ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th November 2026

Farewell to Mrs DeSouza



We will be saying goodbye to Mrs DeSouza, one of our dedicated Teaching Assistants. Mrs DeSouza has been a valued member of the St Thomas of Canterbury team, providing care, support and encouragement to countless children throughout her time with us. Her kindness, patience and commitment have helped pupils to flourish both academically and personally, and she has made a lasting impact on our school community. We are incredibly grateful for all that Mrs DeSouza has contributed to school life and know that she will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and families alike. We thank Mrs DeSouza for her dedication and service and wish her every happiness and success for the future.

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16 November to Friday 20 November

This year's theme is 'BREAK THE SILENCE'.

On **Monday 16 November,** children are invited to **wear odd socks with their school uniform** to celebrate individuality. Our Pupil Leadership Team will also lead a special school assembly.

Throughout the week, children will take part in classroom and school activities linked to anti-bullying.

On Friday 20 November, children may wear their own clothes to school in return for a £1 donation. We are raising money for a playground Buddy Bench. This will be a place where children can sit if they are feeling lonely, letting others know to invite them to join their games. We hope the bench will help every child feel included, supported and happy at school.

Thank you for your support.

From

YEAR 6 PEER MENTORS

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

If you are ever worried about your child or another child, please come and talk to us.
We are always here to listen, support and help.

Designated Safeguarding Leads
Mrs VL. Gallagher
Mrs S. Thomas
Mrs J. Copperwheat

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER SPOTLIGHT



KINDNESS & HELPING OTHERS



HAPPINESS & JOY



PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL



INDEPENDENCE & SELF-RELIANCE



Harry has been selected because he independently chose to make a hat decorated with poppies for Remembrance Day. Through his own interest and curiosity, he explored the meaning of Remembrance Day and used his learning to create a thoughtful piece of work that shows both his inquisitive nature and his ability to work independently.



RESILIENCE & PERSEVERANCE



BEING INQUISITIVE & CURIOUS



PROUD TO BE PART OF OUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWS

OPEN MORNINGS RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 2027

We are delighted to invite parents and carers who are considering a Reception place for September 2027 to come and visit our school. A visit is a wonderful opportunity to see our learning environment, meet our dedicated staff, and find out more about the exciting experiences we offer our youngest learners. We are proud of our caring and nurturing community and would love the chance to show you what makes our school special.

- Thursday 19th November 2026 at 09:30
- Thursday 3rd December 2026 at 09:30
- Thursday 7th January 2027 at 09:30

If you are unable to attend one of our open mornings and would like to arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 01634 234 677. We look forward to welcoming you and answering any questions you may have.

Come and discover how your child's learning journey could begin with us!





ATTENDANCE

Whole School Attendance:

Year	Percentage
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	97.8%



At St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, we believe every school day
is a step towards success.

Regular attendance helps children learn more, build friendships, and grow in confidence.

Even missing a few days can add up to lost learning time – and we want every child to have the best chance to shine!

PRAYER AND LITURGY

First Holy Communions

Registration forms for children wishing to make their First Holy Communion are available from the school office. Please collect a form and return it as soon as possible.

Parish Priest: Fr Emmanuel Onwu

Please see the link to St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church below



St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Rainham, Kent

St Thomas of Canterbury

St Thomas of Canterbury

The link to the parish newsletter is included below. Inside, you'll find all the latest parish news along with up-to-date Mass times.

https://www.rcrainham.co.uk/weekly-parish-newsletter.html

CAFOD Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy

Prayers and resources for children's liturgy catechists.

cafod.org.uk



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

CAFOD is the overseas aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. A better world needs all of us. Get involved at **cafod.org.uk**

Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398. Illustration: Erika Pál.

Remembrance Service 2026

On Wednesday 11th November, our Year 6 pupils led a moving and reflective Remembrance Service for the whole school community.

The children prepared and delivered the service with great maturity, reverence and respect, helping us all to pause and remember the courage and sacrifice of those who have served their country in times of conflict.

Through prayers, readings, thoughtful reflections and moments of quiet contemplation, Year 6 reminded us of the importance of remembering the past and giving thanks for the freedoms we enjoy today.

A particularly poignant moment of the service was the whole school joining together in a minute's silence. Every pupil and member of staff stood quietly in reflection, creating a powerful atmosphere of respect and remembrance throughout the school. The impeccable conduct shown by all pupils demonstrated their understanding of the significance of the occasion and their appreciation for those who have given so much in service to others.

