

WHAT WILL I BE DOING IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR?



The Curriculum

At ST Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School we encourage the development of each individual. We accept that you as parents are the first and most important teachers of your children and we support you in continuing this process. With parents, teachers and children, working together, we can achieve a great deal. At St Thomas' we offer **all** children a broad and balanced curriculum which draws on each child's own experience of the world and seeks to develop and extend their understanding of it. The curriculum is planned and sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before.

Children are encouraged to see themselves as active participants in their own learning. They are encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards themselves, their work and towards others. We actively encourage the children to become independent and self-disciplined learners.

At St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School the curriculum offered includes;

- RE
- National Curriculum Core Subjects: English, Maths and Science
- Foundation Subjects: Computing, History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art and Design, PE, Music and French (KS 2 only)

Personal, Social, Health Education is also taught through all elements of our curriculum as well as a discrete subject.

Whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum at St Thomas', priority is given to the teaching of the National Curriculum core subjects and RE. The school has drawn up a plan, which indicates the National Curriculum Programmes of Study which must be covered by each year group. Where it is not possible to make links between subjects, then these are taught on an individual basis. Teachers plan their work, as a team, half termly. From these plans more detailed weekly and daily plans are drawn up.

The teaching staff consider what the children need to learn, why they are teaching it and carefully consider how to teach and assess it. They ensure that essential skills and knowledge for future learning are '**embedded**' each year, whilst also challenging pupils to use and apply new knowledge and skills confidently in a range of contexts.

The school focuses on promoting excellent attitudes to learning. We encourage a 'can do' attitude and approach to learning and have high expectations of what children can achieve.

The methods and strategies used to teach these skills are left to the discretion of the year group to ensure that learning and teaching remains fresh, focused and inspiring. The National Curriculum provides the statutory content so that the school can ensure progression and coverage across the key stages.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking, which takes place both indoors and outside. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

Communication and language

- Listening and attention
- Understanding
- Speaking

Physical development

- Moving and handling
- Health and self care

Personal, social and emotional development

- Making relationships
- Self-confidence and self-awareness
- Managing feelings and behavior

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in the **4 specific areas**. These are:

Literacy

- Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

- Number
- Shape, space and measure

Understanding the world

- People and communities
- The world
- Technology

Expressive arts and design

- Exploring and using media and materials

- Being imaginative

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Learning takes place through a combination of whole class teaching, group activities and child initiated play and exploration. Each teacher will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING IN SCHOOL THIS TERM?

An overview of some of the work being carried out in EYFS during the Autumn Term.

The Autumn Term

In **R.E.** our topics are:

Myself

- The children will learn about God's love for each one of us.

Welcome

- The children will learn how we are invited into God's family at Baptism.

Birthday

- The children will learn we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The EYFS Curriculum will be delivered through the medium of books in order to make it as exciting and as stimulating as possible. Each week or fortnight, a different book will be used as a basis for classroom activities, and all stories will link to this term's topics, which are; Myself and My Family, Dinosaurs, Bears, Pirates and Christmas. Topics are kept short in Reception in order to maintain the children's interest and enthusiasm. Some of the stories we will be covering include; 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs', 'Goldilocks', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'My Gran is a Pirate' and The Christmas Story.

Through our topics we will be teaching the children a variety of skills. Whilst sharing their memory boxes with friends, children will be encouraged to speak in full sentences in front of a group of children. They will also be encouraged to listen attentively to other children and ask questions. We will also discuss what makes our family special, how to be a kind friend, and make cards and friendship bracelets. This will help the children to recognise how we should behave in the classroom, and develop their fine motor skills. We will also develop fine and gross motor skills by making porridge, digging for treasure and dressing and undressing using a variety of role-play costumes. Children will develop their understanding of numbers by counting how many items are in treasure chests and matching them to the correct numeral, and putting numbered houses back in the correct order. The children will also learn to order objects by size and measure using non-standard units (cubes) using pictures of different size bowls, chairs, beds and bears. We will explore a variety of media and materials, tools and techniques in order to paint self-portraits, create dinosaur eggs using paper maché and make bear faces using clay and decorate them using natural collage.

In **Phonics** we will begin the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. The children will learn:

- **To read the twenty-six initial sounds and write them using the correct letter formation.**
- **To recognise and write their name.**
- **To identify the initial sounds in words.**

In **mathematics** we will be learning:

- **To recognise, count and order numbers.**
- 2D shape names and properties. We will look for shapes in our environment.
- To make patterns.
- To measure using non-standard units
- To have a sense of time.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING IN SCHOOL THIS TERM?

