Managers and his declaration that he has given up the practice of his faith. Headmaster leaves the School on 4 April 1952.
- 19 November 1952:** Safety First film shown and instruction given by a Police Sergeant.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 6

- 1 May 1953:** School closed for 3 days for the Coronation of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth.
- 3 July 1953:** Pupils visit the Regal Cinema, Standon to see a film of the Coronation of H. M. Queen Elizabeth.
- 10 July 1953:** Sixty Pupils visit London. River trip to Kew Green and a visit to Olympia to see a vocations exhibition.
- 12 December 1953:** Managers arrange for School to have joint use of the Cadet Hut and approach County Council for an Adult Patrol outside the School following a serious accident to a pupil on 27 November.
- 14 December 1953:** Christmas party cancelled due to an epidemic of Chicken Pox.
- 29 April 1954:** School Crossing Patrol (Miss G. Dunmall) begins.
- 16 July 1954:** School outing to Clacton.
- 26 July 1954:** Display of pupils work a great success and favourably commented upon.
- 28 September 1954:** Electricians start work on supplying electricity to the new Pottery Kiln built in the Boiler House by senior boys and the Headmaster.
- 26 March 1955:** Managers advised that the County Council are willing to build a kitchen at the School in order that a School Meals Service can operate at the School. The Pottery Kiln is used by both the pupils and an evening class. School given notice to quit the cadet hut by November 1955.
- 28 November 1955:** Approval given to the appointment of an additional Teacher from the beginning of the Spring Term 1956 for the junior classes. Temporary accommodation to be in the cloakroom.
- 21 December 1955:** County Council receive favourably a suggestion that, in order to meet the need for more classroom space and to provide a kitchen, two or three new classrooms should be built with the present infants' class being converted to a kitchen with the remainder of the old School being used as a Dining Room. School numbers now at 95 pupils of whom 67% are catholic.
- 14 May 1956:** Lionel Gilbert leaves school today having passed the Apprentices' Examination for entrance into the RAF.
- 16 May 1956:** General Inspection of the School by H M Inspectors. Criticism by the Inspectors lead to a tetchy discussion with them. Clearly, the Headmaster was not impressed by the Inspectors, nor they with him. The verbal Report by the Inspectors given to the Managers that evening. Managers express confidence in Headmaster and Staff and ask him to put into effect, wherever appropriate, the Inspectors recommendations.
- 25 June 1956:** With 101 pupils on roll, the School exceeds 100 pupils for the first time.
- 18 July 1956:** School Open Day great success.
- 26 July 1956:** Plans of the proposed further extension to the School approved in principle. Costs to be kept below £10,000.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 7

- 10 April 1957:** Four girls went to Lourdes during the Easter Holidays. Most of their expenses were covered by funds raised at the Spring Sale held at the School. Rev. Fr. Lynam, Parish Priest, took the girls by car to Victoria Station where he placed them in the care of a nun who was taking a party of girls to Lourdes as part of the National Children's Pilgrimage.
- 15 June 1957:** John Kearsey, former pupil, ordained Priest at St. Edmunds College Chapel and celebrated his first Mass at Old Hall Green Church. On 20 June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Rev. Fr. Kearsey said Mass at Puckeridge and gave first Holy Communion to ten pupils from the School.
- 19 August 1957:** A reception and presentation for Sister Timothy, former pupil Elizabeth Smith, a nun in the Marist Order. Reception attended by former schoolmates and parishioners. This was her first visit home for 12 years.
- 3 October 1957:** Ministry of Education give formal approval to new extension to the School. Total expenditure estimated at £12,511 with £3,335 of that sum given as a grant by the School Meals Service.
- 27 January 1958:** Messrs. Crook Bros. start work on foundations for new building comprising three classrooms (the present KS2 classes) and storage space.
- 10 September 1958:** The infant and two junior classes have moved into the new classrooms. Contractors continue work to convert two of the old classrooms into a kitchen and dining room.
- 16 September 1958:** The Junior Athletic Team win the Inter-School Trophy at Thundridge.
- 1 December 1958:** The canteen came into operation today.
- 13 December 1958:** Managers advised that Sgt. T. Taylor, P.E. Instructor at St. Edmund's College, has been appointed P.E. Instructor for the School.
- 18 July 1959:** Inter School Sports held at the School. St. Thomas won most events and hold the Challenge Cup and Shield for the second consecutive year. Three pupils each won an individual Trophy.
- 11 July 1959:** His Eminence Cardinal Godfrey formally opened the new extension to the School. He blessed the building and all present. Priests from St. Edmund's College and neighbouring parishes, together with representatives from the County Education Department were present along with pupils, their parents and parishioners. The extension to be known as the Lynam Wing.
- 20 July 1959:** School outing to London Zoo.
- 12 December 1959:** The Managers are advised that outside lights have been fitted near to the entrance to the School and that HCC are arranging for new flooring to be provided in the old building (present Dining Hall). Also, that pupil numbers are close to 140.
- 22 March 1960:** A choir of 30 pupils taken to Hoddesdon Secondary Modern School to take part in a concert given by combined choirs.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 8

- 2 April 1960:** Managers advised that final cost of building the extension to the School is £11,386. 4s 4d.
- 6 May 1960:** 30 pupils taken to Ware Swimming Pool which opened for the first time today.
- 23 June 1960:** The choir attend Morgan's Walk JMI School in Hertford to take part in the Junior Music Festival.
- 2 July 1960:** Managers advised that the newly formed Puckeridge Cub Pack will meet on the School field during the summer months.
- 14 July 1960:** Mr. Cookson, Head Master at Cardinal Bourne Secondary Modern School, Broxbourne, met parents of pupils who will attend the School when it opens in September.
- 8 September 1960:** Miss J. Harris, a member of Staff at Cardinal Bourne School, teaches prospective leavers in School because work at Cardinal Bourne School has not been completed on time.
- 25 November 1960:** Headmaster advised that Cardinal Bourne School will open in January 1961.
- 15 December 1960:** A Christmas dinner served today in the new building to mark the departure of senior pupils to Cardinal Bourne School. Brenda Smith, on behalf of the pupils, thanked Rev. Fr. Lynam, Parish Priest, for his zealous efforts in working for the provision of the new School Building and his constant interest in the welfare of the School.
- 18 December 1960:** 34 pupils leave today and will attend Cardinal Bourne School next term. HCC to arrange a coach to take pupils from Puckeridge to Broxbourne.
- 25 February 1961 :** Managers advised that the house at 70 Station Road would continue to be made available for the Headmaster, if required. Also, that the Assistant County Education Officer has received favourably the suggestion that an Assembly Hall and additional classrooms should be added to the School.
- 8 July 1961:** Headmaster advises Managers that 5 pupils, 4 girls and 1 boy have gained grammar school places, the highest ever number.
- 20 July 1961:** Inter-House School Sports held today. First mention of four 'houses' - St. David, St. Patrick, St. George and St. Andrew. St. Patrick house won the competition.
- 24 July 1961:** Today, Miss N. K. Hurley, Deputy Headmistress, died in Hertford General Hospital, after a long illness. She had been a member of staff since 1945.
- 13 September 1961:** Pupils attend Requiem Mass for Miss Hurley in Puckeridge Church.
- 10 November 1961:** The School heating system, which has been out of commission since 25 October, has been repaired. Paraffin stoves had been used in the meantime.
- 16 December 1961:** Managers advised that HCC had drawn up a new set of rules for Voluntary Aided Primary Schools.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 9

