



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th September 2026

It has been another busy and positive week at school, and I continue to be incredibly proud of our children and all that they achieve. It is always wonderful to see the enthusiasm, kindness and determination that our pupils bring to school each day. Whether they are tackling something challenging in the classroom, taking part in activities or simply being a good friend to someone, there is so much for us to celebrate.

I would also like to draw your attention to our PTA's upcoming AGM. Our PTA plays such an important part in school life, helping to organise events, bring our community together and raise valuable funds to benefit our children. The AGM is a great opportunity to find out more about the PTA, hear about their plans for the year ahead and discover how you can get involved. We would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

A special congratulations goes to Year 4, who achieved the best attendance in the school this week. Well done, Year 1. Keep up the great work!

Mrs Gallagher

Well done to Georgia, who created this brilliant painted rock featuring our school logo. What a creative way to show her school pride!



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!

PTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BAKES, BREWS & BIG IDEAS

JOIN THE
PTA'S AGM



FRIDAY 9TH
OCT

2:30 PM

COME ALONG TO DISCUSS FUTURE EVENTS & IDEAS!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whole School Attendance: 97.8%

ATTENDANCE Previous seven days	
Reception :	97.3%
Year 1:	98%
Year 2	97.5%
Year 3	99.3%
Year 4	99.7%
Year 5	97.6%
Year 6	94.5%



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](http://rcrainham.co.uk)
 [\(rcrainham.co.uk\)](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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



OUR WEEK AT SCHOOL

NURSERY

This week is all about hands. We have had fun mark making in shaving foam and using our hands and fingers in number rhymes.

We mixed paint with our hands to make new colours.

The children have talked about how we have good hands in nursery and enjoyed joining hands to dance, use play dough, build and share the resources.



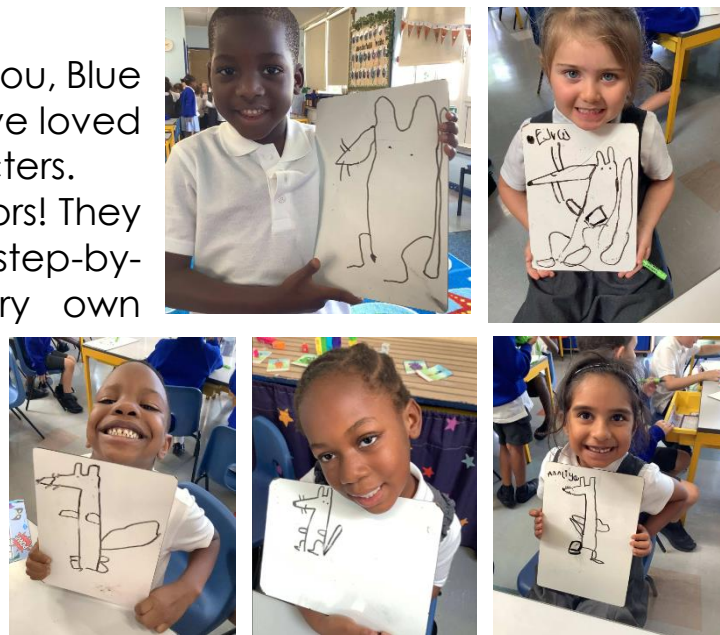
RECEPTION

This week reception have been practicing the numbers 1 to 10. We have been doing lots of counting, recognising numbers and trying to form them using a variety of resources such as paintbrushes in sand, whiteboards and pens, chalk and decorating numbers with tissue paper collage. Well done reception you are all number superstars!



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been busy enjoying I Love You, Blue Kangaroo! in our English lessons. We have loved getting to know the story and its characters. This week, the children became illustrators! They listened carefully and followed a set of step-by-step instructions to create their very own drawings of Blue Kangaroo. We were so impressed with their careful listening, concentration and creativity — and, as you can see, they were very proud of their finished illustrations! Well done, Year 1 — what wonderful illustrators you are!



