**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs M Keating**

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

## CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 6th September 2024

Year 5/6 Curriculum Letter-Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely summer. It has been great to welcome the children into Year 5/6 this week and they have made a positive start back. It feels very strange to be in the Year 5/6 classroom after so long in Year 3/4, but I am delighted to have moved up with this class.

Staffing in Year 5/6 this term is as follows:

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| **Monday** | Mrs W Clark, Mrs Hennessy |
| **Tuesday** | Mrs W Clark, Mrs Hennessy, Mrs Earl (Music), Mrs K Clark (French) |
| **Wednesday** | Mrs W Clark, Mrs Hennessy |
| **Thursday** | Mr Booth, Mrs Hennessy |
| **Friday** | Mrs W Clark, Mrs Hennessy, Mr Fitzgerald (PE) |

In RE we will be learning about Creation, incorporating our whole school Catholic Social Teaching theme, Care for Creation. After half term our topic is Justice. On **Monday 11th November** we will be leading a Remembrance Assembly at 9:15. We do hope you’ll be able to join us.

This year, we will continue to follow White Rose for Maths. Our topics for this term are as follows:

Y5: Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division A, Fractions A

Y6: Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions A and B, Converting Units.

If you would like to know more about how we teach Maths, we will be running a workshop later this term, but these parent videos are also very helpful <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

In English we will cover a number of units this term including Narrative, Non-Chronological Reports and Persuasive Speeches. This is in addition to reading, spelling and handwriting. We have introduced a new spelling scheme, ‘Spelling Shed’ and the children will be having focused lessons to help them learn how words are constructed, spelling patterns and rules. Each week on a Tuesday they will receive a list of the words taught to consolidate at home, then the following week will have a spelling review to see how secure they are. They will also receive a weekly spelling homework sheet.

In History we will studying ‘The Anglo-Saxons’, finding out if the Anglo-Saxon period really was a dark age. In Geography later in the term, we will explore changes in our local environment, identifying geographical characteristics of the UK, understanding how some have changed over time.

Our overarching theme for science this term is ‘Out of This World’, combining units on materials and their properties, and the solar system. In computing Year 5 will be learning about computing systems and networks, as well as creating media. Year 6 will be using Google slides to explore communication and collaboration before moving on to webpage creation.

PSHE continues to be a vital part of our weekly timetable. This term’s topics are about how choices affect our community and the wider world, followed by celebrating difference which will incorporate Black History Month.

In Art we will explore ‘still life’ drawing, shading to create 3D effects and studying the work of famous still life artists. D&T will be about constructing animal homes using a variety of tools.

The children will also be continuing their learning in French with Mrs K Clark. In Music, we are delighted to have Mrs Earl back from maternity leave and in addition to the weekly music lesson, she will be teaching Year 5 Ukulele.

PE days will be Thursday and Friday. Please ensure all kit is named and in school for PE days. Both winter and summer PE kit will be needed throughout the year. Trainers will be required in school at all times, especially for children who wish to play football at break. A reminder that jewellery is not permitted for PE and that earrings should be removed. Alternatively, please provide micropore/medical tape to cover them.

**General reminders**

* Homework will be set weekly on Seesaw and is due in on Wednesday. All work can be uploaded to your child’s journey via Seesaw or handed in as a paper copy, unless otherwise specified. You should receive a Seesaw log in code (paper copy) today. Please let me know if you have an issue or would like further guidance.
* In Years 5 and 6 we encourage children to become independent with their homework as we begin the preparation for the transition to secondary school. Parental support for encouraging a good homework routine is essential, enabling children to become confident and independent in completing tasks with minimal parental input. Following lessons often depend on this work having been completed.
* Children need to have a water bottle in school every day. These can be refilled at school whenever needed.
* Children may wear summer uniform until half term, after which, full winter uniform must be worn.

**Secondary School Open Evenings**

Local secondary schools will shortly begin their ‘open evenings’ to help you and your child make the important choice about where they wish to apply for year 7. Although these are advertised for year 6, we strongly encourage Year 5 to begin to look if they can. More information about applying to secondary school has sent out today.

**Communication**

I will send weekly curriculum updates on Seesaw, as well as any notices. Please do not use Seesaw for urgent messages as they are often not checked during the school day. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, either via email ([MrsWClark@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk](mailto:MrsWClark@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk)) or in person.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Mrs W Clark

Year 5/6 Teacher/Assistant Head