- 21 July 1962:** School wins Inter-School sports again taking three trophies.
- 8 November 1962:** A crucifix, in memory of the late Miss N. K. Hurley, was dedicated and placed in the infants class (now located in the Dining Hall)
- 16 March 1963:** Managers advised that HCC had failed to provide a replacement portable stage, as promised; and that the asphaltting of the playground has not been undertaken despite waiting since 1958. Also, that a climbing frame has been erected on the playing field.
- 9 May 1963:** Rt. Rev. Mgr. Roe, Master of Ceremonies at Westminster Cathedral attended School to give a talk to all the Altar Servers.
- 20 July 1963:** Managers agree to the local British Legion holding their annual dinner in 1964 at the School.
- 20 January 1964:** P.C. McLean attends School to give a lecture on Road Safety and used a puppet show to teach the infants.
- 4 March 1964:** Rev. Fr. Harvey, Administrator of the Crusade of Rescue, gave a lecture on the work of the Crusade. The event was organised by the Union of Catholic Mothers.
- 7 March 1964:** Managers advised that, as School numbers had fallen below 100, HCC had downgraded the classification of the School to Group 1. This change will affect the salaries of newly appointed staff.
- 29 May 1964:** Rev. Fr. Stibbs, the newly appointed Parish Priest in Buntingford, visited the School today.
- 18 July 1964:** Managers advised that the asphaltting of the playground has been completed. Also, that a new piano had been provided by HCC.
- 21 February 1965:** A special Farewell Benediction was celebrated by Rev. Fr. M. J. Lynam who was leaving as Parish Priest having been appointed to All Saint's Kenton, Middlesex. Rev. Fr. R. Johnson appointed new Parish Priest.
- 18 May 1965:** The new portable stage arrived today.
- 18 June 1965:** Mr. E. Wilkinson, H.M. Inspector of Schools, visited today and was concerned that the infant classroom was too small for the 45 pupils in the class.
- 19 July 1965:** The School has a special holiday to commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the Signing of Magna Carta.
- 22 September 1965:** Mr. F. Ridger, Assistant Education Officer in charge of Primary Schools, and Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bruce Kent, Chairman of the Archdiocese of Westminster School's Commission, visit the School to discuss the matter of building a new School Hall. This proposal could be put at risk as the new 3 Tier Schooling System was to be introduced in Hertfordshire.
- 1 December 1965:** Discussions regarding the provision of oil fired central heating.
- 11 January 1966:** School reopens after holiday. 131 pupils arranged in four classes:- Junior 1 - 28 pupils ; Junior 2 - 32 pupils; Junior 3 - 30; Infants - 41 pupils.
- 26 March 1966:** Managers advised that a By-Pass road is planned for Puckeridge which will require part of the playing field. Also, that shortly the boiler would be converted to oil-fired heating. Suggestion that the high level radiators (in the present Dining Hall) should be lowered.

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History - Highlights

Sheet 10

- 14 May 1966:** Managers meet at School for the first time.
- 18 July 1966:** Managers consider a proposal for an Assembly Hall and two new classrooms. Concern that the proposed new School at Standon will take non catholic pupils from our School.
- 7 September 1966:** 'No Parking' sign erected near to the School gate
- 28 February 1967:** Architects begin survey of School grounds in preparation for the School extension.
- 22 April 1967:** Managers consider detailed plans for the School extension but the proposals were not acceptable to Rev. Fr. Johnson, Parish Priest, nor the Headmaster and his staff.
- 15 May 1967:** Revised proposals for the School extension discussed with the Architect and receive approval of the Parish Priest and Headmaster.
- 21 May 1967:** Annual May procession and crowning of Our Lady's Statue took place in Puckeridge Church.
- 3 July 1967:** Number of pupils on roll reaches 143.
- 15 July 1967:** Managers endorse approval of revised plans for the School extension.
- 21 July 1967:** Managers advised that the estimated cost of the School extension is £33,600. Managers decide to reduce the scope of the scheme to allow new classrooms and Hall to be provided at an estimated cost of £25,000.
- 26 July 1967:** Miss G. Dunmall leaves today after thirteen years as School Crossing Patrol Officer. She was congratulated by the Headmaster as there had been no accidents involving pupils during that time, despite the main A10 Road passing in front of the School.
- 13 September 1967:** Rev. Fr. P. V. Macdonald, a former pupil, celebrated Holy Mass at School.
- 2 December 1967:** Managers are advised that a Government Grant of £20,000 has been made available for the School extension and that some of the originally planned works have had to be omitted.
- 8 January 1968:** Blizzard conditions disrupt the start of the new term. School coaches unable to reach the School.
- 9 February 1968:** Mr. 'Jack' Fletcher retires after twenty years service as School Caretaker, following a short illness.
- 7 March 1968:** A representative of the Civil Defence called to enquire about accommodation and cooking facilities and feeding potential in the event of a nuclear holocaust.
- 19 March 1968:** Headmaster expresses concern at the lack of provision for catholic girls of grammar school potential.
- 26 April 1968:** Break in at School on night of 26/27 April. A number of windows broken, money stolen and keys taken. Police called.
- 7 May 1968:** As part of a School project, the Headmaster took the Junior 3 Class to St. Albans to visit Verulanium and other Roman remains

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History - Highlights

Sheet 11

- 14 May 1968:** Work on resurfacing both playgrounds is completed.
- 24 June 1968:** Builders start work on new extension to the School.
- 19 July 1968:** Builders commence alterations to the interior of the School.
- 20 July 1968:** Painting and decorating of upstairs classrooms completed. New boiler pumps installed to serve new extension. Toilets refurbished. The new lay-by outside the School commenced today. Managers accepted the estimate of £98 for redecoration of St. Mary's Villa.
- 16 September 1968:** Heavy overnight rains cause the River Rib to burst its banks causing flooding and disrupting transport to School. Only 60 pupils able to attend.
- 30 September 1968:** Television set arrives at School.
- 29 October 1968:** Headmaster concerned that the husband of a teacher at the School took her keys and entered the School with the Police because he was suspicious that there had been a break in. The Headmaster had not been informed of the break in.
- 26 November 1968:** Inaugural meeting of the P.T.A. held at School.
- 18 December 1968:** Work commences on breaking through the corridor roof to provide access to the new Assembly Hall.
- 26 April 1969:** Managers advised that the P.T.A. want to raise funds for a swimming pool.
- 19 June 1969:** Rt. Rev. Bishop Butler formally opens the new Assembly Hall and Classrooms even though they had not been 'handed over' by the Contractor as several remedial works still required. Subsequent celebrations a great success.
- 25 June 1969:** Rev. Fr. Johnson celebrates Holy Mass in the new Hall for the first time.
- 26 July 1969:** Managers advised that repairs and re-wiring St. Mary's Villa would cost over £700.
- 27 November 1969:** Teaching staff absent in the morning in support of the Teacher's Strike.
- 7 February 1970:** Managers concerned about the effect of the proposed 'three-tier' system of education on pupil numbers.
- 1 March 1970:** Cycling Proficiency course begins.
- 11 July 1970:** Managers advised by the Diocese that HCC had purchased part of a field for the provision of a new playing field on the commencement of the A10 By-Pass for the sum of £319. 17s. 0d.
- 17 October 1970:** First meeting of newly styled School Governors.
- 23 October 1970:** Headmaster and his family move into St. Mary's Villa.
- 21 January 1971:** The national postal strike. Headmaster pleased that he does not have to face a pile of post each morning.
- 26 January 1971:** School Secretary attends course at Ware College on the decimalisation of money and its effects on handling money at School.
- 29 January 1971:** School used as mail centre for local Schools - essential mail only.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 12

- 15 February 1971:** Today is 'Decimalisation' Day. The cost of pupil meals rises to 9p.
- 8 March 1971:** Postal strike ends.
- 14 April 1971:** Headmaster advised by County Archivist that School opened in 1873. Headmaster notes that he cannot find any other School Log Books.
- 17 July 1971:** Governors advised that fencing to the new field has been completed. Headmaster expresses concern for the secondary education of catholic pupils, especially those from Buntingford who have to travel a long distance to Cardinal Bourne School or make the difficult journey to Stevenage. Also, that with the new 3-tier system, parents are withdrawing their children from St. Thomas', to place them into this non-catholic system. Rev. Fr. Johnson to contact the Westminster Schools Commission to seek their advice.
- 27 September 1971:** Police called because of an overnight break in at the Church.
- 29 November 1971:** Pupils help caretaker clean the School after parishioners fail to clear up after School Bazaar.
- 28 February 1972:** Continuing power cuts disrupt catering in School.
- 17 March 1972:** Work begins on new School playing field.
- 29 April 1972:** Governors dissatisfied with the transport arrangements for 40 pupils who continually arrive late for School. LEA to be advised of concern with a request that they remedy the matter. Also, Governors advised that funds are in place to allow the construction of the swimming pool to commence in the summer.
- 22 May 1972:** Talk given by the Director of the archaeological dig at Skeleton Green, Puckeridge as part of the excavations for the new A10 By-Pass.
- 10 June 1972:** 18 pupils make their first Holy Communion at a Mass on Saturday morning for the first time.
- 8 July 1972:** Governors advised that the School's Commission wished to levy a per capita sum on pupil parents to help provide funds for future School building projects in the Diocese. Rev. Fr. Johnson believed that the monies should be raised in the parishes and not by catholic parents.
- 12 September 1972:** Work begins on the swimming pool.
- 12 October 1972:** An Insurance Investigator values the School at £107,000.
- 28 October 1972:** Governors discuss proposals to celebrate the centenary of the School.
- 3 January 1973:** An incinerator is installed.
- 21 February 1973:** The Puckeridge By Pass opened today. The High Street unnaturally quiet!
- 9 April 1973:** Headmaster complains that, despite much correspondence, proposed fencing work to the By Pass and swimming pool did not commence today. He expressed concern for the safety of pupils and praises staff for their vigilance in keeping pupils away from these dangerous areas.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 13

