

St. Thomas of Canterbury RE & Catholic Life Newsletter



Spring Term 2019

Welcome to the Spring Term 2019 RE Newsletter, and can we take this opportunity to wish you all a belated happy new year. Autumn Term certainly was a huge success, with Mr Richardson settling superbly into his role as the new RE leader, and the school seeing huge strides taken in relation to RE and the Catholic Life of the School. We continue to maintain a relentless focus on the development of this area, and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over this next term... We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and engagement in relation to what we have been establishing over the last term.

This term, at the end of each RE topic, you will continue to receive a 'Respond' booklet which will invite you to reflect as a family on the learning of your child/ren through their RE topic. You are then warmly invited to send this back to school. This has been very successful, and the feedback has been extremely positive.

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. On the final page of this newsletter you will see a breakdown of the topics year by year.

Key dates for your diaries

Please look at the yearly planner which accompanies your child's newsletter; in this document you will find all the key religious dates and activities for Spring Term. In the immediate future, we are planning to hold another family mass at church, and we are also exploring with Fr Gus some further opportunities for strengthening links with the parish.

Charity Support Autumn Term 2018

Our support of the St Wilfrid's centre and CAFOD was very successful last term. Thank you for your support; it really has made a difference to the lives of lots of people. This child from Year 3 was so inspired by our work with CAFOD that she decided to donate an entire year's money to the charity.

Highlights From Autumn Term 2018

Please see below a selection of photographs showcasing some of the work which took place during Autumn Term to further develop the Catholic life of the school.



What Makes Our School Special?

We are actively seeking every opportunity to ask all those involved in our school what they feel makes us a special Catholic school. What makes us different and unique? What makes us St Thomas? At the Winter Warmer event in December, you were all asked to share your views on this question, and we had some stunning responses. A sample of them are below:

"The love in the school."

"How the teachers love the children as if they were their own."

"How everything is underpinned by strong catholic values"

We would like to extend this invitation for you to share your thoughts on what makes us a distinct, committed Catholic school by tweeting us @StThomasCant with the hash tag #whatmakesSTCspecial

This Term's Charities

We are delighted to be supporting the St Vincent De Paul Society this term, along with the opportunity to return your Mission Together collection boxes. During Lent, we will also participate in raising money for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Details of all these superb charities can be found here:

<https://hallam-diocese.com/hallam-caring-services/good-shepherd/>

<http://www.svpfurniturestoresheffield.org.uk/what-we-do/>

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/>



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SPRING TERM 2019

COME AND SEE AT HOME

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(January - February 2019)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.

Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EUCHARIST - RELATING

(February - March 2019)

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.

Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

(March - April 2019)

Early Year	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus
Year 6	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity.

If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

13 January

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

6 March

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

19 March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

25 March

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

14 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

19 April

EASTER SUNDAY

21 April