

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY



01983 522747

<http://www.stthomasofcantrcpri.iow.sch.uk/>

HELLO



AT A GLANCE

**INCLUSIVE EXCITING
EDUCATION OPEN TO ALL**

**SCHOOL DAY
8.45AM - 2.45PM**

RECEPTION CLASS - YEAR 6

**BREAKFAST AND AFTER-
SCHOOL WRAP ROUND
CARE CLUBS - TERM TIME**

**VARIETY OF AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS INCLUDING SPORTS,
DANCE, ART AND MUSIC**

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL

There has been a Catholic primary school in Carisbrooke High Street for over one hundred years. The school was established by the Sisters of Mercy and was based in what is now Carisbrooke Health Centre and The Ark. It opened in its present incarnation over 50 years ago. During this time there have been many alterations. The most recent has seen the Key Stage 2 classrooms being expanded in size and a new Year 6 classroom and staff room added. This building is funded by the Catholic Diocese thanks to the the building fund that all parents are invited to contribute to annually.

St Thomas' is a one form entry Catholic school in a wonderful setting, a hidden jewel off the High Street. The views of the Carisbrooke Castle from the school field never cease to delight the children as they play and learn in the wonderful outside learning classroom and play areas with equipment. We welcome all children and families to our school.

OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

WELCOME TO ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MRS SANDERSON, HEADTEACHER

The decision on where your child will start their formal educational journey can be daunting. I hope that you find the information here helpful to get a sense of the purpose of the school and its values as a community. We are proud of our school. Our children are valued and cared for by wonderful Learning Teams consisting of teachers and learning support assistants (LSAs).

The children are challenged by an exciting curriculum to become **RICH** learners. They work hard to become **R**esilient, **I**ndependent, **C**reative and **H**elpful. .

However if you do have questions please ring or visit the school as we are always willing to answer any questions that you may have. As a school we value the relationships we develop with our families knowing that a strong partnership between us enables the children who we both cherish, to have the best learning opportunities available to them.

Our Mission



STARTING SCHOOL FIRST THINGS FIRST

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School has its own admissions authority. A copy of the this policy can be found on our school website <https://thomas-canterbury.secure-primariesite.net/> and that of the IOW Council website: <https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Admissions/Admissions-Policies>

Children join us from Year R, which is the Reception part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children come to us from a variety of pre-school settings and we endeavour to make contact with these prior to the children starting school.

Our Induction programme includes inviting the children to welcome sessions before they start school in September. Our Learning Team will visit the pre-schools and will arrange a to visit the child in their own home. This enables the team to have a good understanding of the needs of the children. By the time the children start at school in September we aim to already have a clear picture of how we can support their learning journey and for the family to feel part of the school community. Parents are reminded that when applying for a place at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School two forms need to be completed. The first is the IOW Council application form which can be completed online. In addition to this is the school's supplementary information form (SIF). This is available from the school and should be returned to the school. Failure to complete both forms means that the applications cannot be processed effectively.

SCHOOL READY

There are often anxieties expressed by parents as to whether their child is school ready. It is helpful if the children can dress themselves and are used to going to the toilet by themselves. However we have a very experienced Reception Learning team who are able to manage a range of children's abilities and experiences. Please talk to us and share any concerns or worries that you have. We are here to support families and children as they take this big step.



CURRICULUM

LEARNING JOURNEYS

The school develops the National Curriculum and engages with the children through five themes each year. These themes excite the children as they are developing core skills that can be applied to all their learning and take with them into secondary school. The themes include such topics as "Don't Blame the Baker!" about the Great Fire of London and "Message in a Bottle" about the seaside then and now. Please see our website for more detail on each year's curriculum. The curriculum is supported through school trips including to the Tower of London, Theatres and the science Museum



CHALLENGES

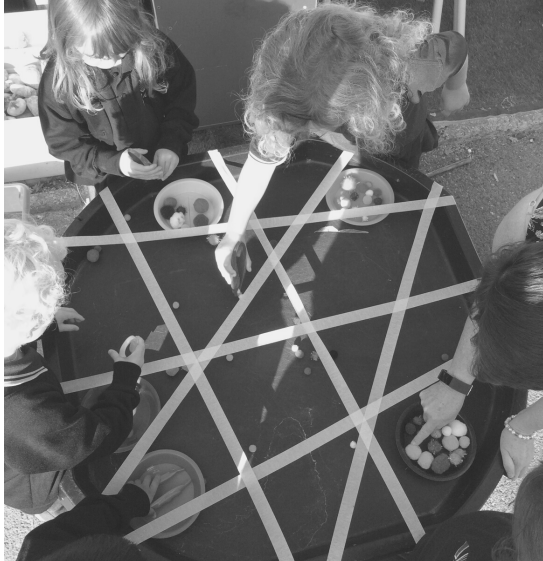
The learning at St Thomas' is driven through the journeys that challenge the children to improve their key skills. The Learning Teams enable the pupils to grow and experience learning in a variety of ways so the pupils are confident and resilient.