- 7 May 1973:** Sixteen parents successfully tested for the Water Safety Award to enable them to supervise pupils in the swimming pool.
- 18 May 1973:** The pupils in Junior 1 and 2 classes use the swimming pool for the first time.
- 16 June 1973:** Annual Summer Fayre. Stall holders and Headmaster dress in Victorian costume to commemorate the centenary of the School. A record profit of £550 which paid off the loan from H.C.C.
- 6 July 1973:** Holy Mass celebrated in the School Hall by Rev. Fr. Johnson and Rev. Canon Rochford to mark the centenary of the School. Afterwards there was a display of photographs and over 300 past and present teachers and pupils and many parents and parishioners partook of refreshments. Mrs. McMichael presents a Swimming Cup to the School.
- 21 July 1973:** Governors advised that the Parish Council had agreed to invite Rev. Fr. Johnson to occupy St. Mary's Villa. Work to repair low level flat roof to begin on 23 July. Governors consider a letter from the Schools Commissioners regarding the Government proposals for School nursery classes.
- 31 July 1973:** Work commences on the repairs to the flat roof. Parents are manning the swimming pool during the holidays.
- 6 September 1973:** Problems with the swimming pool. The water level continues to drop. Pool not in use.
- 14 September 1973:** Swimming pool re-opens.
- 25 September 1973:** At a PTA meeting five parents volunteer to help with pupil reading.
- 4 March 1974:** National Savings begin in School.
- 21 May 1974:** Cleaning of swimming pool by Headmaster and a few helpers.
- 4 July 1974:** Six pupils swim their first width of the pool.
- 22 November 1974:** New Hall curtains in place.
- 13 January 1975:** Rev. Fr. Johnson holds Deanery meeting in School.
- 21 January 1975:** Headmaster attends meeting with Headmasters of local schools. Concern expressed that St. Thomas' are admitting non-catholic pupils to the detriment of other schools.
- 7 February 1975:** School begins to save waste paper and receive an income for it.
- 24 April 1975:** H.C.C. indicate that they will no longer pay the cost of heating oil for the swimming pool.
- 16 July 1975:** Parents instructed in basic life-saving drills.
- 11 October 1975:** Junior 1 class begin a French language course, for the first time.
- 6 November 1975:** As always pupils help load waste paper lorry.
- 11 June 1976:** Pupils undertake litter picking in the School grounds.
- 13 July 1976:** Swimming pool pump fails. No swimming for at least ten days.
- 7 November 1976:** The 'big bank' work against the western (A10 By Pass) fence is completed Hedging, shrubs and trees planted.
- 9 January 1977:** Playground covered in black ice - placed out of bounds.
- 19 January 1977:** Headmasters car stolen during meeting of the PTA.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 14

- 19 April 1977:** PTA begin work on decorating the Main Hall.
- 3 June 1977:** A party to commemorate HM Queen's Silver Jubilee. Each pupil presented with a spoon and crown.
- 7 July 1977:** Approval received from HCC of loan for the provision of changing room.
- 2 November 1977:** A Deanery Mass held in School.
- 9 January 1978:** Rev. Fr. McCormack is new Parish Priest.
- 20 January 1978:** Old School Bell discovered in boiler house.
- 17 March 1978:** Headmaster and small group of pupils attend the Requiem Mass for Rev. Fr. Smyth, former Parish Priest at Buntingford.
- 22 March 1978:** Headmaster notified of the death of Rev. Canon Rochford.
- 10 June 1978:** Rev. Fr. Valouri, Parish Priest in Buntingford is present for first Holy Communion.
- 8 July 1978:** Four pupils win the Jubilee Shield at Ware Swimming pool, in the free style relay race.
- 6 September 1978:** Rev. Fr. Gardner our new Parish Priest, visits the School.
- 10 January 1979:** Severe freeze-up. Boiler failure and water tank above Kitchen bursts. St. Edmund's College help to provide School meals.
- 24 February 1979:** Presentation to Mr. Hal King, School Governor, who has served for 41 Years.
- 10 September 1979:** A group of pupils begin weekly swimming at Ward Freman School, Buntingford.
- 14 October 1979:** Heavy lid from water tank on roof of Junior 1 class is blown into adjoining hedge.
- 13 December 1979:** Governors inspect site of new toilets.
- 26 April 1980:** Governors meet and express appreciation of a donation of £1,500 from the PTA to the Diocese towards the cost of building works.
- 10 May 1980:** Builders begin work on new toilets.
- 17 June 1980:** Whole School outing to Holland -on-Sea.
- 6 January 1981:** New toilets and corridor completed and in use.
- 17 February 1981:** A 'Belfast' sink installed to provide water in upstairs classrooms for the first time.
- 30 May 1981:** Kiln 'fired' for the first time.
- 13 September 1981:** Eight Traveller's children start school.
- 14 September 1981:** Walkers on pilgrimage to Walsingham were refreshed and entertained for a short time at School.
- 7 January 1982:** Severe snowfall. No buses. School closed for two days.
- 21 April 1982:** Wanton damage to swimming pool equipment and shed.
- 24 April 1982:** Sponsored walk at School to aid PTA Summer Fayre fund raising.
- 1 May 1982:** School bell re-hung after fifteen years. A 'Mercury' photographer takes pictures. 'Bell well and truly rung'

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 15

- 3 May 1982:** Staff and parents creosote swimming pool fence.
- 1 June 1982:** Pupils return from a week at Barton Mill, Norfolk. The first time pupils have stayed there.
- 7 September 1982:** School year begins with only 83 pupils on roll. This is the lowest number for some decades.
- 8 September 1982:** PTA Chairman cleaned and re-filled the pool; and installed a roller system and new solar blankets.
- 16 September 1982:** Resurfacing of Hall floor completed.
- 11 December 1982:** Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Brien visited the School and met pupils, staff and Governors.
- 9 January 1983:** School Savings Scheme to be wound up.
- 19 April 1983:** New boilers arrive for installation.
- 6 September 1983:** School term begins. Only 75 pupils on roll. A new 'low'.
- 11 December 1983:** The School's first computer arrives today The D.E.S. contribute half of the cost.
- 12 December 1983:** A record 9.9 tonnes of wastepaper collected today.
- 8 May 1984:** The record sum of £340.00 received for wastepaper.
- 5 September 1984:** Cuts in staff quotas bring about 'team teaching'
- 12 November 1984:** All junior classes carry out a 'sponsored spell', while the infants have a 'sponsored silence', all in aid of a collection for Ethiopia
- 6 December 1984:** The sum of £353.00 sent to CAFOD for their work in Ethiopia.
- 3 February 1985:** Junior 1 pupils begin an eight 'one day per week' sailing course at Cheshunt Sailing Base.
- 11 February 1985:** Rev. Fr. Hamill the new Parish Priest visits the School and meets the staff and pupils.
- 18 March 1985:** A second computer delivered today.
- 15 April 1985:** School burgled. Much damaged and cash stolen.
- 26 April 1985:** Headmaster meets former headmaster, Mr. V. Nevard, who told him about 'water from the village pump, two teachers, and coal fires in the classrooms'.
- 7 May 1985:** Rev Fr. Johnson's silver jubilee celebration. Holy Mass followed by cheese and wine party.
- 18 May 1985:** Catholic School Sports held on School playing field. St. Thomas' were second out of the ten schools that took part.
- 29 November 1985:** A Port-a-Cabin, a gift from the PTA, arrived today and was sited near the Junior 2 Classroom.
- 6 January 1986 :** Heavy rainfall shows serious leaks in the Hall.
- 20 April 1986:** Gale force winds shatter windows in Junior 3 Classroom.
- 11 September 1986:** Workmen complete work to the playground path.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 16

