St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Welcome to a new term and to a new school year! We hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and we are looking forward to working with you and your children over the coming year. As you are aware, the class teachers are Mrs Thomas and Mrs Tillman.

		
Mrs. Thomas **Class Teacher** Monday, Tuesday and Friday.	**Mrs Tillman** **Class Teacher** Wednesday and Thursday.	**Mrs Olsen** **Teaching Assistant** Mornings only

Mrs. Thomas will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays whilst Mrs Tillman will be teaching on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Olsen is our class Teaching Assistant and will be with us every morning – please be aware she is currently unwell but is hoping to return in a couple of weeks.

Year 1 has a structured timetable and all National Curriculum subjects will be taught. We will manage the transition into the more formal setting over the coming weeks and are confident the children will continue to love learning and school. We welcome communication with parents and we are available at the end of the school day once the children have been dismissed. We will continue to use ClassDojo to communicate and message parents directly and you are able to contact us via this platform. Please ensure you have access to the school Arbor account to receive all letters and contact from the school office. Key information can be found on the school website: https://www.stthomascanterbury.org.uk (Please be aware this is currently under construction)

Our main focus of learning is Reading, Writing and Maths. Please refer to the Curriculum overview which provides further information about the subjects the children will be learning about this term.

Our PE lessons are on a Thursday and Friday, PE kits are kept in school for our year group. Please ensure PE kits are named and returned promptly at the beginning of each term. Earrings should be removed for PE lessons; please be aware we are unable to remove them for the children and they can not be covered with tape for health and safety reasons.

Homework will be given out on a Thursday and should be returned by the following Wednesday at the latest. Unfortunately, we will not be able to mark homework that is submitted after a Wednesday so encourage all homework to be completed on time. Children should complete their homework with a pencil and we ask for it to be your child's work only please.

Your child will have two reading scheme books to read at home. Please aim to read with your child for 10 minutes every day and record this in the reading contact book. Your child will also choose a school library book to share at home every week. Please encourage your child to look after school books and ensure that they bring their reading folder to school every day.

We are excited to be teaching your children this year and being part of their next chapter. We look forward to meeting you all. If you have any concerns, queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We are more than happy to meet with you.

We realise there is big step up to Year 1 and we will manage this carefully through a combination of formal learning and play based experiences. We know you want to aid your child's learning at home so have listed some ideas below:

Reading and Phonics	Writing	Maths
Read, read, read. Reading with and to your child is the single most powerful thing you can do to support their learning and progress at school. • Join the local library and get involved in their activities. Bed time stories. Reading to family members. Phonics! Sound out letters and practice letter sound. We will share weekly phonics with you via ClassDojo.	Encourage your child to write, but make it fun and meaningful. For example, writing a shopping list for a meal they have chosen, writing a holiday diary or sending a postcard to Granny and Grandad. Correct letter formation is a focus in Year 1. Practise handwriting and letter formation. If your child has a weak grip or struggles to hold a pencil, strengthen their fingers using activities such as playdough, bead threading, construction with bricks and card lacing.	Practice counting to 100 (and beyond!) forwards and backwards. Practise telling the time to the hour and half hour on a clock with hands. Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Talk about 'more than' and 'less than' and look for 2D and 3D shapes in the world around you. Involve your children in real life maths such as measuring, problem solving.