RICH LEARNING

Our children are RICH learners. The children have four characters that help them understand key skills that will help them be successful learners. RICH learners are Resilient, Independent, Creative and Helpful. The core attitudes are sought and praised so that children leave St Thomas' knowing that mistakes are proof that you are trying and enable us to be stronger learners.



DAY TO DAY



The school uniform is worn with pride by our children. The uniform across the school is a navy blue polo and sweatshirt or cardigan. Gingham dresses may also be worn in the summer. Our PE kit is practical and yet still shows the opposition we mean business! See our website for more details of the uniform available from Kids and Co, our Ryde stockist.

↑ UNIFORM

SCHOOL DINNERS



Our School dinners are provided by Caterlink. They provide wholesome and healthy food. The children are supported during the lunchtime by our Midday Supervisors Team. They make sure the children are able to cut their food and have a drink. They also ensure that the playground is a happy place for the children.

— Weekly menus are available for parents on our website.



DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO HAVE SCHOOL DINNERS?

This remains one of the most asked questions. We understand children have different food preferences. We also know from experience that many children happily eat things they would not eat at home when they are with their classmates. We always suggest children try school dinners but never prevent children from bringing in a packed lunch. As a healthy eating school we ask that these do not include chocolate or sweets. Due to allergy needs they should also not include any products including nuts.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Some of our families will be able to access Pupil Premium funding. This means that the school receive additional funding supporting a variety of activities. For example, the school has used Pupil Premium funding to enable all of the Reception Class to attend Forest Schools at a reduced cost.

At present all children in Key Stage One and Early Years receive school dinners at no cost. If you apply for Pupil Premium however you also enable this additional funding for the school, that will benefit your child and others throughout their time at St Thomas'. More information

available: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Free-School-Meals/Key-Stage-1-and-2>

If you have food allergy questions please let the school know and we can find out the answer or get you in touch with Caterlink directly.

Aspects of School Life (1)

ATTENDANCE

There are only 190 school days per year. So it is essential that the children attend these days. Schools report attendance figures to the DfE and it forms part of the OFSTED assessment of the school. The IOW Education Welfare Service may choose to issue penalty notices for unauthorised absences. From September 2013 there is no longer provision in law for headteachers to authorise absence from school for the purpose of term time holiday. We ask that parents inform the school when their child is unable to attend due to illness by 9.30am on every day of absence.

SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

The school enables young leadership through the Ambassador system. This links children to the roles that most interest them and the children take these roles on for the year. These roles are based on the four JIGSAW aspects of Mission, Virtues, Behaviour and Stewardship. Children from Year 2 upwards can be Ambassadors and they wear their badges with pride. Please look out for them and ask them about their ambassador roles. This forms part of the school provision of the British Values education required by the DfE.

SPORTING ACTIVITY

The school recognises how important an active life in mind and body is for children. The children experience a range of sporting activities within their curriculum PE lessons. The children also have the opportunity to participate in After School Clubs for a variety of sports including football, cricket and multi skills. The government provides additional funding for PE. The school uses this to support some of these clubs and provide others such as lunchtime girls' football. There are also opportunities for competitive sport in Years 5 & 6. In Year 6 as the children mature they have the opportunity to be sports leaders in the House system.

HOUSE SYSTEM

On joining the school each child will be assigned to a House. The school has four Houses. The House names were chosen by the children and are linked by initial with the House colour.

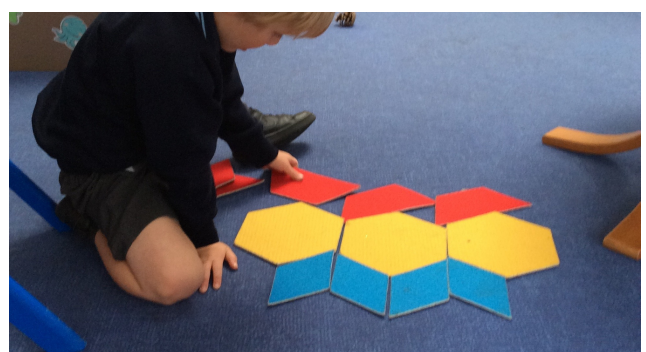
St Bonaventure Blues

St Yolanda Yellows

St Guy Greens

St Roch Reds

The children collect class dojo points. Children are also awarded individual class dojo certificates to celebrate their individual achievements.