- 7 January 1987:** Boilers fail. 'Emergency' heaters brought in from different sources.
- 10 February 1987:** Severe rain shows serious leaks, mainly in Junior 3 Classroom.
- 9 September 198:** Experimental 'team teaching' begins today.
- 12 September 1987:** Major repairs to the car park carried out today.
- 14 September 1987:** Head Teacher visits Hertford to look at the plans for a proposed lorry park to be sited immediately to the north of the School.
- 28 January 1988:** Wettest January since the War. Heavy rains highlight numerous leaks in School.
- 24 March 1988:** Pupils set up Police operations room in the Hall, and dress for the occasion.
- 2 May 1988:** Junior 1 pupils visit Hertford Police Centre to view the cells and museum and to watch fingerprinting.
- 7 September 1988:** Another postal strike disrupts mail deliveries.
- 9 September 1988:** Good weather encourages use of the swimming pool.
- 26 September 1988:** Head Teacher discusses with the Advisory Teacher the possibility of early admissions to the School. Both consider that the structure and layout of teaching areas unsuitable for admission of Early 4's group.
- 3 October 1988:** Rev. Fr. Hamill celebrates Holy Mass with the staff in the staff room. This is the first time this has occurred.
- 5 October 1988:** Roof to Junior 3 classroom repaired today.
- 12 October 1988:** LEA indicate their disappointment that the School has turned down the opportunity to have the Early 4's scheme.
- 10 November 1988:** Resurfacing of the playground completed today.
- 23 February 1989:** Red Nose Day for Comic Relief.
- 6 April 1989:** Builders on site today.
- 13 April 1989:** Head Teacher, staff and parents spring clean the swimming pool .
- 15 May 1989:** Rev. Fr. Hamill, Parish Priest, celebrates his silver jubilee.
- 17 October 1989:** Governors attend a special Holy Mass for them at the Pastoral Centre, London Colney.
- 4 March 1990:** PTA distribute letters about forming a '100 Club'.
- 24 April 1990:** PTA discuss funding a 'School Pond Project'.
- 23 May 1990:** With the Hall floor protected, a 'Roller Disco' held today.
- 10 June 1990:** Letter from Bishop urging parents to object to the HCC proposal to end free transport for catholic pupils.
- 13 June 1990:** Many parents attend meeting at County Hall to protest about the proposal to end free transport.
- 15 September 1990:** Water supply cut-off. No school meals for two days. Pupils bring sandwiches.
- 23 March 1991:** Standon Morris Men hold their Annual Jamboree at the School.
- 14 June 1991:** Dog fouling on School playing field gives Head Teacher concern about danger to the health of pupils.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 17

- 13 June 1991:** School burgled. No damage but a few items taken.
- 2 July 1991:** School burgled again. A computer and two paintings on loan from HCC were stolen.
- 5 September 1991:** First day for Early 4 pupils.
- 10 September 1991:** Swimming Pool filters repaired. No swimming during summer holiday.
- 7 November 1991:** 8 kg of potatoes produced from the School garden.
- 11 November 1991:** Extraordinary meeting of the Governors to consider the unwarranted remarks and defamatory statements made by one parent about a member of staff. Governors require an apology to member of staff before considering new strategies for the future learning of the pupil concerned. Two letters of complaint considered.
- 27 November 1991:** Meeting between Staff and parents with Chair of Governors present, to discuss complaints.
- 20 March 1992:** Rev. Fr. David from Allen Hall led a day of 'Retreat' for the whole school. All pupils contribute to the day of worship and prayer.
- 26 March 1992:** Head Teacher attends inaugural meeting of Catholic School Head Teachers at St. Joseph's, Hertford.
- 4 May 1992:** Head Teacher needs someone for pool keeper duties.
- 6 May 1992:** The new Portacabin has been badly damaged.
- 18 June 1992:** Mr. John Puckeridge, an Australian and a Minister of the Seaman's Mission there, visited to see his 'village namesake'. He believes that his forebears came from Puckeridge and were given the surname on arrival, after transportation.
- 21 June 1992:** Summer Fayre held on a Sunday for the first time.
- 22 June 1992:** Junior 2 class go to Cuffley Camp for the first time.
- 3 July 1992:** Special meeting of Governors with staff and parents present to say farewell to the retiring Head Teacher, Mr. K. O'Neill
- 22 July 1992:** End of term concert. Presentation to Head Teacher.
At the end of the School Year, the keeping of the School Log Book is discontinued - legal requirement is rescinded
- 23 July 1992:** The School Log ends. If there are further Log Books, they have not been found.
- 24 May 1993:** Governors advised of the need for Safety Certificates for swimming pool supervisors. Likely that the pool will be put out of use.
- 27 September 1993:** Governors advised that work has been approved for alterations to the Entrance Hall and Secretary's Office. Rev. Father H. Hamill, Parish Priest, to leave the parish on his retirement.
- 26 April 1994:** Governors decide against Grant Maintained Status
- 26 September 1994:** Governors agree to set up Committees for Buildings, Curriculum and Finance

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 18

- 27 March 1995 :** Schedule of Financial Delegation approved
- 5 June 1995 :** Terms of Reference agreed for new committees
- 2 October 1995 :** Agreed that boys can wear open-necked shirts in the summer term and infant boys all year.
- 4 March 1996 :** Discipline and Appeals Committees established. Provision of additional class considered.
- 22 March 1997 :** 18 Year-6 pupils taken on a trip to Dublin. They stayed at Portmarnock and visited several sites of interest. They took part in Palm Sunday Mass in Portmarnock. The Jackson O'Brien Trust established
- 22 May 1996 :** New boiler installed
- 24 June 1996 :** Tuck shop has been discontinued. Alarm system installed. Toilet constructed over back stair well. Governors write to Secretary of State for Education and Employment objecting to the proposal to publish SAT results
- September 1996 :** Diocese submit a Deed of Agreement to codify the association between the Diocese, as Trustees, and the Governing Body for return by 25 October 1996
- 30 September 1996 :** New sports kit purchased
- 17 November 1996 :** Governors discuss the process for the appointment of a new Head Teacher
- 22 May 1997 :** Mrs. Catherine Gibson appointed Head Teacher
- 2 June 1997 :** Efforts to re-open swimming pool put in hand
- 1998 :** The 'Bridge' is provided to link the Main Hall with the 'Lynham Wing'. The original staircase is closed and a toilet provided opposite the KS2 Classrooms
- 1999 :** Mission Statement agreed. Use of swimming pool discontinued - to become a Sensory Garden - now 'Our Lady's Garden'.
- 2000 :** Home School Agreement introduced. Bishop O'Brien celebrates Mass, and blesses and officially opens the Millennium Gate
- 2001 :** Three day 'School Mission' held.
- 2002 :** 'Here I am' R.E. Scheme introduced. School Development Plan approved. School achieves 'Investors in People' status. CRB checks for Staff and Governors. Concrete access to car park is constructed
- 2003 :** Shortage of funds leads to one teaching post being declared redundant. Kitchen is refurbished. Sensory Garden is opened
- 2004 :** A covered external play area is provided for the Reception class. Accessibility Plan agreed
- 2006 :** Pupil 'School Council' established. One meeting held in East Herts Council Chamber.
- 2007 :** **January** - EYFS Class established incorporating Nursery and Reception pupils.
September - The 'Bridge' Class becomes the IT Suite. New office for Head Teacher and work room for staff. External lift provided for disabled people.
October - 'OFSTED' Report judges School as Grade 1 - 'Outstanding'.
November - Westminster Diocese judge School as 'Outstanding'.
School joins Rib Valley Extended Schools Consortium.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 19

2008 : June - Head Teacher reports that the School is now the best Catholic School in the area. New dining tables and food preparation area provided in Dining Hall
External Audit takes place - recommendations for changes in operational practices implemented.

School required to display an 'Energy Certificate'. 'Community Cohesion' becomes a requirement.

2009 : March - Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) introduced in School.

For four successive years the School's aggregate score for English, Maths and Science is above Local Authority and National averages. Cycle Shelter installed
The Dining Hall roof was re-tiled and the No.1 Boiler replaced

2010 : January - Governing Body agree that car park should be made available for parishioners at Saturday evening Mass.

June - School comes 1st in County and 3rd in Country for Contextual Value Added (CVA) from SAT's data. Letter of congratulations received from the office of the Secretary of State for Education and Schools and Schools HCC Director for Schools.

August - A 'wet pour safety surface' play area and additional fencing is installed to provide an extended outdoor play area for Nursery/Reception Class.
PTA provide 'Train' for EYFS pupils. Additional paving in 'Our Lady's Garden'.

December - EYFS receive Herts Quality Award of outstanding provision.

2011 : June - Government reduce Direct Capital Grants by 80%.

June - Governors adopt Energy Action Plan and set targets to reduce carbon emissions

July - Governors meet Yr. 6 pupils to discuss their views about the School.

July - Damp and timber treatment work to Dining Hall.

September - Year 4 and 5 Pupils compete in Schoolympics representing Hungary and win a total of 13 medals

October - Head Teacher applies for 'International School' status

November - We are required to keep a Water Log and take measures to counter the growth of the Legionella Bacteria.

December - SATS results: School comes 1st in County for KS2 Maths and English. Also, 2nd in County, 9th in East Anglia and 33rd in Country for average points score.

December - Our Mission Statement is revised: 'We learn, love, respect and accept our responsibilities through our faith in Jesus Christ'

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 20

2012: January – Mrs. J. Higgon, Head Teacher, indicates that she will retire on 30 April 2012

February – Work begins on the provision of a new pond in the Wildlife Area

March – Mrs. M. Keating appointed Head Teacher from September 2012

27 April - Special School Assembly and later Mass and Tea Party to say farewell to Mrs. Higgon on her retirement. Many tributes for her leadership and contribution to the success of the School; and best wishes for a happy retirement.

