

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th October 2026

This week has been a wonderful celebration of our school community. It has been fantastic to see the children learning about and celebrating different cultures and traditions, while also having the opportunity to share what is special to them and their families.

From our National Dress Day and Food Festival, to parents and volunteers coming into school to talk to the children and share stories, the whole week has had a real sense of community.

I would particularly like to thank all of our families and volunteers who supported the week. Whether you sent in food, helped your child celebrate their heritage or came into school to share your time and experiences, you helped make the week truly special.

Mrs Gallagher



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



PARENT EVENING

Our upcoming Parent Evenings will take place on:



Wednesday 21st October



Thursday 22nd October

This is a valuable opportunity to meet with your child's teacher, hear about how they have settled into the new school year, discuss the progress they are making and celebrate their successes.

Bookings will be made via Arbor and will open at **4:00pm on Monday 12th October.**

If you experience any difficulties accessing Arbor or booking an appointment, please contact the school office, and we will be happy to help.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing your child's progress with you.



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 15th October 2026 at 09:30
- Thursday 5th November 2026 at 09:30
- 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!



Being away from caregivers

General worries

School worries

Bedtime fears

Social worries

Phobias (e.g. spiders, dogs, injections)

& more

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANXIETY?

OSI COULD HELP YOU

OSI (Online Support and Intervention) is an online platform designed to help parents to learn tools and techniques to help their child (aged 5 to 12 years old) to overcome difficulties with anxiety.

Parents work through weekly online modules that contain videos, quizzes, and interactive worksheets. Parents are also supported by a weekly telephone/video call appointment with a practitioner.

You can access OSI at a convenient time for you using any electronic device!



HOW TO ACCESS OSI

If your child attends one of our schools and you feel OSI would be helpful for you and your child, please scan the QR code which will take you to our website and the OSI self-referral form.

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss this further with someone or would like to consider alternative support, please speak with the Senior Mental Health Lead in your child's school.



We are kind.



We are respectful.



We work together with our communities.

Whole School Attendance: 97%

Year	Percentage
Reception	98%
Year 1	99.3%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 6	92.5%



ATTEND AND ACHIEVE

School isn't just a place to be – it's where you learn most, grow in confidence, build friendships and create your future.

Thrive under 5

Students who have fewer than 5 days off per year, statistically thrive within education.



BETTER PROGRESS
Excellent attendance leads to stronger learning and higher achievement.



CONFIDENCE GROWS
Being in school regularly builds confidence and resilience.



STRONGER CONNECTIONS
Attend, belong, and build positive relationships.



MORE OPPORTUNITIES
Good attendance opens doors to more choices and brighter futures.

Every lesson counts. Every day shapes your future. Thrive under 5. Be here. Succeed.

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!

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



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

CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

LUNCH MENU

31.08.2026
21.09.2026
12.10.2026
02.11.2026
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 Served 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
				

07.09.2026
28.09.2026
19.10.2026
09.11.2026
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 Bolognese Red Tractor Accredited Beef Mince & Brown Lentil Bolognese 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 Chili with Rice Homemade Mild Chili Tomato Base with Mixed Beans & 50/50 Wholemeal Rice	Vegan Spaghetti Bolognese Vegan Soya Mince in a Homemade Tomato Bolognese 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
				

14.09.2026
05.10.2026
26.10.2026
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	Jamalcan Ginger Cake with Custard Homemade Sponge Cake Flavoured with Ginger & Raisins, served with Custard	Strawberry Mousse Wibble Strawberry Mousse
				

OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY

During Multi Cultural Week the children have been exploring the similarities and differences that make each of us completely unique. We used a large atlas to find countries of origins and they enjoyed finding flags for the countries represented in our class. The children looked wonderful in their clothes representing their family culture and we celebrated how special we all are and how God loves everyone.



RECEPTION

This week our reception children have been fully immersed in the magical world of Goldilocks and the Three Bears! Through this classic traditional tale the children have been developing their language and early literacy skills by retelling the story using props, story maps and expressive role play. The story has also brought our maths learning to life as we used the bears bowls, chairs and beds to explore important vocabulary related to size. We are very excited to continue this learning next week where the children will be able to make and taste test their very own porridge 😊.

