ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd October 2026

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the term. The children have worked incredibly hard and have achieved so much already this year, and we are very proud of them.

Take time to relax, and make special memories together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for another exciting chapter of learning.

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

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 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!





ATTENDANCE

Whole School Attendance: 93%

Year	Percentage
Reception	90.7%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	90.4%
Year 3	96.5%
Year 4	94.7%
Year 5	95.4%
Year 6	90%



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

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

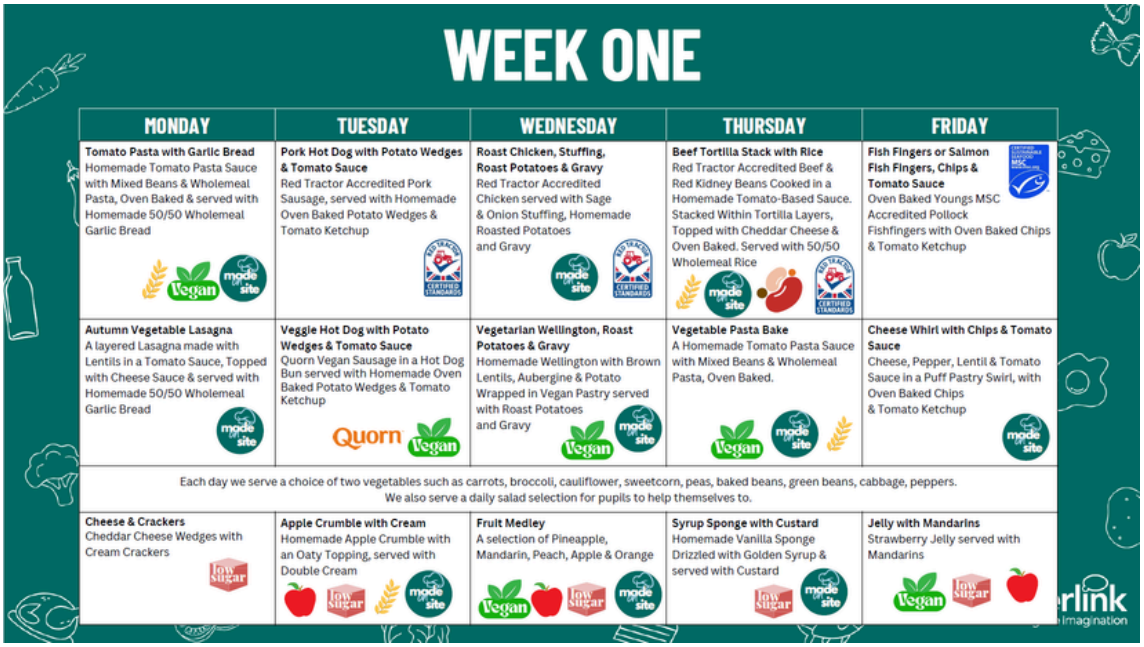


CAFOD is the overseas aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.
A better world needs all of us: **cafod.org.uk**

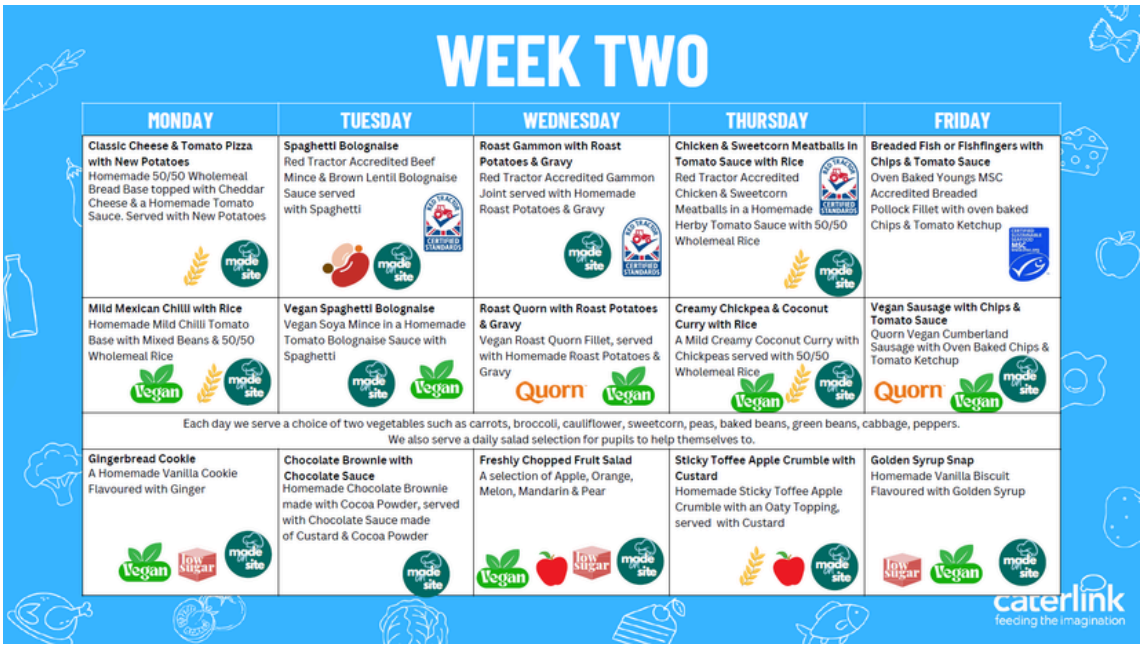
CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