1 May - Mrs. M. Keating becomes Acting Head Teacher for the Summer Term with Mr. A. Booth as Acting Assistant Head Teacher

19 June - Governing Body appoint Mr. A. Booth as Assistant Head Teacher and nominate Miss W. Hoy as Senior Teacher, both from September 2012.

19 June - Governing Body institute 'The Judith Higgon Award' (with Honours Board) in recognition of the leadership and success that Mrs. Higgon, our recently retired Head Teacher, achieved during her tenure as Head Teacher.

3 July - Fencing around new pond completed along with other fencing works

11 July - Exit interviews with Year 6 leavers

18 July - Mass at Church for School Leavers

20 July - Awards Assembly. The first recipient of 'The Judith Higgon Award' is Emilia Szlosarek. (Since 2017 this Award is known as 'Headteacher Award').

1 September - Mrs. M. Keating - Head Teacher: Mr. A. Booth - Assistant Head Teacher: Miss W. Hoy - Senior Teacher form the new School Leadership Team

3 September - Seats in 'Our Lady's Garden' refurbished

September - New School Monthly Newsletter launched.

12 October - Works to comply with the new 'Water Audit' completed. A new water heater to replace the hot water cylinder in the Ladies Toilet installed

October - 'Standards Visit' by Herts Improvement Partner (HIP). Progress and achievement against targets were analysed. It was confirmed that the School is maintaining its 'outstanding' judgement in progress, achievement, teaching and learning.

October - 'Year of Faith' launched with whole school 'Act of Worship' led by Monsignor Peter Wilson.

October - Year 3 & 4 Schoolympics - Pupils win gold in Hockey and bronze in Dance.

November - School received a 'Bronze Kitemark' from our Local Sports Partnership in recognition of 'excellent sports provision'

December - PTA Christmas Fayre raises £1,100

December - Rev. Fr. Ian Dickie, Parish Priest, died on 23rd December 2012

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 21

- 2013:** **7 January** - 22No. I-Pads are delivered to School. New wi-fi system installed.
- 10 January** - Pupils prepare Book of Remembrance (with prayers) for Fr. Ian.
- 21 January** - School closed today due to snow and ice.
- 28 January** - Mass in Remembrance of Rev. Fr. Ian Dickie led by Rev. Fr. J. Cunningham. Staff and pupils attend.
- 4 February** - e-safety week begins.
- 7 February** - e-safety workshop for parents/carers
- 13 February** - Mass on Ash Wednesday said by Rev. Fr. Cunningham.
- 28 March** - Fr. Cunningham leads Maundy Thursday commemoration
- 16 April** - School advised that a Grant has been awarded for the Refurbishment of the EYFS/KS1 Flat Roof. Grant insufficient, Fund raising required - PTA at forefront of fund raising
- 29 April** - Diocesan RE Inspection by Mr. Sean Flood. Outcome encouraging with Categories 1 and 1 Awarded.
- 22 May** - Picnic held to celebrate our successful RE Inspection. Pupils given a bookmark, blessed by Rev. Fr. John Cunningham, to commemorate the inauguration of Pope Francis.
- 7 June** - 'Raise the Roof Auction of Promises' organised by the PTA and Staff was held to raise money towards the cost of refurbishing the Roof over EYFS/KS1 Classes. With other donations the total available for the Roof Scheme is £7,445. With Government Grants, this sum enables us to award a contract for the Roof Scheme
- 1 July** - Year groups 5 and 6 visit St. Mary's Priory, Tottenham
- 8 July** - Enterprise Week begins on 8 July with sales of products held on 12 July.
- 15 July** - Governors hold exit interviews with Yr. 6 pupils to hear their experience at our school. Comments summarised and considered by Governors and Senior Leadership Team.
- 17 July** - KS2 Summer Production 'Porridge' a great success.
- 20 July** - PTA Summer Fair raises some £2,800, the most so far.
- 22 July** - Work starts on the 'Trim Trail'- completed on 26 July.
- Leavers Mass said by Rev. Fr. John Cunningham.
- 24 July** - Awards Assembly. Rev. Fr. John Cunningham gives a blessing. Katrina Bell, Socha Drumm and Daniel Fryday gain Level 6 in SATS English, Maths, Reading. Last day of School Year.
- 25 July** - Work starts on the Refurbishment of EYFS/KS1 Roof

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 22

2013: 6 September - Work to EYFS/KS1 Roof completed

19 September - Official Opening of Trim Trail with blessing from Rev. Fr. John White.

27 September - Rev. Fr. John White formally inducted as Parish Priest for Buntingford and Puckeridge/Old Hall Green. The Rt. Rev. Bishop John Sherrington officiated.

25 October - Special Assembly to thank our Caretaker, Raf Masucci, for his contribution to the School and to wish him a long and happy retirement.

1 December - Lee Tagliarini, our new Caretaker, starts work.

14 December - EYFS Classes. Open morning for parents of prospective pupils to view the facilities available.

2014:

18 January - Fire Alarm Control Unit fault sets-off alarm overnight.

31 January - Mrs Keating -Head Teacher begins maternity leave. Mr. A. Booth (Asst. Head Teacher) becomes Acting Head Teacher for the duration of Mrs. Keating's leave of absence.

18 February - Fire Alarm Control Unit replaced

7 May - Year 5/6 visit Lincolnfield

24 May - Work for the refurbishment of the roof over KS2 Classes begins.

1 June - Yr. 5/6 Class to Kingswood

11 June - 'Standards Visit' by Herts Improvement Partner (HIP). Progress and achievement against targets were analysed. It was confirmed that the School is maintaining its 'outstanding' judgement in progress, achievement, teaching and learning.

13 June - North side of car park widened as part of KS2 Roof Refurbishment

17 June - School Improvement Plan (SIP) reviewed. All targets met.

28 June - School summer fair on 28 June - organised by the PTA

1 July - Our Yr. 3/4 pupils visit St. Mary's Priory School, Haringey

4 July - Liturgy and tea party for pupils making their first Holy Communion

5 July - KS2 Roof refurbishment completed.

23 July - New Library installed - known as 'The Discovery Zone'

13 August - Works associated with the KS2 Roof refurbishment completed

17 September - Formal opening of new Library by author Maire Buonocore who was in attendance all day with workshops for pupils.

October - New energy saving lighting installed

November - Early Years open morning for prospective pupils/parents

December - Yr. 6 pupils to London Olympic site to see Cycling Competition in the Velodrome.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History - Highlights

Sheet 23

2015: **January** - Lego Day - Whole school activity with 80,000 Lego pieces.
January - School Choir took part in 'Young Voices' at the O2 Arena
February - Year 5/6 pupils entered in Sportshall Athletics Competition
March - Early Years staff successfully renew Herts Quality Standard Accreditation
March - St. Thomas School becomes a registered 'Rainbow' site. This is a registered Charity which helps pupils deal with any kind of loss e.g Bereavement.
March - Governing Body shown Union Flag sewn by pupils as part of Mrs. King's sewing group
March - World Book Day. Staff and pupils dress as their favourite character from fiction.
May - Work commences on the refurbishment of the single storey and main hall roofs
June - Pupils publish First Issue of 'The Canterbury Chronicle' our in-house newspaper
September - Roof refurbishment completed
September - Mrs Carr, parent, organises and delivers relief aid to refugees in Calais. well supported by donations from parents and carers
October - Year 4/5 have great success in Schoolympics - winning gold medals for rugby and boccia plus silver in hockey and tri-golf
October - PTA organise 'Auction of Promises' which raises £2,200 towards School contribution to the cost of the Refurbishment of the Main Hall and Single Storey Roofs.
November - Year 3/4 Class leads Act of Remembrance worship. Anti-Bullying week.
School musicians perform at SPINS pre-school group.
December - Advent Mass. Christmas Bazaar. Early Years open morning. Classes Year 1-6 visit 'Hansel and Gretel' pantomime. Nativity and KS2 Carol presentations. Awards Assembly.