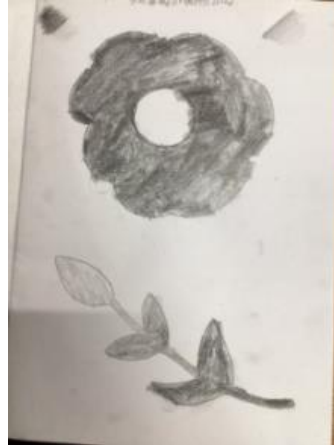
YEAR 2

Year 2 have been using practical resources such as rekenreks, counters and Base 10 to help them understand numbers and place value. These hands-on activities have allowed the children to build, compare and explore numbers in a visual way, helping them gain confidence in their mathematical understanding. They have also been learning different ways to record their work, moving from using physical resources to drawing pictures and writing number sentences. The children have enjoyed explaining their thinking and sharing different methods, helping them to develop their confidence and fluency in maths.



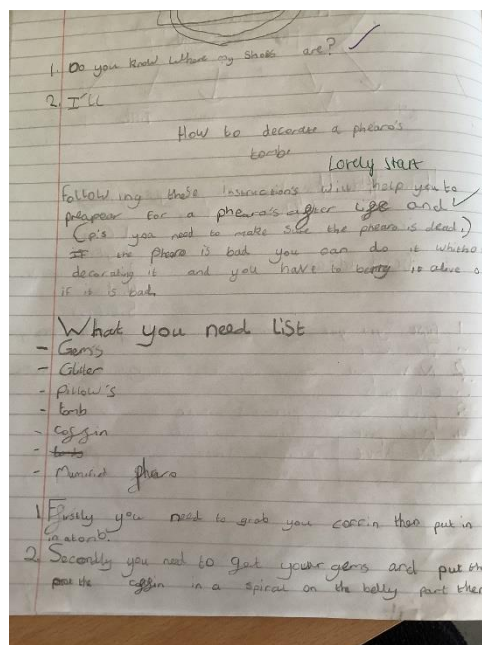
YEAR 3

This week in Art, the children have been exploring shading and learning how artists use light and dark tones to make their drawings look more realistic. They experimented with different pencil pressures to create a range of shades, practised blending from light to dark, and thought carefully about where shadows might fall. The children enjoyed seeing how shading can add shape, depth and texture to their drawings and showed great concentration and creativity throughout the lesson.



YEAR 4

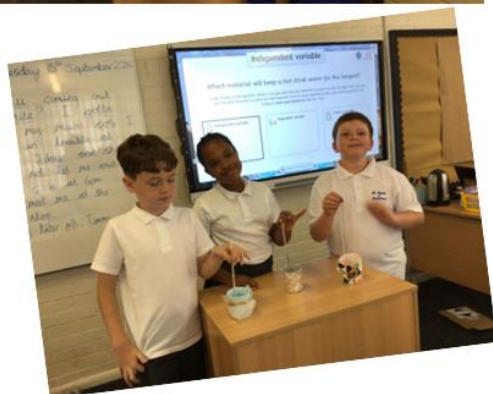
This week Year 4 have been working incredibly hard on their instruction writing. They have come up with their own title, what you need list and a set of instructions based on our topic of Egypt and our text 'The Boy who Stole the Pharaohs Lunch'. In maths we have been working on place value up to 10,000 and have been learning the different ways we can partition numbers. We have been working on our spelling and handwriting practice which we will be using across the curriculum to support our letter formation.



YEAR 5



Year 4 continued their investigations in Science this week by further testing the properties of materials. Children were asked to predict, test and then conclude which material would keep hot water hot the longest! They wrapped cups in materials including bubble wrap, tin foil and fabric before checking the thermometers every 5 minutes to record their results.



YEAR 6

This week in Art, the children have been exploring one-point perspective and learning how artists create the illusion of depth and distance. They have carefully practised drawing streets using a single vanishing point, applying techniques to make buildings, roads and other features appear realistic. The children showed great focus and creativity as they developed their observational drawing skills and produced some impressive cityscape artworks.



NEW DATES ADDED IN RED**Wider curriculum theme – OUR HERITAGE**

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