

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 2nd October 2026

Another Wonderful Week at St Thomas'

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at St Thomas', with so much to celebrate. It is always a pleasure to see our children engaged in their learning, working hard and showing kindness to one another.

A special highlight this week was our Year 6 pupils attending the start-of-year KSCP Trust Mass at Aylesford. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together with other schools from across the Trust to celebrate the beginning of a new academic year. We were incredibly proud of the way our Year 6 children represented St Thomas' and lived out our school values throughout the day.

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



MULTICULTURAL WEEK

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that the week beginning 5th October, will be Multicultural Week at St Thomas of Canterbury. This is a special opportunity for our children to celebrate the rich diversity within our school community and learn about cultures from around the world.

Throughout the week, children will be exploring the lives and contributions of significant figures, gaining a deeper understanding of their impact on history, society and culture.

To make the week even more meaningful, we warmly invite you to take part in the following events:



International Dress Day – Wednesday 7th October

Children are encouraged to come to school dressed in traditional clothing that reflects their cultural background. This celebration of identity helps foster pride and appreciation for our diverse community.



International Food Festival – Thursday 8th October

We would love for families to bring in a dish that represents their heritage or culture to share with the community after school. This is a wonderful way for children to experience the tastes and traditions of different countries. Please let the school office know if you can support this event.



Story Sharing Sessions – Throughout the Week

We invite parents and carers to visit their child's class to share a story or talk about their heritage. Whether it's a folktale, a personal experience, or a cultural tradition, your voice will help bring our learning to life.

If you would like to participate in any of these events, please let your child's class teacher know via Class Dojo. We look forward to celebrating with you and making this week a joyful and educational experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Miss A Wright



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!



Whole School Attendance: 97.8%

Year	Percentage
Reception	98%
Year 1	99%
Year 2	98.6%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	91.6%



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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32



Being away from caregivers

General worries

School worries

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANXIETY?

Bedtime fears

Social worries

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

& more

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/videocall 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.

LUNCH MENU'S

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

The children enjoyed acting out the story of the Gingerbreadman and even suggested using a bridge, boat or stepping stones to cross the river, rather than trusting the fox. They listened carefully to instructions to bake their own Gingerbreadman and made sure all windows and doors were shut so they could not escape. We also ate the legs first so he could not run away!



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

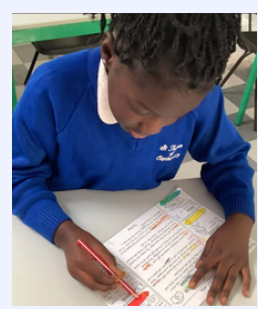
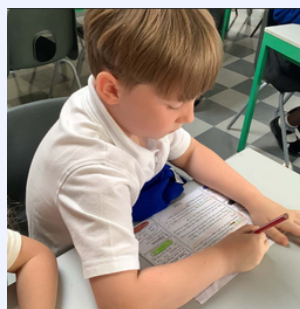
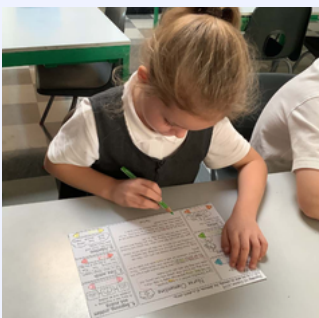
🌹 Year 1 – Little Things with Great Love 🌹

Year 1 have been learning all about St Thérèse of Lisieux and her special Little Way – showing great love through the little things we do each day. Inspired by St Thérèse and her love of roses, the children carefully cut out roses before continuing to develop their fine motor skills by pinching, scrunching and shaping tissue paper to create a beautiful shower of roses. We have been thinking about how we can follow St Thérèse's example by doing small things with great big love – sharing with others, offering a smile, using kind words, helping a friend and showing that we care. During Little Way Week, Year 1 are going to try extra hard to fill our days with these little acts of kindness and discover how even the smallest gesture can make a big difference!

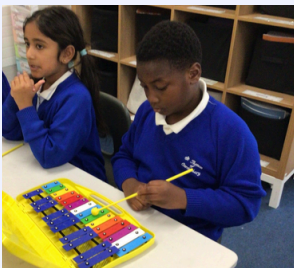


YEAR 2

In English this week, the children have been exploring the features of narrative writing. They have enjoyed identifying key features in a model story, including characters, setting, sequencing words, description and an ending. The children are now very excited to use these ideas to plan their own narratives and are looking forward to creating their own imaginative stories.



YEAR 3



In Year 3 Music, the children have been developing their musical skills by learning to play the recorder and glockenspiel. They have been practising reading and following simple musical notation, keeping a steady beat and playing notes accurately. The children have worked hard to improve their technique and confidence, and it has been wonderful to see them listening carefully, supporting one another and enjoying making music together.

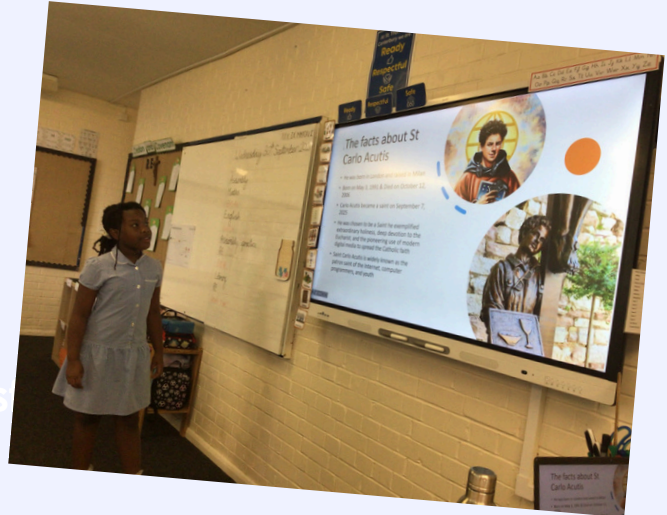
YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 have been planning to write a fiction story about Ancient Egypt using our facts and vocabulary taught over this topic in both English and History. In Maths we have been looking comparing numbers and learning how to represent numbes as Roman numerals!

We have also been working hard on our handwriting skills, especially working on our cursive letter formation everyday.



YEAR 5



Year 5 have proudly shared their homework this week which was to research our class saint, St. Carlos Acutis. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine, with the children creating posters, quizzes, power points and even a homemade computer! They have thoughtfully shared facts about St. Carlos Acutis and have learned in the spirit of this saint - you don't have to be old to make a difference in this world.

YEAR 6

Our Year 6 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit Aylesford Priory to attend the Trust's Beginning of the Year Mass. Joining pupils and staff from across our Trust, the children took part in a beautiful and reflective celebration, focusing on the values and aspirations that will guide us throughout the year ahead.



IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

Thursday 24th September 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Monday 28th October 2026	Little Way Week
Tuesday 29th September 2026	KCSP Trust Mass at Aylesford – Year 6
Friday 2nd October 2026	15:15 Year 5 class assembly
Wednesday 7th October 2026	National dress day for children
Thursday 8th October 2026	09:30 Reception 2027 open morning
Thursday 8th October 2026	15:45 Food festival
Friday 9th October 2026	KS2 trip Wildwood
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