2016:

January – Epiphany Mass
January – Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics and Year 3/4 Swimming Gala at Freeman College
February – PTA children disco and Ultimate Dodgeball fund raiser for British Heart Foundation
February- safer internet week. Year3/4 Egyptian workshop
March – Book Fayre and World Book day
April – Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Festival. Year 5 /6 High Fives netball at Freeman College
April – New playground climbing equipment for EY & KS1 pupils provided by the PTA
April – Diocese issue Briefing Paper on Acadamies.
May –Sex & Relationship Education meeting for year 3/4 and year 5/6 parents

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

Sheet 24

2016:

- May** – In house cross country and years 1/4 cross country festival
- May** -SATS week for KS2
- May** – KS2 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph
- June** – Governing Body consider Diocese paper on Academisation.
- June** – Governing Body agree that KS1 pupils can wear polo shirts all year.
- June** – Eight pupils make their first Holy Communion in their respective parishes.
- June** – Pupils take part in ‘Hindu Week’.
- July** - Early Years Teacher returns part time following serious illness.
- July** – KS2 pupils perform in the production ‘Sleeping Beauty – the Ugly Truth’. A great success! It raises £435.
- July** - The PTA ‘Summer Sizzler’ raises £2,000.
- July** – Pupils are reminded of Hertfordshire Libraries summer reading challenge ‘The Big Friendly Read’ to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Roald Dahl.
- September** – Pupils return from Summer Holiday. Only 5 pupils in Nursery.
- September** – Year 3/4 visit Celtic Harmony Group to learn about life in the middle ages
- September** – Year 1/2 take part in a football festival at St. Edmund’s College
- September** – Year 5 Take part in Schoolympics at Meridian School Royston and win medals for football
- October** – School hosted KS1 multi-skills festival led by young leaders from Ralph Sadler School
- October** – Safeguarding Audit by external Examiner grades Safeguarding as ‘Effective’ (highest rating).
- October** – Thomas Tigers football team play their first match of the season at Greenaway School Royston.
- November** – ‘Year of Mercy’ ends on 21 November.
- December** – EYFS Open Morning for parents of prospective pupils.
- December** – School Open Day held on 8 December.

2017:

- January** – School Chaplaincy Team formed
- January** – Choir attend ‘Young Voices’ Concert at the O2 Arena
- January** – Head Teacher and Governors attend a meeting of Lea Valley Deanery Schools to discuss Academisation.
- February** – Science roadshow for all classes. World Book Day – pupils dress as their favourite character.
- March** – Yr.5/6 visit Science Show at Glaxo. Kidz Fit workshop for whole school
- April** – Grant received for pupil toilet refurbishment. Planetarium comes to St. Thomas’.
- May** - PTA Race Night raises £2,000.
- June** – Pupils celebrate HM Queen 65th year on the Throne with a picnic. Sikhism week. National Clean Air Day pupils wear green. Yr. 5/6 visit the Henry Moore Foundation

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
History – Highlights

SHEET 25

2017:

July – Pupils raise £385 through Enterprise Week. PTA's Summer Sizzler raises £1,800. Early Years visit Knebworth Adventure Playground. Year 5 pupil reaches last 50 in nationwide 500-word story writing. She was invited to Chris Evans Radio 2 show and met many media celebrities and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. KS2 production of 'Troy Story' a great hit. 'Talent Show' very popular and really does show the talents of our pupils.

Water leak suspected.

September – Early Years start work on a Forest School. 30 hours Nursery Provision introduced. Seven pupils at first intake. Catholic Social Teaching through the Love in Action programme introduced. School Council cake sale raises £200 for the British Red Cross. Pupils plant bulbs outside the Church – a reminder of the gift of new life and community spirit.

October – Sunbeams Pastoral Care Programme introduced to provide pastoral support for Pupil Premium children. Chaplaincy Team lead weekly prayer group. Toilet Twinning fund raising started

November – Anti- Bullying week. Consideration to be given to introducing a Governor Blog on the School web site. Class shared acts of worship. Book Fayre raises £604. Diocese RE Inspection.

December – Sports Premium Action Plan. Nursery Open mornings. Early Years and KS1 pupils perform 'Angel Express' as their nativity play. KS2 pupils give scripture readings and sing carols. Twitter account opened.

Diocese RE Inspection Report grades the School as Outstanding in all areas of RE Teaching and Learning.

2018:

January – Reading is the Whole School focus this year. Maths puzzle day. Purchase of whole school resources to enhance maths learning. Preparation for Forest School. Chaplaincy Team prepare designs for Forest School and Prayer Garden. Black tracksuit bottoms approved for wear by EY and KS1 pupils for PE. Data Collection Sheets updated by parents for safeguarding of pupils.

Water leak found in pavement outside the School. Affinity Water responsible for repair and refund of overcharging. Concern regarding on-street parking mornings and afternoons. Exacerbated by parking related to development sites.

February – Inner Entrance door replaced to provide added security. Site Manager commences work. Entrance Lobby wall re-plastered and painted. The coloured glass window of St. Thomas is re-located from the old door to the Dining Hall

March – Yr.3/4 Class visit Hertford Museum. World Book Day – visit by Author Alice Hemming, pupils and Staff dress as their favourite character. Growth Mind Set – BMX Workshop for Yr. 3/4 and 5/6 Classes. Chaplaincy Team join other Schools in the Lea Valley Deanery for a Retreat at the Niland Centre, Bushey.

April – Lunchtime Gardening Club starts. Forest School begins. Yr. 3/4 to Lincoln's Field to take part in 'Children at War'.

May – Yr.5/6 to Kingswood Residential Centre. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) constructed.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 26

2018:May Yr. 1/2 celebrate the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince Harry and Meghan Markle (Duchess of Sussex). Toilet Twinning Charity raises £900 to provide 15 Household Latrines for Communities in Africa.

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are introduced on 25 May. The School is a Data Controller. Parents are invited to opt in/opt out of Data sharing. Privacy Policy sent to parents.

June – 8 pupils make their First Holy Communion. Forest School meeting circle established. Growth Mindset fully embedded in the School. ‘March with the Elephants’ raises £270 for ‘Happy Days’ Charity.

July – ‘What a Knight’ KS2 stage production a great success. Yr. 3/4 Tri Golf Team wins silver at the Herts School Games – 214 schools represented.

September – Fr. Cyril Chiaha, our new Parish Priest welcomed to the School. Following the Adoremus Eucharist Congress in Liverpool, Cardinal Nicholls has asked all Catholic Schools to have a Eucharistic Focus this academic year. KS2 Results: Yr. 6 pupils achieve 93% Age Related Key Stage 2 Expectations and 43% Greater Depth. One of only 11 Schools in Hertfordshire to achieve 85% and 30% or better. Music Focus: Ocarinas for Yr. 2 and ukuleles for Yr. 4 (funded by a parent). (De Rosa Music School offering free ukulele tuition). Weekly ‘Walking Mile’ introduced using the new MUGA. Fitbit watches not permitted in School.

October – Yr. 3/4 ‘Stone Age’ trip to Celtic Harmony. ‘Let’s Celebrate’ sessions begin. HfL Safeguarding check states that Policies and Procedures are robust. School hosts KS1 Multi-skills Festival for local schools. Yr. 5/6 Sports Leaders run the event.

November – Prayer Garden equipment installed. Yr. 3/4 hold Remembrance Assembly – parents attend. Letter from Nick Gibb Minister for Education congratulating the School for achieving 100% in Yr. 1 Phonics Test which is in the top 3% of the country. Defibrillator installed in front of School Building - donated in memory of Mr. Don Cobb (1938-2017). Anti-bullying Week – pupils wrote pledges.

December –Following discussions with our pupils, the Mission Statement was changed to ‘Learn, Love and Respect through Jesus’. Advent Mass held on 14/12/18. Yrs.1-6 go to a pantomime performance of ‘Pinnocchio’ whilst EY have a visit from Mr. Marvel, the Magician. EY and KS1 perform ‘Whoops-a-Daisy Angel’ as their Nativity Play. KS2 perform ‘First Night’ a series of Christmas songs. The Chaplaincy Team raised £151.15 with a Bake Sale for ‘Mary’s Meals’. The Christmas Fayre raised £1,200. The pupils bring items for the ‘Bishops Stortford Food Bank Homeless Appeal’

2019:January – Yr.6 Chaplaincy Team go to the Windhill Parish Centre for a Retreat where they meet pupils from other Catholic Schools. Also, they learn sign language for a new hymn ‘The Bread of Life’.

February – Young Voices Choir to O2 Arena. Scholastic Book Fayre. ‘Feel Good, Feel Safe’ week for mental wellbeing of pupils. Yr. 5/6 Class Act of Worship ‘Saints and Inspirational People’.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 27

2019 February Pupils celebrate the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita.

March – World Book Day raises £390 in book sales. All pupils take part in Forest School Enterprise Day – made items are sold raise £250.30 to fund a night vision camera.

Year 3/4 visit Verulamium Museum. Comic Relief day raises £125.55.

‘Let’s Celebrate’ morning gives parents and grandparents an opportunity to share pupil achievements. Music concert with new instruments – ocarina and ukulele. One pupil raised £55 for the Catholic Children’s Society by selling home-made cookies.

April – Thomas Tigers play against Tannery Drift and Millfield – won one and lost one. Chaplaincy Team lead Yr’s 1-6 in Reconciliation Liturgy.

Improvements to EY outdoor areas.