The service also provided an opportunity for our school community to live out our Catholic values, reflecting on the virtues of respect, compassion and gratitude. Pupils listened attentively, participated reverently in prayers and responses, and showed great maturity throughout. The respect shown by every child, from our youngest pupils to Year 6, made the service especially meaningful and highlighted the strong sense of community that we share at St Thomas of Canterbury.

We are incredibly proud of our children for participating in the service so beautifully.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”
John 15:13



LUNCH MENU

23.11.2026
14.12.2026
18.01.2027
08.02.2027
08.03.2027

WEEK ONE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread Homemade Tomato Pasta Sauce with Mixed Beans & Wholemeal Pasta, Oven Baked & served with Homemade 50/50 Wholemeal Garlic Bread	**Pork Hot Dog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce** Red Tractor Accredited Pork Sausage, served with Homemade Oven Baked Potato Wedges & Tomato Ketchup	**Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy** Red Tractor Accredited Chicken served with Sage & Onion Stuffing, Homemade Roasted Potatoes and Gravy	**Beef Tortilla Stack with Rice** Red Tractor Accredited Beef & Red Kidney Beans Cooked in a Homemade Tomato-Based Sauce. Stacked Within Tortilla Layers, Topped with Cheddar Cheese & Oven Baked. Served with 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	**Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers, Chips & Tomato Sauce** Oven Baked Youngs MSC Accredited Pollock Fishfingers with Oven Baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Autumn Vegetable Lasagna A layered Lasagna made with Lentils in a Tomato Sauce, Topped with Cheese Sauce & served with Homemade 50/50 Wholemeal Garlic Bread	**Veggie Hot Dog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce** Quorn Vegan Sausage in a Hot Dog Bun served with Homemade Oven Baked Potato Wedges & Tomato Ketchup	**Vegetarian Wellington, Roast Potatoes & Gravy** Homemade Wellington with Brown Lentils, Aubergine & Potato Wrapped in Vegan Pastry served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	**Vegetable Pasta Bake** A Homemade Tomato Pasta Sauce with Mixed Beans & Wholemeal Pasta, Oven Baked.	**Cheese Whirl with Chips & Tomato Sauce** Cheese, Pepper, Lentil & Tomato Sauce in a Puff Pastry Swirl, with Oven Baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Each day we serve a choice of two vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, sweetcorn, peas, baked beans, green beans, cabbage, peppers. We also serve a daily salad selection for pupils to help themselves to.				
Cheese & Crackers Cheddar Cheese Wedges with Cream Crackers	**Apple Crumble with Cream** Homemade Apple Crumble with an Oaty Topping, served with Double Cream	**Fruit Medley** A selection of Pineapple, Mandarin, Peach, Apple & Orange	**Syrup Sponge with Custard** Homemade Vanilla Sponge Drizzled with Golden Syrup & served with Custard	**Jelly with Mandarins** Strawberry Jelly served with Mandarins

30.11.2026
04.01.2027
25.01.2027
22.02.2027
15.03.2027

WEEK TWO

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Classic Cheese & Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes Homemade 50/50 Wholemeal Bread Base topped with Cheddar Cheese & a Homemade Tomato Sauce. Served with New Potatoes	**Spaghetti Bolognaise** Red Tractor Accredited Beef Mince & Brown Lentil Bolognaise Sauce served with Spaghetti	**Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy** Red Tractor Accredited Gammon Joint served with Homemade Roast Potatoes & Gravy	**Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice** Red Tractor Accredited Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs in a Homemade Herby Tomato Sauce with 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	**Breaded Fish or Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce** Oven Baked Youngs MSC Accredited Breaded Pollock Fillet with oven baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice Homemade Mild Chilli Tomato Base with Mixed Beans & 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	**Vegan Spaghetti Bolognaise** Vegan Soya Mince in a Homemade Tomato Bolognaise Sauce with Spaghetti	**Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes & Gravy** Vegan Roast Quorn Fillet, served with Homemade Roast Potatoes & Gravy	**Creamy Chickpea & Coconut Curry with Rice** A Mild Creamy Coconut Curry with Chickpeas served with 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	**Vegan Sausage with Chips & Tomato Sauce** Quorn Vegan Cumberland Sausage with Oven Baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Each day we serve a choice of two vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, sweetcorn, peas, baked beans, green beans, cabbage, peppers. We also serve a daily salad selection for pupils to help themselves to.				
Gingerbread Cookie A Homemade Vanilla Cookie Flavoured with Ginger	**Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce** Homemade Chocolate Brownie made with Cocoa Powder, served with Chocolate Sauce made of Custard & Cocoa Powder	**Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad** A selection of Apple, Orange, Melon, Mandarin & Pear	**Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard** Homemade Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with an Oaty Topping, served with Custard	**Golden Syrup Snap** Homemade Vanilla Biscuit Flavoured with Golden Syrup