Aspects of School Life (2)

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

If your child needs prescribed medicine administered during the school day, this must be brought into the school office. We have trained staff who will administer medicine. The school nurse team have advised that parents should, where possible, administer the medicine at home. Inhalers and epipens should also be brought into the school office and the correct forms completed. There may be times when your child attends dental or hospital appointments during school time. We ask that you bring the appointment letter to school so we can mark this in against the absence. If your child bumps their head during the school day, you will receive a text to inform you of this.

SAFEGUARDING

The school sees its safeguarding role as a core responsibility. Safeguarding training including the PREVENT strategy against extremism is provided for all staff. Staff and volunteers all have DBS checks. Parents are welcome to discuss any safeguarding concerns they have. The school will act on issues raised by children and members of the community. The school's key belief in terms of safeguarding is:

See it, Say it, Stop it.

We will try to include families immediately with any concerns we have, although there may be occasions where this is not possible. The school safeguarding statement and policy are available on the school website.

PARENTS AND FAMILIES

The school values greatly its relationships with families. We work hard to ensure that there are good communications between us, as that is how we feel the children will achieve their full potential. Mrs Sanderson is on the playground every morning. She is also available for meetings. Class teachers are the first port of call for class issues. They are happy to meet with parents and appointments can be made through the office. We are very fortunate to have an active family association called FOSTA (Friends of St Thomas' Association) who raise funds for the school.

RE AND SEX EDUCATION

We are proud to be an inclusive Catholic primary school. The children will have the opportunity to participate in Masses, Pancake races, Mayday celebrations and other religious celebrations. The RE curriculum that the school follows is God Matters as directed by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This is a Bible based curriculum and also includes aspects of World Faiths. The Relationships education in school is taught through the guidance of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. It will be delivered through the science and PSHE curriculum. This curriculum is delivered through age appropriate learning. It will cover issues such as people who are special to us, friendships, personal hygiene, birth and reproduction, peer pressure and self-respect. Parents are welcome to discuss any aspects of these provisions.



Aspects of School Life (3)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At different times during their education children may need additional support. This may be managed within the quality first teaching that they receive in their classroom. Others may need targeted support. At St Thomas' this will be provided and monitored by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo). Our SENDCo, tracks the children through a passport which means that we know what intervention has worked and what progress has been made. Parents who have concerns may arrange a meeting with our SENCo through the school office.

HOMEWORK

It has been shown that homework, at this young age, does not improve a child's progress hugely, so we have taken the decision that homework will be based purely on rehearsing those aspects of the children's learning that are easiest so to do. This means reading as frequently as possible within the family's day to day life. It also includes times tables, using coins and telling the time. On occasion some family topic work will also be sent home.

TRIPS AND VISITS

To enable an exciting and vibrant curriculum, the class teachers organise a range of trips and visits. These include visits to the IOW Zoo and Carisbrooke Castle. The children also visit the beach and take part in Forest schools. A wide range of visitors join us at the school including a Mayan Professor. The children in Year 6 have a residential trip - this year they are going to Marwell Zoo. Year 4 have the opportunity to stay overnight in a Viking Camp. The school also endeavours to enable the children to experience theatre trips. This year we are visiting the Mayflower Theatre to see the Nativity

BROAD CURRICULUM

The school strongly believes that the children deserve an exciting broad curriculum. The Learning teams enable this to happen using a range of resources including Charanga to provide a vibrant music curriculum. There are also opportunities provided by the Music Hub to have individual instrument lessons at school (outside lesson time). The school also offer the opportunity to take part in Isle Rock, a musical dance performances. In Year 6 there is a school production. Last year's production was a delight to see! The children are taught French in KS2 using the Rigolo scheme.





St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



We hope that you feel you have an understanding of school from our prospectus but feel free to speak with us and ask anything further you require.

Please also look at our website which has information about our results, our OFSTED journey and our place within the Diocese.

The children have recently reviewed the Behaviour Policy and they have created their BEEhaviour Code.

Kind regards from
all of the St Thomas of Canterbury team

Due to COVID 19 we cannot welcome visitors to the school. We are very happy to arrange virtual meetings to ensure that we are able to answer any questions that you have.