May – The School hosted the Rib Valley Cross Country Festival – over 200 children take part. The Interhouse Cross Country was won by the St. Andrews House Team. This event raised £198 for the Sri Lanka Appeal.

Yr. 6 pupils have breakfast and mindfulness activities before their SATS tests. The new prayer garden named as ‘Our Lady’s Garden’ was opened and blessed by Fr. Chiaha our Parish Priest.

Humanities Week: History Day – pupils experience a Victorian Schoolroom.

Geography Day – based on the Forest School pupils learn about nature and recycling. Indian Culture – a visit from a specialist. Pupils learn about Indian Tradition and food

June – Sports Day: St. George’s win overall cup and St. Patrick’s win Johnson Team work Trophy. Further development of Forest School. Ocarina’s and Ukulele’s for music. Yr. 5/6 to Henry Moore Foundation.

July – EY Class to Paradise Wildlife Park. 6 Chaplaincy Team members represent the School at Mass at Westminster Cathedral. KS2 summer production of ‘Shakespeare Rocks’ PTA ‘Summer Sizzler’ raises “2,000.

September – Chaplaincy Team choose CAFOD as their Charity. EY Class have Harvest Assembly. Recycling of paper and cardboard started. School achieves Gold School Games Accreditation. School awarded Modeshift Stars Bronze Accreditation for commitment to walking, cycling and other sustainable transport. ‘DEROSA’ provide and fund Ukulele tuition for Yr. 4.

October – New website launched. Yr. 5/6 visit the British Museum.

Interactive Whiteboards replaced with Interactive Clever Touch Screens in KS1 and KS2 Classes.

November – Anti-bullying week with the theme ‘Change starts with us’.

Children make anti-bullying pledges. New PSHE Jigsaw scheme ‘Celebrating our differences’. £1,500 invested in new books for Early Years and KS1 pupils. Yr 3 /4 lead a Remembrance Assembly. Scholastic Book Fayre raises £215 for the School. Pupils raise £82 for ‘Children in Need’. The School Council organize a Christmas Hamper for the homeless.

December – New Web-site and Prospectus in place. Yr, 3/4 Class have an Egyptian Workshop Day. Yr. 1-6 Classes attend a production of ‘The Snow Queen’. The Chaplaincy Team hold a ‘Bake Sale’ to raise money for CAFOD.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 28

2019:

December The KS1 and Nursery Nativity is 'Midwife Crisis' while KS2 perform 'Follow that Star' in words and music. The Christmas Fayre raises £1,100.

2020:

January – New bookcases in KS2 Classrooms. KS2 Reading Corners refurbished and new books purchased. Bring and Buy sale for sports equipment. School Sports Committee organize a 'Skipathon' to raise money for equipment.

February – Forest School weekly sessions for Yr. 1 and After School Club. Safer Internet Day. Sports Sponsorship money - half to WWF and half to Australia Bushfire Emergency. Yr. 5 attend STEM Day at St. Edmunds College and attend a Maths Challenge at Windhill Primary School. Music visit to Amwell View School. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day celebrated.

March – 18th - Government declares 'lock down' and closes all Schools on 23 March due to Corvid-19 pandemic. 26th - letter from Head Teacher setting out arrangements for children of key workers and ECHP parents to attend School throughout lock down. Also, Teachers prepare for home schooling arranged through 'Purple Mash' and 'Tapestry'. Teachers prepare lessons throughout lock down. Some Teachers and Support Staff with underlying medical conditions or have a family member with such cannot attend School.

April – 3rd – end of Spring Term. Letters from Head Teacher to parents indicating actions required/to be taken during lock down. 21st – School Reports sent electronically. Head Teacher regularly in touch with parents and School Governors.

May – Continuing as before. Government announces proposals for limited School re-opening from 1st June. 11th - Head Teacher, Teachers, Staff and Governors consider implications of re-opening School for Yr.6, Nursery, Reception and Yr. 1 pupils. Head Teacher prepares Safety Protocols for returning pupils. These are agreed on 19th May with Yr. 6 pupils returning on 1st June with Nursery pupils et al. returning on 8th June. Head Teacher sends letter to parents of pupils in these groups requesting information on numbers of returning pupils in each group. There will be three 'Safety Bubbles' One for each of Key Worker pupils (8), Yr.6 pupils (6) and Nursery, Reception and Yr1.pupils (8) combined.

June – School continues with 'Safety Bubbles' and Home Schooling. Head Teacher provides regular newsletters to parents on School protocols for pupils returning. 9th Governing Body agrees in principle to join the Lea Valley Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). 29th -Year 5 have a Transition Day.

July – Virtual Talent Show has 24 entries and raises £120. 13th - Virtual Sports Week with PE Activities for pupils at home.14th – Closing date for Chaplaincy Team Charity Poster Competition and Transition Day for Year 3. 15th School advised that the Application to become an Academy and join the CAT has been submitted to the Department of Education.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 29

2020:

July - 16th - Leavers Act of Worship in the Prayer Garden. Head Teacher newsletter indicates that all pupils will return in September and gives details of learning focus. All Schools to return to their full curriculum delivery by Summer 2021. School Year ends on 17 July. HT end-of term letter to parents.

August – Repair and Replacement of Water Pipe. Head Teacher provides a Covid 19 Risk Assessment and protocols for return to School in September. Home Learning continues.

September- 3rd Pupils return to School with Covid 19 protocols in place.

October – Month of the Rosary. Parent Consultation. Remote Learning Policy Being implemented by Teachers. Nursery and Reception Class have an Autumn Walk, learn about hibernation and make hedgehog homes.

November – 2nd pupils return. Revised Covid -19 restrictions - Risk Assessment and Protocols revised. School Photos. PTA arrange Fancy Dress Day and Christmas fund raiser for IQ Cards – pupils create their own Christmas cards. All pupils have 1st tranche of Fluenz Vaccinations. 10th Governing Body informed that our application for Academy Status has been accepted by DfE and we can move to the Consultation phase. 11th

Remembrance Day pupils dress in red and black rather than hold Poppy Sales and raise £145 for the Royal British Legion. 12th Skipathon raises £221 for Children in Need. 16th Anti-Bullying week begins. Early Years have virtual Phonics workshop

December – EY and KS1 Nativity Play recorded on DVD with a donkey at School..Home School learning adapted to revised Covid 19 restrictions. Parents/Carers to contact School if Covid symptoms in family members. Rules regarding access to School explained. Chaplaincy Team and Sports Committee appointed. Yr2 reflect on their Hopes for Advent. A Walking Advent Calendar introduced. Gifts provided for Well Beloved Club. Virtual Santa visit.

2021:

January – Higher number of pupils of critical/key workers and vulnerable children in School (9 25% of all pupils). Additional laptops available on loan for home schooling. School Assembly online. Nursery re-opened half of cohort attend. Drop off book scheme started. Virtual PE lessons online. Letter from Head Teacher to parents/carers regarding consultation on proposal to join the Lea Valley CAT

February – Children's Mental Health Week. Catholic Academy Trust consultation with staff and parents/carers. Feel Good Week with scheduled daily activities. Safer Internet Day with online quiz. Power Point Presentation for staff and parents/carers on Academisation.

March – KS2 pupils do the 'Daily Mile'. World Book Day. Early Years learn about Dinosaurs and Volcanoes. 18th - Red Nose Day raises £154 for Comic Relief. 23rd - National Reflection Day to remember those who have died from Covid 19 and to give thanks to all medical staff. On-line Mass with other primary Schools in the Diocese. Request for new Foundation Governors.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 30

2021:

April – 1st All payments now cashless. KS1 incubate chicken eggs. 10 chicks hatch. Forest School: fairy homes made, rope swinging, 3 bird boxes donated. PTA organize an Obstacle Race and raise £965 for the school.

May - Yr.3/4 learn about Romans and make war shields. KS1 make dens in the Forest School. Early Years have a Tea Party making shopping lists, invitations, baking cakes, and using toy money. Yr.1/2 read about the 'Bog Baby' and make their own. Yr. 5 cooking lesson – making buns. KS2 have Virtual Sports – Rapid Fire Cricket and Sports Hall Athletics. PTA organize a Whole School Royal Tea Party to celebrate HM Queen's 95th Birthday.

June – Sports morning a great success with short videos recorded for parents to view as they could not attend because of Covid 19 restrictions.

28th whole School Act of worship for Saints Peter and Paul.

July – 16th Yr.6 have an overnight camp in the school field. PTA Tea Towel Sale raises £150. Yr.5/6 perform 'Sleeping Beauty – the Ugly Truth' as their year-end production – no parents allowed to watch but DVD available to purchase. Term ends on 20th. This is the last Term as a VA Maintained School. We return in September as part of a Catholic Academy Trust.

