

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th October 2026

Virtual Rosary for Schools

As part of October, the Month of the Rosary, our pupils joined the Virtual Rosary for Schools led by Archbishop John Wilson. It was a wonderful opportunity to pray together with other schools, reflect on our faith, and celebrate the importance of the Rosary. The children participated beautifully and represented our school with reverence and respect.

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 can be made via Arbor.

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 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: 95.8%

Year	Percentage
Reception	93%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	99.7%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	98.15
Year 6	93.2%



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  

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Christmas Lunch

MAIN COURSE

Roast Chicken, Sausage,
Stuffing & Gravy

or

Vegetable Wellington & Gravy

with
Roast Potatoes
Carrot & Pea Medley

PUDDING

Chocolate Frosted Christmas Cake

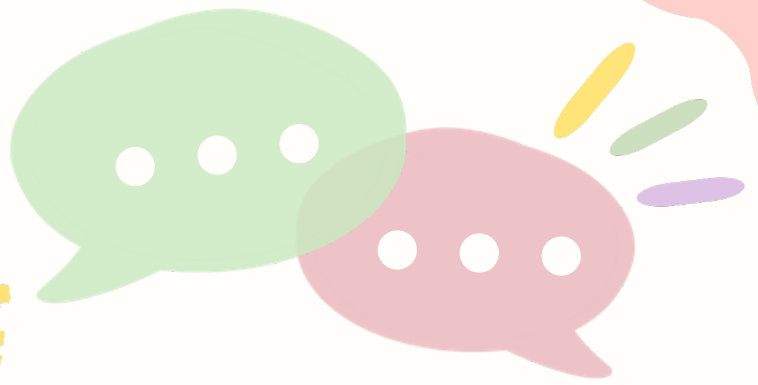
or

Satsuma

Cranberry Bread

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

LET'S TALK



Education, Inclusion & SEND Support Event

Questions or concerns about
your child's education?

Come and speak directly with Medway Council
teams from Education, Inclusion and SEND



Get advice
and guidance



Find out about
available
support



Ask questions
and share
concerns



Learn about
your options



Date:
12 November



Time:
**12:30pm
to 4:30pm**



Venue:
**Lampard Centre,
Brompton**

No appointment needed
Just drop in and talk to our teams

OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY

The children had fun investigating around our school on an Autumn walk. We collected leaves, plants and conkers for counting and ordering by size. We also used the leaves for art work and made Autumn crowns. We noticed the change in the weather and learnt Autumn songs, adding musical instruments.



RECEPTION

This week reception have been busy practicing their first ever class assembly. The children are excited to show their parents, carers and the rest of the school their assembly where they will be very brave and introduce themselves and tell everyone something that they like to do whilst using a microphone, how exciting!! We have also learned two hymns that we will sing for everyone. Well done reception we are very proud of you!



YEAR 1

Our First Computing Lesson!

Year 1 were very excited to have their first Computing lesson this week! We learnt how to turn on the laptops and log in independently before having lots of fun exploring Paint and practising using the trackpad.

We were especially pleased to see such lovely paired work, with children helping and encouraging each other when things became tricky. They absolutely loved their first Computing experience and are already asking when they can get the laptops out again!

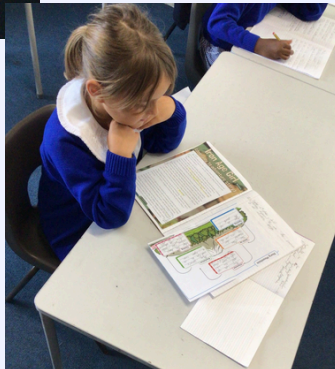


YEAR 2

This week in Art, the children explored texture by feeling and describing different surfaces. They then went on a texture hunt, using crayons and pencils to create rubbings of a range of surfaces before arranging their favourite examples in their sketchbooks. The children also practised using descriptive words to compare how different textures looked and felt.



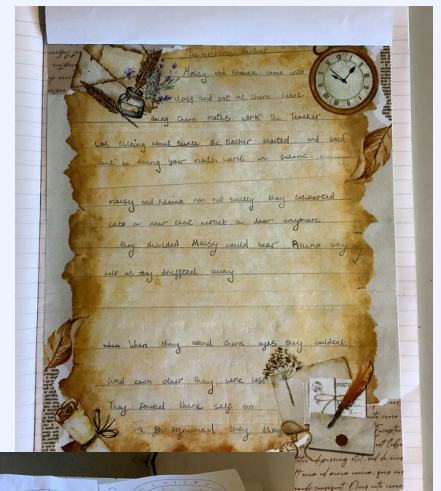
YEAR 3



Year 3 have been busy writing their own exciting adventure stories! We began by analysing a WAGOLL (What A Good One Looks Like) to identify the features of an effective adventure story. The children then planned their own imaginative adventures and have now started drafting their stories. Inspired by our class text, *Stone Age Boy*, their stories explore how their characters are mysteriously teleported back to the Stone Age, where they encounter a very different world. We are looking forward to seeing how their adventures develop as they bring their creative ideas to life!

YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 have been publishing their final piece on their Egyptian fictional story which the children have put a lot of effort into, ensuring they are practicing their cursive handwriting. Year 4 have also been looking at exchanging in Maths and have been using the column method to support their understanding. We have also been making an Egyptian Cartouche in Histroy which is designed to be placed on top of a Pahroah's tomb!



YEAR 5



In Music this term, year 5 have been learning about 1980's Classic/Soft Rock, focussing on 'Living on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi. Children have listened to Classic Rock songs such as 'We Will Rock You' to understand the style and its features. They have also learned to sing 'Living on a Prayer' as well as play the glockenspiels using improvisation and composition during the Instrumental section of the song. Well done year 5 musicians!

YEAR 6

This week in Science, Year 6 have been exploring electrical circuits and investigating how to make a bulb brighter. The children worked scientifically to test different variables, discovering how adding more batteries can increase brightness and discussing why some changes are more effective than others. They enjoyed building circuits, making predictions, and using their observations to explain how electricity flows through a circuit. Great teamwork and scientific thinking were on display throughout the investigations!



KS2 Wildwood Trip

Our KS2 trip to Wildwood was a fantastic success, and the children had a wonderful day exploring and learning outdoors. One of the highlights was the exciting CSI workshop, where pupils became wildlife detectives and examined real animal artefacts, including skulls, fur, feathers, and animal tracks. They used their observation and deduction skills to identify different species and learn more about the animals that live in the British countryside.



IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

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