



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th September 2026

It has been wonderful to see the children settle so positively into the new school year. Classrooms have been full of enthusiastic learning, new friendships and smiling faces. Thank you to all our families for helping the children arrive ready to learn each day.

A special congratulations goes to Year 1, who achieved the best attendance in the school this week. Well done, Year 1. Keep up the great work!

Mrs Gallagher

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 24th September at 09:30
- Thursday 8th October 2026 at 09:30
- 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!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whole School Attendance: 98%

<u>ATTENDANCE</u> From 03.09.2026 to 10.09.2026	
Reception:	97.4%
Year 1:	99.5%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	99.0%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	96.8%



Ken Catholic Schools' Partnership
"Academies in Christ"
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark



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!



PRAYER AND LITURGY

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

[St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Rainham, Kent \(rcrainham.co.uk\)](http://rcrainham.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Emmanuel Onwu

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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.

Parish Newsletter

CAFOD CHILDREN'S LITURGY

*Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35*



OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY



The children in nursery are making new friends and enjoying each other's company. Working together to build towers, enjoying books and sharing a cup of tea in the role play area.

We have been learning how God loves us and how we are all special and unique. We have identified the features on our faces and made a collage for our RE display.

RECEPTION

Welcome Reception! What a wonderful first full week we have had! The children have been absolute superstars and have settled in beautifully. We have had lots of fun exploring our classroom and outside area and playing with the different toys and resources and making new friends. We have enjoyed playing on the big playground and eating our lunch in the hall! Well done reception, Mrs De Souza and I are very proud of you and are looking forward to a brilliant year with you all!



YEAR 1

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in Year 1! This week, our classroom had some very special (and very cuddly!) visitors when the children brought their favourite teddies to school for the day. The children loved introducing their teddies to their friends and used their super speaking and listening skills to tell us all about why they are so special. Afterwards, they practised saying their sentences aloud before drawing a lovely picture and having a go at writing a sentence, using their sounds to help them. We were so proud of their fantastic first writing – and we're pleased to report that all of the teddies were very well behaved!



YEAR 2



In RE this week, Year 2 began our new topic, Creation and Covenant, by exploring the Bible and thinking about why it is such a special book for Christians. We learnt that the Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The children discovered that the Old Testament contains books written before Jesus was born, while the New Testament tells us about Jesus and the early Church. We explored the names of some familiar books of the Bible and worked together to decide where they belonged before sorting them into the correct Testament. The children showed lots of curiosity and enjoyed beginning to develop their understanding of how the Bible is organised.

YEAR 3



This week in our English GPAS lesson, we have been learning how to use a dictionary. The children have been developing their understanding that dictionaries are organised in alphabetical order and have practised using them to find words, check spellings and discover definitions. This is a tricky skill, particularly when thinking carefully about the order of letters, but the

class did really well and showed great perseverance. As they become more familiar with using dictionaries, the children will begin to develop greater independence and confidence, allowing them to check spellings and find the meanings of unfamiliar words for themselves during lessons. Well done, Year 3!

YEAR 4

Hello and welcome to Year 4! We have had such a busy start to the school year! Our first couple of days were to get to know each other a bit more and to work as a team to create the tallest tower using marshmallows and spaghetti, it proved to be quite the challenge! We are excited to make a start on our curriculum this term, creating 3D sketches, writing a set of instructions to mummify a Pharaoh and learning our times tables.



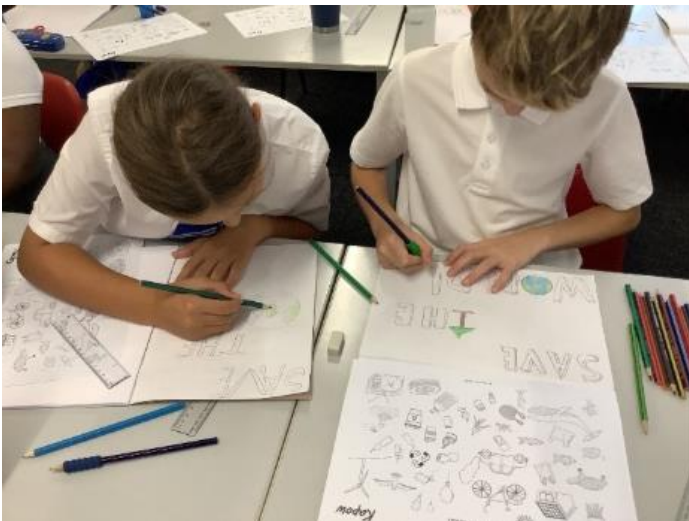
YEAR 5



Year 5 have had a really positive start to the year and are settling into working routines well. In Science, we are learning about the properties of materials. This week, year 5 were asked to carry out investigations so that they could separate materials by their properties. They checked if the materials were magnetic, transparent, absorbent, flexible or hard. Well done year 5 Scientists!



YEAR 6



This week, the children thoroughly enjoyed their first art lesson of the year, where they explored the exciting world of street art. They investigated how artists use public spaces to communicate messages, express opinions and raise awareness about important issues. The children discussed a range of examples of street art and considered how colour, imagery and symbolism can be used to engage an audience. We

look forward to seeing their creativity develop as they create their own message-inspired artwork in the coming weeks.

NEW DATES ADDED IN RED	
Wider curriculum theme – OUR HERITAGE	
WB 14.09.2026	Yr 6 Medway test
Friday 25 th September 2026	15:15 – Celebration Assembly
Thursday 24 th September 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Monday 28 th October 2026	Little Way Week
Tuesday 29 th September 2026	KCSP Trust Mass at Aylesford – Year 6
Friday 2 nd October 2026	15:15 Year 5 class assembly
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	National dress day for children
Thursday 8 th October 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Thursday 8 th October 2026	15:45 Food festival
Friday 9 th October 2026	KS2 trip Wildwood
Thursday 15 th October 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Friday 16 th October 2026	15:15 Reception class assembly
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	Parent evening 1/2
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Parent evening 2/2
HALF TERM Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	
WB Monday 2 nd November	Year 2 to visit war memorial
Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Individual School Photos
Thursday 5 th November 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Monday 16 th November 2026	Anti-bullying week
Thursday 19 th November 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Monday 30 th November 2026	Flu Vaccines – School nurse
Thursday 3 rd December 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Tuesday 8 th December 2026	AM Nursery Nativity to parents
Tuesday 8 th December 2026	PM Reception and KS1 Nativity to parents
Wednesday 9 th December 2026	PM Reception and KS1 Nativity to parents
Tuesday 15 th December 2026	KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 17 th December 2026	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 18 th December 2026	Last day term – 14:00 finish
Christmas Holiday Saturday 19th December to Sunday 3rd January	
Monday 4 th January 2027	INSET Day – Staff only at school
Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Children return to school