August - Fire Alarm System is upgraded funded by a Capital Grant from the Diocese.

September – On the 1st of September we became a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust. Yr.6 Chaplaincy Team appointed: Private Fitness Class hires Hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings. 28th First Local Governing Body meeting following Academisation.

October – Art Week with Art Solutions: Yr.1/2 present their Harvest Collection donated to the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank: Pupil Photo's: Rugby Tag Festival: Yr.3/4 have an Egyptian Day: money raised for CAFOD 'Go Green'.

November Year 5/6 lead an Assembly for Remembrance Day. Anti-Bullying Week – theme 'One Kind Word'. Early Years Class gather leaves for an Advent Wreath and talk about its part in Christmas. Bishop Paul McAleenan Visits to meet the Chaplaincy Team and to bless the Advent Wreath. Children raise £322 for 'Children in Need'. KS2 have on-line link with a Primary School in France.

December KS1 perform 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem' as their Nativity Production. KS2 perform 'The Bells Ring Out' Carol Concert. All productions have limited audience numbers due to Covid 19. Pupils enjoy 'Christmas in the Forest'. PTA Christmas Craft Market raises £800.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

History – Highlights

SHEET 31

2022

January – Celebration of the Baptism of our Lord and the Solemnity of Mary our Holy Mother: Chaplaincy Team working with other Teams across the Trust: Despite the Covid cases locally, School life returning to a more typical experience for pupils.

February – ‘Feeling Good’ week for mental health awareness including Forest School, Cheer Leading, French Skipping: EY parents invited to a workshop on ‘Little Wandle’ phonics programme: Urgent request to parents for voluntary contributions to the School Building Fund to cover our 10% contribution to Capital Grants: Chaplaincy Team arrange a ‘Bring and Buy’ sale to support ‘Night Shelter’ in Bishops Stortford. After School Cheer Leading Club started.

March – Lenten Acts of Worship; World Book Day: Whole School ‘Stardome’ Workshop: PTA Sponsored Fun Run raises £1,500 for new PA System: Red Nose Day raises £162 for Comic Relief: Yr. 3/4 receive a workshop visit by the Local Police. Parents’ Consultations. Pancake Race

April – 1st April Awards Assembly. School holiday from 1st to 20th April. 23rd PTA ‘Race Night’.

May - 16th Whole School £1,200 Donations for Tree planting around Forest School area. 9th-12th SATS for year 6 pupils. 17th Local Governing Body meeting. 23rd- 27th Years 5&6 Residential Trip to Kingswood. Chaplaincy Team arrange ‘Praying the Rosary’ in the Prayer Garden. H.M Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebration with a picnic, a Royal ‘dress up’ and Disco. Police Officers attend school for Early Years road safety training.

June – 13th Yr. 3/4 to Mountfitchet Castle. 16th Yr.1/2 Act of Worship and KS2 Football and Netball Tournament. 17th KS2 Dynamo cricket. 26th Yr. 5/6 Act of Worship 30th Yr. 1/2 Thorndon Country Park

July – 4th KS2 Summer Production. 6th Parent Induction for Reception pupils. 7th First Holy Communion pupils have their own Liturgy. 12th School Disco. 13th Parent Induction for Nursery pupils. 14th ‘Moving up Day’. 18th Yr. 6 Leavers Mass at Bishops Stortford Church. 19th End of Term Assembly and goodbye to Yr. 6.

August – Damp Proofing work to south wall in Dining Hall. Various minor works undertaken by the Site Manager and Contractors

History – Highlights

SHEET 32

2023 14 June 2023. Celebration of the School's 150th Anniversary.

Mrs. Keating, Head Teacher, welcomed the Cardinal, Priests and Guests and gave an introductory address outlining the history of the school.

Mass was said by His Eminence Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols. His 'Eminence was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Alexander Heath. Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Peter Harris (Parish Priest - St. Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford) and Rev. Fr. John White (former Parish Priest - St. Richard of Chichester, Buntingford and St. Edmund of Canterbury and the English Martyrs, Old Hall Green).

In his Homily, the Cardinal remembered Moses coming down from the mountain after meeting God and that his face shone with the Grace of God. He continued, explaining that the glow of God is with the Saints – in our case St. Thomas of Canterbury (School) and St. Francis of Assisi (Academy Trust). And this Grace from God is shown as a Halo around the images of the Saints. The Cardinal urged the pupils to be like the Saints by the life they lead and by their deeds so that the Grace of God will shine out to everyone they meet.

The Mass was attended by the whole School – pupils and Staff – and a number of invited guests who have been associated with the school over many years.

The singing of hymns by the pupils was outstanding.

Mass was followed by a group photograph of the Cardinal with the pupils.

There was a gathering in the Dining Hall for refreshments. The Cardinal cut a 'birthday' cake and we sang Happy Birthday to Saint Thomas of Canterbury School.

Building Programme - Major Schemes

Sheet 1 of 3

- 1873 Original School Building** - now Dining Hall and Kitchen
- 1951 Single Storey Extension** - now Head Teacher's Office; Secretary's Office: Staff Rooms and Staff Toilets
- 1959 Lynam Wing** - now KS2 Classes and IT Suite (Bridge Class)
- 1969 Hall and Class Rooms** - now Main Hall; Yr.1/2 and EY Classes
- 1973 Outdoor Swimming Pool** - use discontinued in 1999 – became 'Our Lady's Garden' - now Multi Use Games Area
- 1978 Changing Room** - adjoining Yr. 5/6 Class
- 1981 Boys and Girls Toilets** (under Lynham Wing) **and Corridor**
- 1998 Bridge** - linking KS2 Classes and IT Suite to Main Hall
- 2004 External Play Area for EY**
- 2008 Permanent Wall constructed between Yr. 3/4 and Yr. 5/6 classes**
- 2009 Dining Hall Roof** - retiled
- 2009 No. 1 Boiler replaced**
- 2010 No. 2 Boiler replaced**
- 2011 Dining Hall** Damp-proofing to south wall and underfloor timber treatment
- 2012 New Pond** constructed on 'wildlife area'
- 2013 26 No. I-Pads** purchased for use by pupils and staff
- 2013 'Trim Trail'** constructed - funded by PTA and School
- 2013 EYFS/KS1 Classes** - Roof refurbished
- 2013 Kitchen/Dining Hall** - Water tank in Dining Hall roof space removed.
Low pressure Immersion heater and hot water cylinder in kitchen removed.
New mains pressure Immersion heater and hot water cylinder installed in Kitchen lobby.

Building Programme - Major Schemes

Sheet 2 of 3

- 2014** **KS2 Classes** - Roof refurbished, Scheme includes widening of Car Park.
Waiting Area - New Library installed
Whole School - Low energy lighting installed
External - Drainage survey undertaken
- 2015** **Main Hall and Single Storey Block** - Roof Refurbished. High level windows to Dining Hall blocked in. South wall of Dining Hall re-plastered. Chimney stacks and front entrance brickwork re-pointed
- 2015** **Boiler Room** - Asbestos removed/contained
Early Years and Year 1/2 classes - Double glazed windows installed
Wild Life Area - Planted boxes installed
- 2016** **NO SCHEMES**
- 2017** **Pupil Toilets** – Refurbishment of both toilets with waterproofing to outside wall in boys’ toilet. Including - relocate Butler Sink to cupboard in Ladies Toilet + Isolation Valve to Kitchen cold water supply + bypass to water tank on Office Roof (School water supply now fully on mains supply).
- 2018** **Inner Front Door** – Door replaced with key pad control and key fob override. Lobby wall re-plastered and painted.
Main Hall – Sand and seal floor
Main Hall – Replace external door, replace door to undercroft, provide fan in window of Kitchen Pantry
Forest School - established at southern end of lower field.
Multi Use Games Area – was ‘Our Lady’s Garden’ (formerly the swimming pool)
- 2019** **Prayer Garden** –new ‘Our Lady’s Garden’ - equipment installed – funded by the PTA.
Replacement Window Blinds: Classes: Early Years, Yr. 1/2 and Yr. 5/6
Staff Rooms: Refurbished
Field: Emergency replacement of fencing in south west corner of field
Clever Touch Interactive Screens. Provided by PTA
- 2020** **Repair and Replacement of Water Pipe** from water meter in footpath to T- junction alongside School entrance.
- 2021** **Upgrade Fire Alarm System** – whole school

Building Programme - Major Schemes

Sheet 3 of 3

2022 Security Fencing. Replace fencing to west, south and part east boundaries of the field and replacement railings at the front of School
Early Years Class Outside Play Area. Soft Play Area replaced and extended
Dining Hall Damp Proofing to south wall plus new vinyl flooring as required

2024 Security Fencing at front of School. Including electronically operated pedestrian and vehicle access gates.