16.11.2026
07.12.2026
11.01.2027
01.02.2027
01.03.2027
22.03.2027

WEEK THREE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese Homemade Classic Macaroni Cheese, made with Cheddar Cheese.	**Chicken & Bean Fajita with Paprika Wedges** Homemade Fajitas made with 50% Red Tractor Accredited Chicken & 50% Kidney Beans served with Homemade Paprika Wedges	**Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy** Red Tractor Accredited Pork or Chicken Sausages, served with Homemade Roasted Potatoes & Gravy	**Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Crushed Potatoes & Gravy** Homemade Pie with Red Tractor Accredited Chicken & Sweetcorn in a creamy sauce. Served with homemade Crushed Potatoes & Gravy	**Fishfingers, Chips & Tomato Sauce** Oven Baked Youngs MSC Accredited Pollock Fishfingers with Oven Baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry with Rice Homemade Tomato-Based Vegan Curry made with Sweet Potato & Brown Lentils & served with 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	**Vegetable Fajita with Paprika Wedges** Homemade Fajitas made with Red Kidney Beans served with Homemade Paprika Wedges	**Vegan Sausage with Roast Potatoes & Gravy** Quorn Vegan Cumberland Sausage, served with Homemade Roasted Potatoes & Gravy	**Tomato Pasta** Homemade Vegan Tomato Arrabbiata & Butterbean Pasta Sauce served with Wholemeal Pasta	**Cheese & Bean Puff with Chips & Tomato Sauce** Homemade Cheddar Cheese & Reduced Sugar & Salt Baked Bean Puff Pastry Pasty served with Oven Baked Chips & Tomato Ketchup
Each day we serve a choice of two vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, sweetcorn, peas, baked beans, green beans, cabbage, peppers. We also serve a daily salad selection for pupils to help themselves to.				
Oaty Cookie An Oaty Cookie made from Oats, Wholemeal Flour & Self- Raising Flour	**Pear Crumble with Custard** Homemade Pear Crumble with an Oaty Topping, served with Custard	**Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad** A selection of Apple, Orange, Melon & Pineapple	**Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard** Homemade Sponge Cake Flavoured with Ginger & Raisins, served with Custard	**Strawberry Mousse** Wibble Strawberry Mousse

SCHOOL UPDATES

CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY
THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2026

Must be Pre Ordered via Arbor "Clubs" section before 7th December

Please be advised on this day we will not offer jacket potatoes or sandwiches/baguettes.





On Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December 2026 at 2:00pm, our KS1 children will perform their Nativity. Families are warmly invited to attend and celebrate this special occasion with us.

On Wednesday 16th December, the KS2 children will have their Carol Service at the church. The service will take place from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, and families are invited to attend. Following the service, everyone is invited back to the school for mince pies and refreshments.

OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY

This week in Nursery we have been celebrating Diwali. We have role played the story of Rama and Sita and the ten headed demon, made Indian sweets, Diwali cards and clay Diva lamps.
Reception joined us to have a Diwali feast and the children loved the food and the Indian dancing afterwards.









RECEPTION

This week reception had their first ever PE lesson! The children did very well changing into their PE kits for the first time and really enjoyed warming up and playing the traffic light game in the hall before doing our cooling down stretches. Hopefully as the weeks progress we will get a little longer in the hall as we get quicker at changing! Well done reception!





YEAR 1

Exploring the Bible

This week in RE, Year 1 have been exploring the Bible as part of our topic, 'Prophecy and Promise'.

The children worked in pairs to look carefully at a range of different Bibles. They compared the covers, explored the pictures and looked at the words and layout inside.

The children discovered that Bibles can look different but they all contain special stories about God and Jesus. They enjoyed sharing their ideas, asking thoughtful questions and learning that the Bible helps Christians to know more about God and how He wants us to live.











Year 2 PE

Year 2 had great fun taking part in a range of team-building games, including Pirates, Crocodiles and Dodgeball.

The children worked on developing their teamwork, communication and listening skills while practising following instructions, working together and showing good sportsmanship.

There was lots of excitement and laughter throughout the session!

