



# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

### STAFFING

We are delighted to welcome Miss Ebanks to our school community as our new Office Administrator. Miss Ebanks brings warmth, enthusiasm, and she has already made a wonderful start in supporting the school. We are excited to have her as part of our team.

### PARKING

We kindly remind all families to park safely and considerately during drop-off and collection times. Please be mindful of our neighbours, avoid blocking driveways, and ensure that children can enter and leave the school safely. Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe and supports a calm, respectful environment for our whole community. Thank you for your continued support.

### MEDWAY FOODBANK



#### 2025 Shopping list #2

If you are able to help, we urgently need more of the following:

#### FOOD & DRINK:

- Pasta sauce
- Instant mash
- Tinned ham or corned beef
- Tinned 'meals with meat' such as pies, chilli or Bolognese
- Tinned fruit
- Fruit juice – long-life
- Squash/Soft drinks – small bottles
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant soup/Cup-a-Soup
- Sugar – 500g/small packs
- Instant coffee
- Tinned vegetables

#### TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD:

- Shampoo
- Deodorant for men and women
- Washing-up liquid
- Shaving foam & razors

**THANK YOU for joining us to help stop UK hunger!**

[medway.foodbank.org.uk](https://medway.foodbank.org.uk); 01634 757057

Registered Charity No: 1166505



This year, our school is supporting Medway Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations. On Thursday, the children took part in a special assembly where a member of the Food Bank team spoke about the important work they do and how we can help those in need in our local community. We are kindly asking families to donate items from the Food Bank's requested list. All donations should be brought to school by **Friday 10th October**, and children should hand them to their class teacher.



Thank you for your generosity and support.

## [PTA](#)

The PTA will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Monday 6th October at 15:45**, and we'd be delighted to see you there. It's a fantastic opportunity to hear more about what the PTA does, share your ideas, and find out how you can get involved. Everyone is welcome!

## [RECEPTION 2026](#)

If you know of a child who is due to start school in September 2026, we warmly invite them to visit our school and experience first-hand the vibrant, supportive, and nurturing environment we offer.

### **Why Visit Us?**

**Meet Our Staff:** Get to know our dedicated teachers and support staff who are committed to your child's development.

**Explore Our Facilities:** Take a tour of our classrooms, library, playground, and other facilities to see where your child will learn and grow.

**Learn About Our Curriculum:** Understand our approach to education and how we tailor learning to meet the needs of each student.

**Ask Questions:** We welcome any questions you may have about our school, curriculum, and the admissions process.

The next session will run on the following days and times:

9th October 2025 - 9.15

30th October 2025 - 13.30

11th November 2025 - 13.30

25th November 2025 - 13.30

8th January 2026 - 9.15

[Book here](#)

**Applications opened on Monday 1st September 2025 and close on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 5pm.**

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>CASTLE POINTS</u>
		DOVER -
Reception	95.02%	
Year 1	95.79%	HEVER -
Year 2	98.72%	
Year 3	98.52%	LEEDS -
Year 4	97.08%	
Year 5	96.39%	ROCHESTER -
Year 6	93.15%	

### **Child Protection at St Thomas of Canterbury**

Please note, if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding any child at St Thomas of Canterbury please report your concerns to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) at the school.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are: **Mrs. Copperwheat, Mrs. Gallagher, and Mrs. Thomas**

### LUNCH MENU

# LUNCH

## Week 3

W/C 15/09, 06/10, 27/10, 17/11, 08/12, 19/01, 09/02



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Slab (V)	BBQ Chicken & Rice	Roast Chicken & Roast Potatoes	Traditional Lasagne	Fish Fingers & Chips
MAIN 2	Creamy Leek & Cheese Pie (V)	Authentic Chickpea & Spinach Curry, Rice (V)	Flaky Puff Pastry Wellington & Roast Potatoes (Ve)	Hearty Spaghetti & Meatballs (Ve)	Jerk Hot Dog & Chips (Ve)
VEG	Wedges & Sweetcorn	Roasted Cauliflower	Savoy Cabbage & Roasted Squash	Focaccia & Green Beans	Carrots & Peas or Baked Beans
3 <sup>RD</sup> OPTION	Pasta, Jacket Potato & Deli	Pasta, Jacket Potato & Deli	Pasta, Jacket Potato & Deli	Pasta, Jacket Potato & Deli	Pasta, Jacket Potato & Deli
DESSERT	Apple & Cinnamon Flapjack (Ve)	Chocolate Mousse (V)	Pear & Ginger Cake (Ve)	Autumn Fruit Pie & Custard (V)	Freshly Baked Vanilla Cookie (Ve)

AVAILABLE DAILY: A selection of fresh seasonal fruit (cut or whole) (V), flavoured yoghurts (V) as well as freshly baked bread (V) & seasonal salad bar (Ve). Third option includes vegan and vegetarian items.

