

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th September 2026

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school, with lots of wonderful learning taking place across all year groups. It has been lovely to see the children working hard, showing enthusiasm and living out our school values each day.

A huge congratulations to Year 1, who achieved an amazing 100% attendance this week! What a fantastic achievement. Well done to all our Year 1 children and families for helping us reach this brilliant result. Every day really does matter!

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



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 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!



Whole School Attendance: 97.8%

Year	Percentage
Reception	99.7%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	99.7%
Year 6	97.1%



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

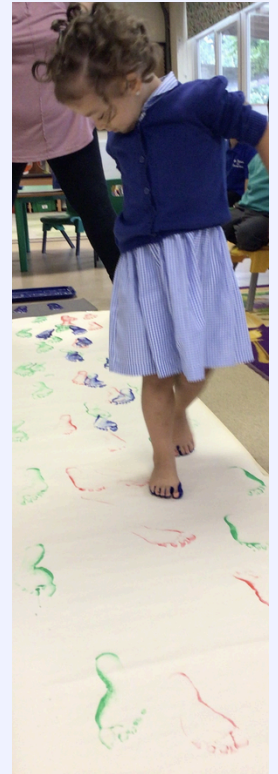
WEEK TWO				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Classic Cheese & Tomato Pizza with New Potatoes Homemade 50/50 Wholemeal Bread Base topped with Cheddar Cheese & a Homemade Tomato Sauce. Served with New Potatoes 	Spaghetti Bolognese Red Tractor Accredited Beef Mince & Brown Lentil Bolognese Sauce 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 

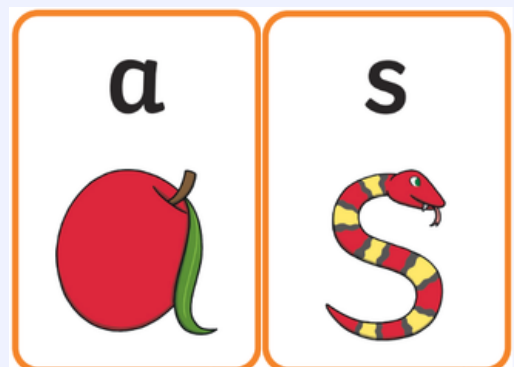
NURSERY

We have been using our feet to dance, jump and paint. The children really enjoyed walking in paint and loved the Copperwheat foot spa afterwards. We have used pennies to buy footwear at our shoe shop and counted socks when making pairs.



RECEPTION

This week in reception we have started phonics! We have learned that the letters of the alphabet make sounds and the sounds we have learned this week are 's' and 'a'. We have practiced writing these letters in sand, with paintbrushes and water, with our magic finger pencils and with writing pencils. We have learned actions to help us to remember the sounds these letters make; we wiggle our hands like a snake when making the 's' sound and pretend to be eating a big juicy apple when we make the 'a' sound. We cannot wait to learn more letter sounds! Well done reception!



YEAR 1

Taking a Line for a Walk



This week in Art, Year 1 explored how music can inspire the marks and lines we create. We discovered that artist Paul Klee often played the violin before painting to inspire his ideas. Following his example, the children listened carefully to different types of music and had great fun "taking a line for a walk." As the music changed, they experimented with straight, curved, wavy, zigzag, looping and spiral lines, thinking carefully about their pressure, movement and control. The children enjoyed working on a large scale and discovering how sounds, rhythms and moods could be transformed into expressive marks on paper.

YEAR 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time taking part in a drama workshop based on the Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Through drama, acting, and exciting superhero-inspired moves and powers, the children explored how they can help keep our world healthy and protect the environment. They showed great creativity, enthusiasm and confidence as they embraced their roles, impressing both me and the drama teacher with their energy and imagination. Well done, Year 2, for your wonderful participation and for demonstrating how small actions can make a big difference!



YEAR 3

THIS WEEK YEAR 3 BECAME ARCHAEOLOGISTS!

In History this week Year 3 became archaeologists! The children had to excavate the grave of 'The Amesbury Archer' and explore the case using various clues. The case report included who the Amesbury Archer was, where the grave was excavated and what the grave contained! Finally, the class had a debate over whether the name Amesbury Archer is factually accurate or not! The end decision was that the name is inaccurate! Well done Year 3 for your professional examination of artefacts and exceptional analysis of evidence.