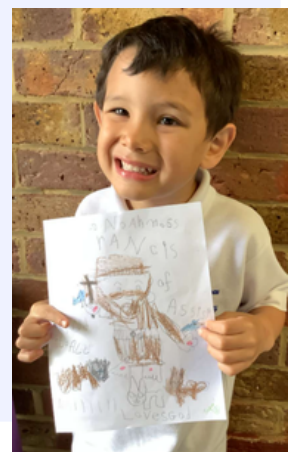
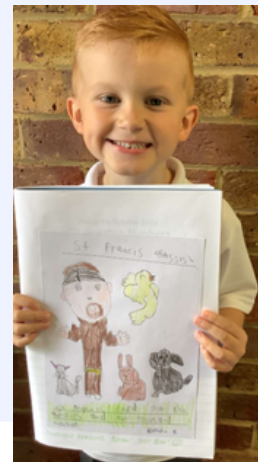


YEAR 1

🌿 Celebrating St Francis of Assisi 🌿

We were so impressed with the wonderful homework completed by our Year 1 children about St Francis of Assisi, our class saint. The children enjoyed sharing their fantastic work and amazed us with all the interesting facts they had discovered!

This year is extra special as 2026 has been proclaimed the Year of St Francis, marking 800 years since his death. His message of peace, kindness and care for God's creation is just as important today. Well done to all of our Year 1 superstars, and thank you to our families for supporting the children 😊

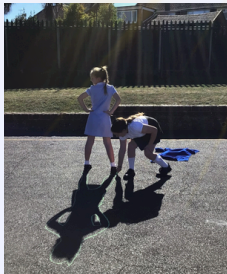
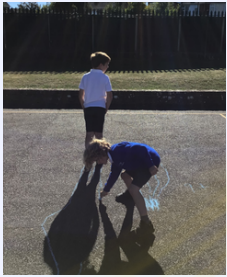


YEAR 2

In Science this week, the children explored the properties of different materials using vocabulary such as transparent, opaque, flexible and rigid. Working in groups, they found objects around the classroom and sorted them by their properties, while also learning the difference between an object and the material it is made from.



YEAR 3



Year 3 Science - Super Shadows!

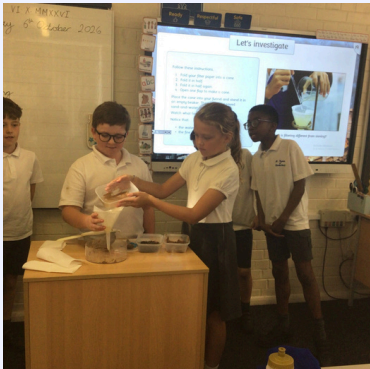
This week in Science, we have been investigating how shadows change when a light source moves. We discovered that the position of the light source affects the direction and length of a shadow. We then put our scientific knowledge to the test with a very important challenge: helping Ariana Grande choose the best position for her stage lighting to create the tallest possible shadow! The children made predictions, investigated different light positions and used their observations to give Ariana their scientific recommendations.

YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 have been writing up their fictional story based around our topic of Ancient Egypt. Some of the endings are rather crazy! In Maths we are continuing our topic of place value, rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We took another look at our mummified tomatoes in History and some turned out to be rather smelly and crunchy! We are also looking at significant figures during Black History month as well as dressing in our traditional attire to represent many vibrant and fantastic communities.



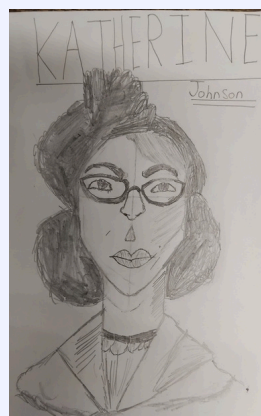
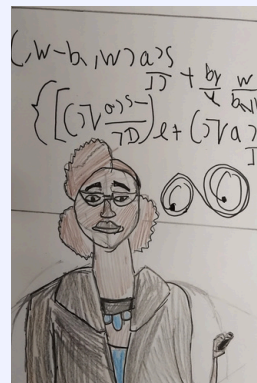
YEAR 5



In Science this week, year 5 investigated how to clean muddy water. By carrying out investigations, the children used various methods to successfully remove mud from water - they observed how mud settles to the bottom of water and could decant the water off the top, as well as sieving and using filter paper to remove smaller particles. By the end, the water looked clean enough to drink, but they thought better of it! Well done year 5 Scientists!

YEAR 6

As part of our Black History Month learning, Year 6 explored the life and achievements of Katherine Johnson, the brilliant mathematician whose calculations played a vital role in NASA's space missions. The children learned about her groundbreaking contributions to space exploration and discussed how her determination and talent helped break down barriers, inspiring future generations to pursue careers in science and mathematics.



IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

Thursday 15th October 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Friday 16th October 2026	15:15 Reception class assembly
Wednesday 21st October 2026	Parent evening 1/2
Thursday 22nd October 2026	Parent evening 2/2
HALF TERM Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	
WB Monday 2nd November	Year 2 to visit war memorial
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	Individual School Photos
Thursday 5th November 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
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
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	KS2 Christmas Carol Service

IMPORTANT DATES - CONTINUED

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

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