LUNCH MENU

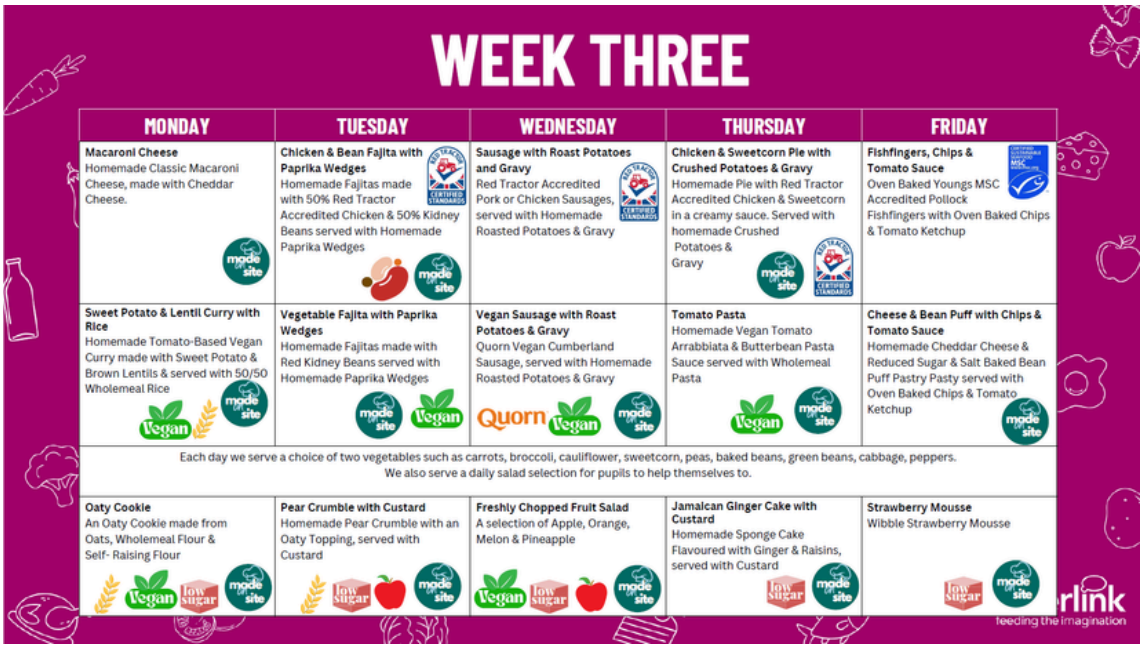
31.08.2026
21.09.2026
12.10.2026
02.11.2026
23.11.2026
14.12.2026
18.01.2027
08.02.2027
08.03.2027



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



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



SCHOOL UPDATES



School Photographs
Individual and sibling school photographs will take place on 3/11/26. If you would like any additional family group photographs, such as cousins, please let the school office know by 2/11/26 so that arrangements can be made.

CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY - THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2026

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



OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY

The children have been role playing working in the office, completing work on their lap tops, making diary dates and most importantly drinking tea and making plans for after work.