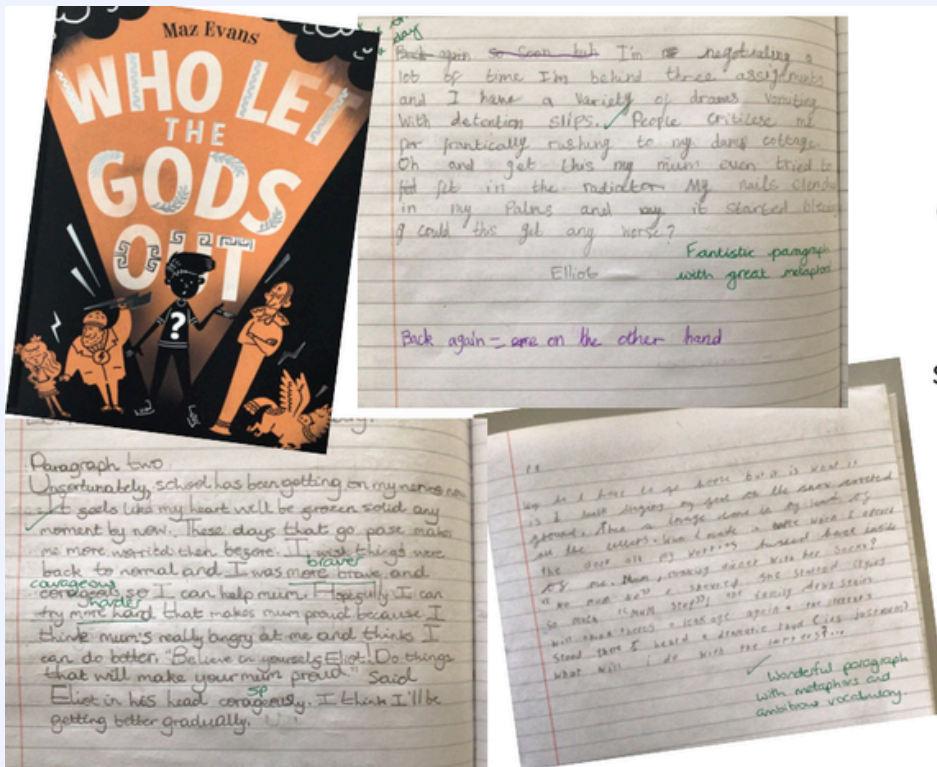


YEAR 4

This week year 4 have been using their dictionary skills to find the definition of words from our class text. We found out the meaning of kilt, ancient and hieroglyphics! We also carried out a science observation where we explored our school grounds for living things, we found spiders, bees and different kinds of bird which we sketched and recorded in our books.



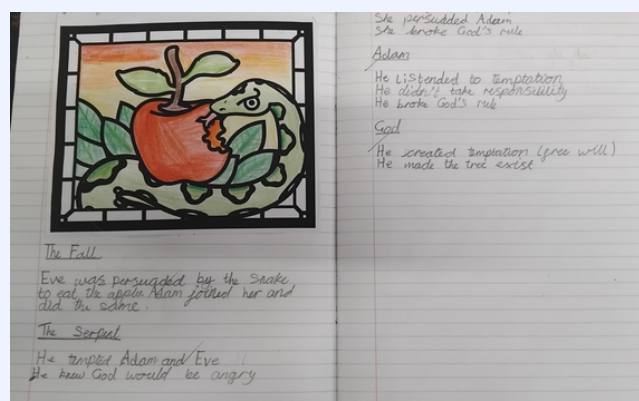
YEAR 5



In our writing so far this term, year 5 have been learning to draft a diary entry, based on our class text 'Who Let the Gods Out'. Year 5 are thoroughly enjoying this story and have immersed themselves in the character of Elliot. They have been challenging themselves to use more ambitious vocabulary in their writing – well done year 5 writers!

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been exploring the Christian story of Creation and reflecting on what it teaches us about God, humanity and our responsibility for the world around us. Through thoughtful discussions and creative activities, the children have uncovered hidden messages within the creation narrative and considered how these messages remain relevant today.



YEARS 1, 2 & 3 DRAMA WORKSHOPS



This week the children in reception, year 1, year 2 and year 3 were taken on an adventure with Perform Drama School. This high-energy workshop invited pupils to suit up alongside Supa Dupa, a superhero on a mission to save the planet from pollution, waste and the chaotic Bad Boppa. We were greeted by Super Bear who taught us all about how to look after our planet through the use of Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. The children all had a wonderful time engaging in activities designed to support their understanding of taking care of the world and they all successfully completed their missions! Well done Eco Warriors!



IMPORTANT DATES

New Dates in Red

Wider Curriculum Theme - Our Heritage

Friday 25th September 2026	15:15 – Celebration Assembly
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
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Friday 18th December 2026	Last day term – 14:00 finish
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Christmas Holiday Saturday 19th December to Sunday 3rd January

Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day – Staff only at school
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Tuesday 5th January 2027	Children return to school
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