An overview of some of the work being carried out in EYFS during the Spring Term.

The Spring Term

In **R.E.** our topics are

Celebrating

- We will be learning about the importance of Jesus being born, and how the parish and our families celebrate.

Gathering

- We will be learning that it is a time to be like Jesus as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. The children will learn how we gather together at Mass to listen to the word of God.

Growing

- We will be learning about spring and new life as we learn that Jesus rose from the dead to go to live with God in heaven.

This term we will be covering the topics Pirates, Let's Pretend, Space, The World and Easter. Some of the stories we will be covering include 'The Gruffalo', 'The Gruffalo's Child', 'Where the Wild Things are', 'Aliens Love Underpants', 'Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer', 'Space Ant', 'Handa's Surprise' and 'The Easter Story' from the Bible.

Our Gruffalo Cafe will teach the children to recognise the different value of coins, healthy and unhealthy foods and encourage them to write shopping lists and menus. We will chop ingredients in half and double recipes accordingly to make Gruffalo crumble. We will encourage the children to read for meaning, speak confidently in role and develop their ability to ask and answer questions by hot seating different characters' points of view by writing accompanying speech bubbles. Children will explore light and dark using dens and torches similarly to the Gruffalo's Child, and make their own 'Big, Bad mouse' finger puppets using a variety of media. The children will learn about Max's trip to the Land of the Wild Things then create their own wild rumpus dances, dream catchers and crowns. We will begin to learn about the sequence of time including days, months and years including age appropriate time related vocabulary, and debate how long Max's adventure lasted for. We will create spaceships and rockets using a variety of 3D shapes and old boxes, naming and describing the properties as we go. We will find the total of groups of aliens then place them on our spaceships using positional language, and investigate how many aliens are left when one flies away into space. We will be learning about a variety of countries and how they are different to our own. We will look at clothing, food, music and culture including African drumming and tasting different foods from Poland.

In **Phonics** we will be learning:

- To develop their phonic knowledge in line with the Read Write Inc scheme.
- How to blend sounds together in order to read and write simple words.
- To write a short sentence.

In **Mathematics** we will be learning:

- To identify and write numbers.
- To add groups of objects.
- To find one more and one less than a given number.
- The names and properties of 3D shapes.
- Positional language.
- To understand, recognise and use money.
- To halve and double.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING IN SCHOOL THIS TERM?

An overview of some of the work being carried out in EYFS during the Summer Term.

The Summer Term

In **R.E.** our topics are:

Good News

- We will learn about the story of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Friends

- We will learn to explore our own friendships and to know that God offers us forgiveness and that we should forgive others.

Our World

- We will learn about people all around the world. We will learn that the world is God's gift for us to enjoy.

During the summer term we will be covering the topics Minibeasts, Under the Sea, Superheroes and Growing. Some of the stories we will cover include 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird', 'The Rainbow Fish', 'The Fish that could Wish', 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Enormous Turnip', 'Super Daisy' and 'Charlie's Superhero Underpants'.

We will be setting up a wormery and ant farm and going on minibeast hunts using a variety of equipment. We will encourage the children to look closely at the different minibeasts and discuss how they move, where they live and their different appearances. We will also set up a butterfly enclosure and observe the changes that occur as the caterpillars make chrysalises and turn into butterflies before releasing them. We will write fact files and riddles and create different minibeasts using a variety of media including natural collage and sock puppets. We will begin to learn about symmetry and create simple symmetrical butterflies using paint. We will discuss our favourite superheroes and create our own, then produce character profiles, comic strips, sound effects and theme tunes for them. Using our super senses we will explore a variety of feely boxes containing different objects and materials, work out how best to save people from ice, and operate walkie talkies and cameras. We will become super fit by creating obstacle courses for our superhero training school then directing our friends around the courses using positional language. We will also learn about real life superheroes and discuss our super talents. During our Growing topic, we will describe the characters from Jack and the Beanstalk and write character profiles for them. We will also write sorry letters from Jack to the Giant. We will consolidate and extend our understanding of number, money, adding and subtracting by applying our knowledge to practical problem solving. We will investigate how much Jack needs to pay for the magic beans, and the best method of payment. We will also create bean collages using haricot, broad, kidney beans and lentils and plant our own 'beanstalks'.

In **Phonics** we will be learning:

- About a range of text types and using them as an example for our own writing.
- To write in sentences using capital letters and full stops.

In **Mathematics** we will be learning:

- To solve simple addition and subtraction sums using numbers to 20.
- To apply our knowledge to problem solving.