ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November 2026

Head Boy and Head Girl Election





At the end of the summer term, pupils wishing to become part of our Pupil Leadership Team submitted applications for the role. Following this process, four boys and four girls were selected to join the team and begin their journey towards becoming Head Boy or Head Girl. Over the past week, they have worked incredibly hard, creating thoughtful campaigns and sharing their ideas with the school community. Today, our pupils took part in a democratic vote by visiting the polling station and casting their ballots.

Congratulations to Ava, who was elected Head Girl, and Jacob, who was elected Head Boy.









I am immensely proud of all the members of our Pupil Leadership Team for their courage, commitment and enthusiasm throughout the process.

I look forward to working with them all this year as we continue to make our school an even better place for everyone.

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 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: 94.7%

Year	Percentage
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	99.3%
Year 3	93.1%
Year 4	90.7%
Year 5	93.1%
Year 6	91%



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

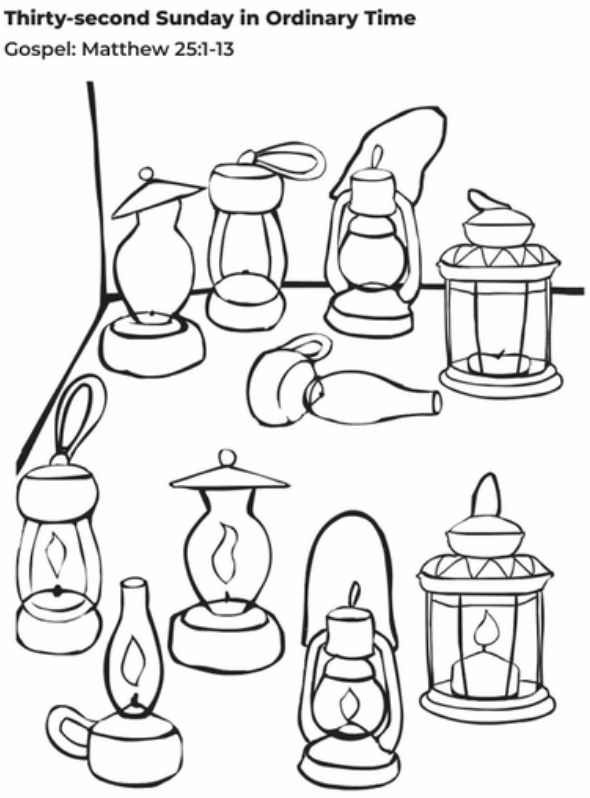
CAFOD Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy

Prayers and resources for children's liturgy catechists.

cafod.org.uk



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

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 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



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

This week we have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the reason why we have bonfire night. We acted out him being found in the cellar of the Houses of Parliament with 36 barrels of Gunpowder.
We created art work and music to sound like fireworks going Whoosh, Bang and Sparkle.
Using ribbons and pom poms we also choreographed our own firework dance.







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



English 🗺️✏️

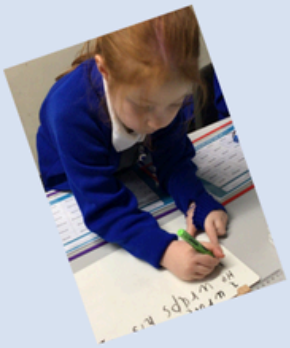
This week, Year 1 have been very busy becoming little mapmakers as we began exploring our new story, The Boy Who Loved Maps. The children have enjoyed completing their mapmaker missions, using their imagination and developing their understanding of maps. For Mission 5, the children put their writing skills to work, focusing on writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have been so pleased with their enthusiasm and the effort they have put into their writing. Well done, Year 1! 🌟







YEAR 2



In English, we have been learning about words beginning with 'wr', where the 'w' is silent. The children enjoyed playing *Roll, Read and Write*, taking turns to roll a dice, read different 'wr' words and use them in their own sentences. They came up with some wonderfully creative and exciting sentences, showing off their imagination!



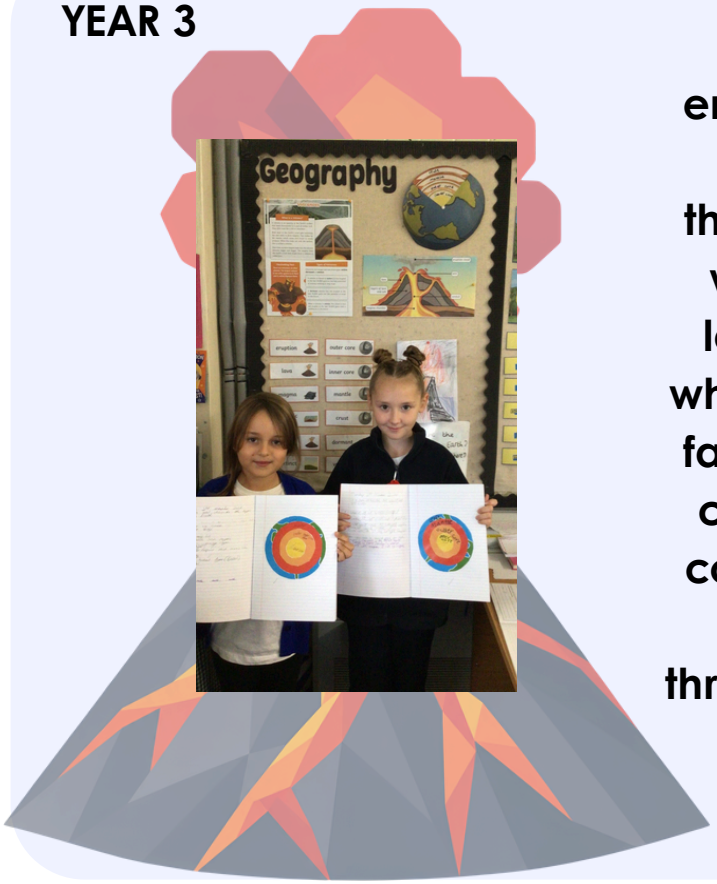








YEAR 3



In Geography, Year 3 have enthusiastically begun their exciting volcanoes topic. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first lesson, where they explored the different layers of the Earth and discovered what lies beneath our feet. They were fascinated to learn about the Earth's crust, mantle, outer core and inner core, and showed great curiosity by asking thoughtful questions throughout the lesson. We are looking forward to building on this knowledge!

YEAR 4







Year 4 have worked very hard this first week back and have jumped straight into a new class text called 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo which links to our topic in Geography of Rainforests which we have loved exploring.

In DT we have been testing biscuits to see how they taste, their texture and their packaging.

In Maths we have been continuing our addition and subtraction unit as well as working on our times table fluency!

YEAR 5









In Science this week, year 5 have been exploring how plants reproduce. They learned about seeds to reproduce plants, but also how bulbs, runners and tuber plants can reproduce too. Year 5 enjoyed exploring outside to find different seeds within our school grounds.





YEAR 6



Year 6 have begun their new RE topic, exploring the role of Mary within God's plan of salvation. The children have started to explore how Mary is portrayed in Scripture, making links between women in the Old Testament and Mary's unique role as the Mother of Jesus

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