#### MENU KEY



Vegetarian



Vegan and Planet Friendly



New Dish





## 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**



### KCSP Trust Mass

Our Year 6 pupils proudly represented the school at the Trust Mass held at Aylesford Priory, celebrated by Canon Victor. It was a truly special occasion, bringing together all the schools in our Trust to mark the beginning of the academic year. United in faith and community, the Mass offered a meaningful opportunity to be close to Jesus and to reflect on the journey ahead. It was a joyful celebration of togetherness, hope, and the values we share, setting a positive tone for the year to come.



### October – The Month of the Holy Rosary

October is a special month in the Catholic calendar as we honour Our Lady of the Rosary. During this time, children will be learning about the importance of prayer and reflecting on the mysteries of the Rosary in class and collective worship.

We warmly invite parents and carers to join us in saying the Rosary in the school hall every Thursday morning at 8:30am throughout October. This is a lovely opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection as a school community.



We encourage families to take time to pray the Rosary together at home and join us in celebrating this beautiful tradition of faith.

### Marian family prayer ideas

## 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!



What great chefs we are following a recipe.





## RECEPTION

### Fruit or Vegetable?

This week we have been learning about healthy eating. We have been learning about fruits and vegetables and trying some! Do you know the difference between a fruit and a vegetable?

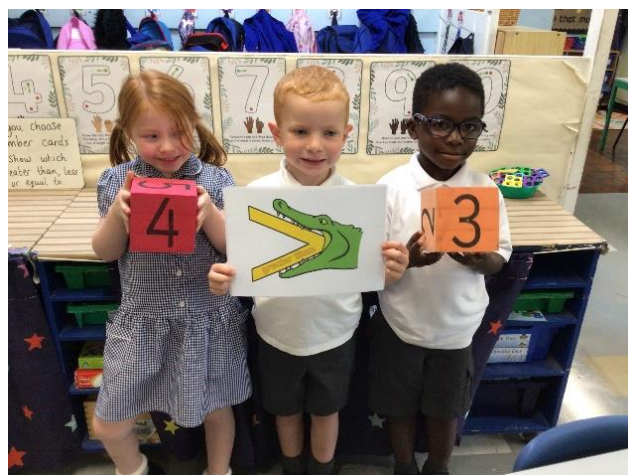


A fruit has seeds! So if you eat something like a strawberry, tomato or a cucumber you are actually eating a fruit!

Vegetables are any part of the plant that do not contain seeds! That's the roots, stem, leaves and even the unopened flower buds!

## YEAR 1

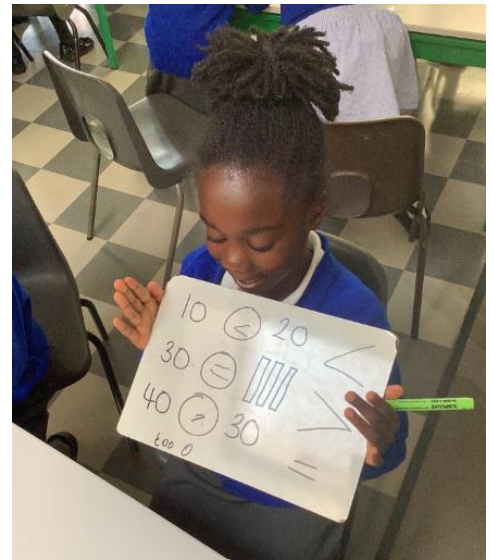
This week in maths year 1 have been learning the words greater than, less than and equal to. We have learned that there are symbols that we can use to show when numbers are greater than, less than or equal to and have been practicing using them. These symbols look a little bit like hungry crocodiles and to help us remember the correct way to use them we have learned that the crocodile always likes to 'eat' the greatest number. We love maths!