RECEPTION

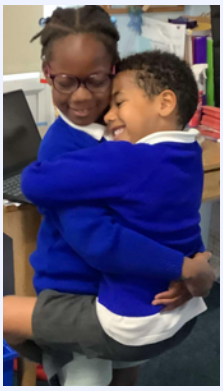


In reception this week we have been learning all about autumn. We have enjoyed collecting conkers, crunching through leaves and looking at the changing colours of the trees outside. We have also talked about hedgehogs and learned about how they start to prepare to hibernate during they autumn. We have enjoyed making and decorating hedgehogs for our autumn display this week.

YEAR 1

Year 1 have loved exploring I Love You, Blue Kangaroo! The children have been busy role playing Blue Kangaroo's emotions, including the special moment when Lily chooses him because she loves him the most. Our lovely photos capture their hug and the feeling of being loved and valued. 💙
We are also so proud of the children's writing this term. Their sentences and letter formation are coming on in leaps and bounds – or should we say hops and jumps, just like Blue Kangaroo! 🦘 Well done, Year 1!



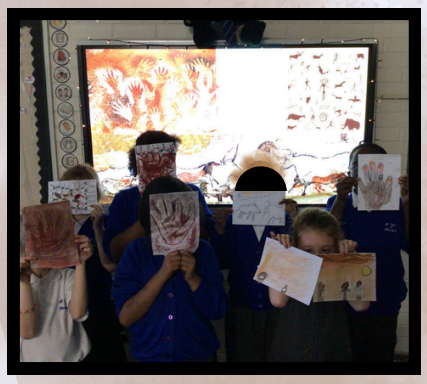

YEAR 2

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.



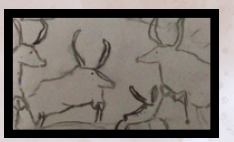



YEAR 3









This week, Year 3 combined their History and Art learning by creating their own Stone Age cave paintings. The children explored techniques such as smudging, shading and handprints to recreate the style of prehistoric artwork. They carefully considered their colour choices and the images they included, helping them to understand how Stone Age people used art to communicate their ideas and experiences. We were very impressed with their creativity and effort!

YEAR 4





Year 4 had a great final week of term 1! We published our fantastic fictional stories based around Ancient Egypt and even got to design a Sarcophagus for a Pharaoh. In Science we have been looking at States of Matter and experimenting with solids and liquids to see their melting and freezing point. We made sensible predictions and found some interesting conclusions! We have also played a few games of Kahoot to test our times table knowledge!



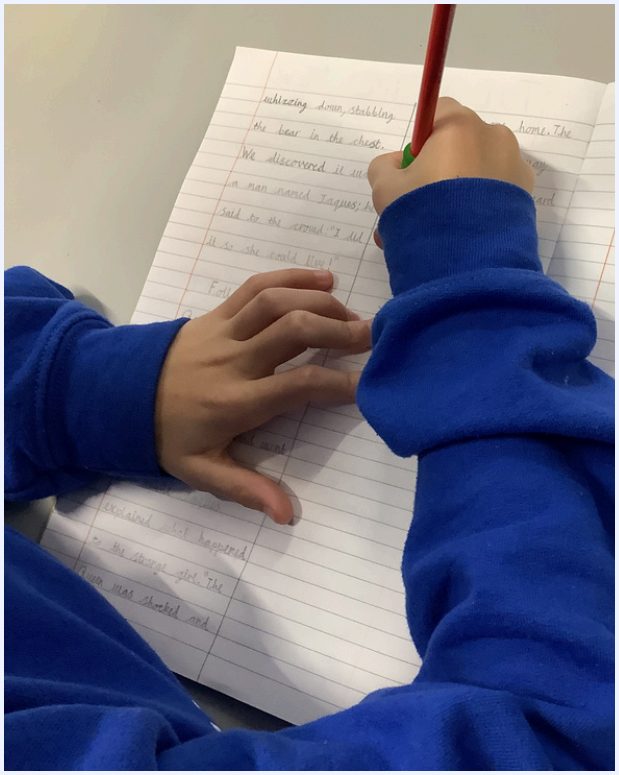
YEAR 5



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, Year 6 have been developing their journalistic skills while finishing their newspaper reports. The children explored the key events of the story and reported on them as journalists, using formal language, eye-catching headlines, direct and reported speech, and precise factual detail. They worked hard to present balanced accounts of events and considered how newspapers inform and engage their readers.



IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

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
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