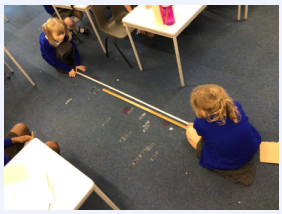


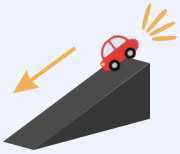


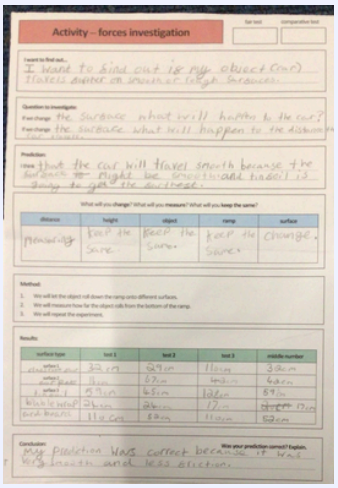




Year 3









Year 3 have been investigating the force of friction by testing how a toy car moved across different surfaces. The children made predictions, carried out fair tests and carefully observed how surfaces such as carpet, tinfoil and bubblewrap affected the car's speed and distance travelled. They discovered that rougher surfaces create more friction, which slows objects down, while smoother surfaces create less friction, allowing objects to move more easily. The children thoroughly enjoyed being young scientists and were excited to discuss their findings!

YEAR 4

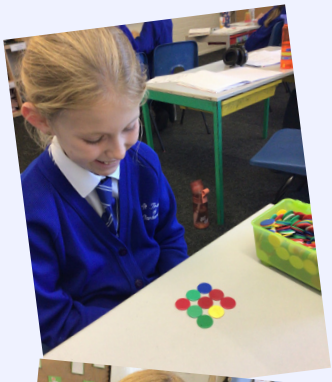






Year 4 have continued to work hard this week on our new Geogrpahy toppic all about Rainforests which links to our English text for this term.
We have loved yoga in PE this week and have been demonstarting some new skills working in a team to create a sequence of movements.
We are starting a new topic in Maths which covers area, in particular, how we can find the area in 2D shapes using all the available space. We even got to explore Forest school this week as part of our Science topic to see if we could spot any animal habitats!
Next Friday the 20th is our class assembly and we would love it if you could join us to celebrate Anti-Bullying week!

YEAR 5



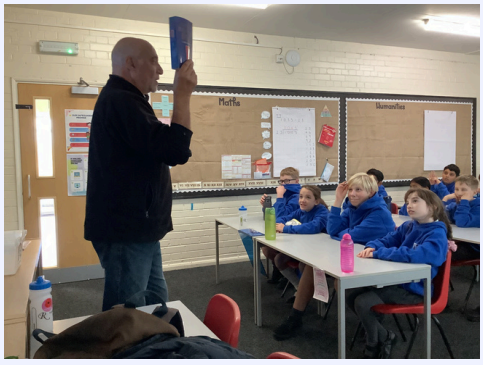


In Maths this week, children have been learning about Squared and Cubed numbers. Through practical activities, year 5 discovered they could make a square with 4, 9 or 16 counters, which makes it a square number, as well as creating cubes with 8, 27 or even 64 interlocking cubes! Well done year 5 mathematicians!





YEAR 6





This week, Year 6 were delighted to welcome Deacon Arthur, who spoke to the children about the important role of women in the Old Testament. As part of our RE learning on Prophecy and Promise, the children explored the lives of several remarkable women whose faith, courage and trust in God helped shape God's plan. We learned about Sarah, who trusted God's promise that she would become the mother of a great nation; Miriam, who helped protect her brother Moses and led God's people in worship; Deborah, a wise judge and courageous leader of Israel; Hannah, whose faithful prayers were answered with the birth of her son Samuel; and Esther, whose bravery saved her people from danger. The children asked thoughtful questions and enjoyed discovering how these inspirational women demonstrated faith, perseverance and trust in God.

IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage	
Monday 16th November 2026	Anti-bullying week
Thursday 19th November 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Monday 30th November 2026	Flu Vaccines – School nurse
Tuesday 1st December 2026	MMA Carol Concert - KS2 - Rochester Cathedral
Thursday 3rd December 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Tuesday 8th December 2026	AM Nursery Nativity to parents
Tuesday 8th December 2026	PM Reception and KS1 Nativity to parents
Wednesday 9th December 2026	PM Reception and KS1 Nativity to parents
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Rocksteady Chrsitmas Concert
Wednesday 16th December 2026	KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 17th December 2026	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 18th December 2026	Last day term – 14:00 finish
Christmas Holiday Saturday 19th December to Sunday 3rd January	
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day – Staff only at school
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Children return to school