## YEAR 2

Year 2 have been learning about narratives this week and we are in the middle of writing out own narratives about Florence Nightingale. We have also been learning lots about fact families and using part whole models and tens frames to create addition and subtraction number sentences. We have loved exploring the Library more this week and we are excited to swap our Library books! In PE, we have been working on team building and using words of encouragement to cheer on our team members!



## YEAR 3

Dear Diary,

What an exciting few weeks it has been in Year 3! We've been diving back in time to the Stone Age and exploring what life might have been like for a child living thousands of years ago. As part of our English lessons, we looked closely at an example of a diary entry written from the perspective of a Stone Age child. It really helped us understand how to plan our own writing. We've been busy drafting our own diary entries, imagining what it would be like to hunt for food, make fire, and live in a cave! Then came the editing stage - checking our punctuation, improving our word choices, and making sure our ideas flowed clearly. Everyone worked so hard and showed brilliant creativity. In art, we even created our own paint using natural materials and made Stone Age-style cave paintings to accompany our write-ups!

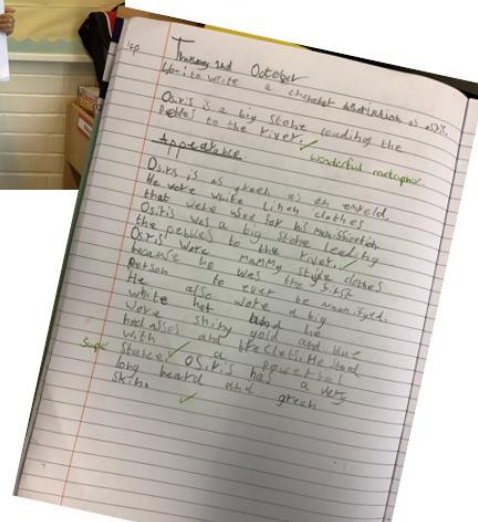
Until next time,  
Year 3



## YEAR 4

### Writing a Character Description of Osiris (an Egyptian God)

Year 4 have learned about Osiris, a mythological Ancient Egyptian God. They have enjoyed learning that he was God of the Underworld – unable to resurrect himself, his wife (Isis) mummified him and welcomed Egyptians to the afterlife.



## YEAR 5

Year 5 became materials scientists this week, investigating which materials are the best thermal insulators. They designed jackets for cups of hot water using materials like bubble wrap, tinfoil, fabric and cardboard, then measured which kept the water warmest after 10 minutes. The children loved getting hands-on with their experiments and were amazed by the results – some materials were much better insulators than expected! They're now experts at keeping drinks hot and can explain exactly why certain materials work better than others.





## YEAR 6

This week, Year 6 have been exploring Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where he spoke to his followers about the Beatitudes. We enjoyed listening to Jesus' speech, outlining an ideal way of life and emphasising qualities such as humility, mercy, and a pursuit of righteousness, with the promise of a great reward. Following our reflection, the children created their own artwork to represent the Beatitudes, using bees and hives to create their own bee-attitudes for others to follow. Year 6 have tried hard this week to follow their ideal behaviours, being great role models for the school.



NEW DATES ADDED IN RED	
Wider curriculum theme – OUR HERITAGE	
1 – 31 <sup>st</sup> October Black History Month	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA AGM – All welcome
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening Registration Opens on Arbor
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year R Class Assembly – all are welcome to attend
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 Half Term	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Evening 16:00 – 18:00
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Evening 16:00 – 20:00
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 4 Class Assembly - all are welcome to attend
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Secondary School applications closing date
NOVEMBER	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual School Photos
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Youth Games Basketball – selected pupils
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Celebration Assembly – all are welcome to attend
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2026 – School Tour 13.30

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November Anti Bullying Week	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 2 Class Assembly – all are welcome to attend
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	PTA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2026 – School Tour 13.30
DECEMBER	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Choir – Rochester Cathedral
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Nativity 09.00
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity – 1.30pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity – 1.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Rock Steady Concert 2.30pm – all are welcome to attend
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	14:00 finish – Last day of term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026 – Christmas Holiday	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Inset Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception 2026 – School Tour 09:15
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Youth games Cross Country – selected pupils
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices at the O2 – selected pupils
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Half Term	