St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Welcome to Reception Class





Miss Wright Mrs De Souza

A warm welcome to new and returning parents. We hope you have all had a wonderful summer making treasured memories with your little ones. We are incredibly excited for the coming year and would like to take this opportunity to share some important information for the first term.

We understand that starting school is a big step and that you may have questions, please do not hesitate to talk to us before or after school we are always available at the gate. We are also contactable through ClassDojo but please be mindful that this is checked at certain points of the day so for more urgent concerns please contact the school office.

Our topics for Autumn Term 1 are Ourselves and Autumn and we will be exploring these themes through carefully chosen stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and We're Going on a Bear Hunt. By offering a range of sensory experiences we will support children's learning and development across the EYFS curriculum, including the Early Learning Goals.

Housekeeping points;

- Please send your child to school with a named water bottle each day containing only water.
- Please send your child to school with 2-3 plain biscuits (no nuts or chocolate) for morning biscuit break each day.
- You are welcome to send your child to school with a piece of fruit for afternoon fruit break each day however free fruit is provided by the school.
- Please send in your child's PE kit containing blue shorts, school logo t-shirt and plimsoles within Term 1. We will not commence PE until Term 2.
- The children access the outside area and playground each day so please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for the weather i.e. sunhat, waterproof jacket, winter coat.
- If your child is having a home packed lunch please ensure there are no nut products contained.
- Please send your child to school with a school book bag as within Term 1 we will begin sending home reading books for you and your child to read together.
- Please name label EVERY item your child brings/wears to school.

Helping your child at home

Reading	Writing	Maths
Sharing stories and reading with your child is the best way to develop a love of reading. Talk about the stories you read with your child asking simple questions to develop comprehension. Joining a local library is a brilliant way to find new stories at no cost. Twydall Library also offer lots of lovely arts and craft sessions and Lego clubs.	Writing starts as mark making so take every opportunity to offer your child the chance to make a mark through drawing and colouring using a variety of resources such as pencils, felt tips, clalk, shaving foam and sand. Developing the muscles in the hand through the use of fine motor activity is also crucial for eventual writing. Threading, playdough, using scissors are all great for this. Begin practicing letter formation by helping your child to form the letters in their name using a writing pencil. Please ensure you practice writing a capital letter for the first letter of their name and the rest as lowercase letters.	Count everything! Count steps, jumps, pegs, cutlery, cups, toys, peas on their plate etc. Help your child to match the number to the quantity, we love the Teddy Numbers and Underwater Counting games on www.topmarks.co.uk Playing board games using a dice or dominoes is a great way to develop number awareness.