**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

 “Learn, Love and Respect Through Jesus” St Francis of Assisi

Friday 9th January 2025

Year 3/4 Curriculum Letter-Spring 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful festive break. Thank you all so much for the generous gifts given at the end of term. It is very much appreciated.

In RE we will cover two important topics, ‘The Sacrament of Reconciliation’ and ‘Jesus the Saviour’. These will help us prepare for Lent and lead us on the journey towards Easter. Please join us for our class prayer service on Friday 7th of March at 2.45pm.

Our English units this term cover a range of skills including writing to inform our readers by writing newspaper reports about real life mysteries as well as writing travel leaflets to persuade people to visit Amazing Africa! We will also continue to have weekly group reading sessions, spelling skills sessions and handwriting.

In Maths, we will begin the term focusing on securing multiplication and division, length and perimeter and fractions. Year 4 will finish the term with a unit focussing on their understanding of decimals while Year 3 will learn about Mass and Capacity. Year 4 will continue to practice ready for the Multiplication Check in June. Each child will bring home a Times Tables Rock star log in which we would like the children to utilise as frequently as possible.

Rocks, Soils and Fossils is our first Science unit of the term and will cover the properties and uses of rocks, the rock cycle, soils and finally fossils (it even includes making metamorphic rocks from chocolate bars. This will then be followed by a topic on Skeletons. We will focus on both human and animal skeletons, the function of teeth for herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and we will complete this topic by learning about the digestive systems and food chains.

We start this term by finishing off our history that we started before Christmas, The Stone Age. We will then focus and draw conclusions about whether the Bronze Age or the Iron Age would have been a better time to live. We will revisit the Iron Age in the summer term when we begin to look at the Roman invasion of Britain. The rest of this term will be Geography based, we introduce the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’ and consider why people chose to live on the flanks of volcanoes and in earthquake zones when both can be life threatening. We will even be making our own erupting volcanoes.

In D&T we will be learning different stitches and designing and making money containers. Our Art topic will have landscape theme, we will study a great landscape artist, focus on perspective, and use of a variety of media.

Mrs K Clark will continue to deliver French, broadening the children’s language with topics based around vegetables and Ancient Britain. In PSHE we have two key topics-firstly ‘Dreams and Goals’ which includes creating dreams, achieving goals and dealing with disappointments. Our second topic is ‘Healthy Me’ which helps the children understand healthy friendships and explores the effects of alcohol and smoking. We will also explore peer pressure and how to act assertively.

In PE, we will cover dance, gymnastics, football and problem solving in lessons. PE will be every Wednesday afternoon, as well as every Friday morning with Mr Fitzgerald. Please ensure the children have named PE kits in school-white kit for indoor PE and black kits (including joggers) for outdoor PE.

Homework

I will continue to set homework on Seesaw and indicate whether it is to be uploaded or handed in at school. This will be set on a Thursday and the children will have the week to complete unless otherwise indicated. Spellings will also be set weekly and reviewed on a Monday. Please support your child with reading and times tables practice in addition to more formal homework when possible.

As ever, should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, either via email (mrsgilbert@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk)  or in person.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Gilbert
Year 3/4 Teacher