

style hand-writing is taught from Reception. The school follows the National Literacy Strategy's teaching objectives in planning the programmes of work for each year group and aims to develop to the full each child's ability to listen, speak, read, and write.

MATHEMATICS

The school aims to produce pupils who are numerate and have the ability to think independently when faced with mathematical problems. Mathematical development is encouraged in an atmosphere where ideas are exchanged and children can work in co-operation with each other as well as independently. A wide variety of materials are used to help pupils understand concepts such as number, time, weight, shape and money.



ICT (INFORMATION and COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY)

From first entry into school in Reception, the children have "hands on" experience with computers.



ICT can enhance and extend children's learning in many subject areas. With a state of the art ICT suite, each class has timetabled access to regularly use computers as part of their every day education. In addition there are at least two Internet linked computers and a printer in all classes and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

SPORT

Sport plays a big part of school life at St. Thomas'. Children at KS2 are taught by a specialist PE teacher. The children enjoy many sporting activities both curriculum and non-curriculum based. The school has very active boys and girls football teams,



netball, rugby and cross-country teams. In addition to its own Sports Day for the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2, the school competes in the District Athletics Competition and Deanery Sports. Children begin swimming in Reception, and continue until year 4, when most children have achieved their 25 metre badge. After school clubs such as tennis, hockey, and extra football and netball coaching takes place throughout the term.

ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

From Reception to Year 6 the children enjoy producing a very high standard of artwork and crafts. Their work is used to form the main displays throughout the school and they take an active part in designing scenery, props and posters for the school productions.



TRIPS AND VISITS

We fully appreciate the benefit of visiting places of educational interest. All year groups enjoy a variety of trips, from Birdworld and Hampton Court in Reception to York, Swanage, and France in years 4,5 and 6.



FRANCE 2006

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Our Assemblies are used to unite the School. Individual and group achievements are celebrated, news from other parts of the School is shared, current issues are discussed and the need for

positive qualities, such as kindness and honesty, are stressed. We are very fortunate that our chaplain is an active member of our school community, contributing to the Religious Education Programme "Here I Am". He gets to know pupils as individuals through being involved in classroom activities and accompanying classes on educational visits. He provides Pastoral support for the children and their families.

The Church's Liturgical Year is reflected in our Assemblies and Acts of Worship. Particular emphasis is placed on the celebration of Advent, Lent and Easter. Our local Clergy regularly celebrate the Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation with individual classes and the whole School community. Pupils have the opportunity to take part in special services in the Parish Churches that have close links with the School. During Lent, the children enthusiastically organise and take part in fund-raising activities within the School. Year 5 perform a moving Passion Play for the rest of the School.

Parents of children in Year 3 are asked to approach their local Parish Priest for details of the Sacramental preparation programme. As a School, we liaise with the Churches to ensure the children are fully prepared to receive the Sacraments. A special Mass is celebrated by the whole School community, shortly after the children have taken their First Communion in the Parishes.

Bishop Kieran Conry with children in a school assembly



MUSIC

Music plays an important part of school life. All children receive specialist music teaching. We have a very active orchestra and choir and specialist music teachers visit us

from South West Surrey Music Centre to give private lessons to children in clarinet, violin, trumpet, piano etc., The children are encouraged to take music exams and the children and school enjoy great success in this subject.



EDUCATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS (EPR)

This important area is taught following the guidelines suggested by the Diocese and is linked to the RE scheme "Here I Am". The school aims to teach pupils about the importance of the family in creating a loving and caring environment, how life begins and develops, and the importance of health and hygiene in personal growth. Teaching takes place in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the material being covered including single sex groups and one-to-one when appropriate. All questions are answered truthfully and sympathetically. Material of a more sensitive nature taught in Years 5 and 6 is displayed for discussion with parents before it is used in class.

HOMEWORK

The amount of homework set will be appropriate to the age of the child. In general terms the amount of homework increases in the upper years to help children acclimatise to the demands they will face on transfer to secondary school. Parents will be notified at the beginning of each year the amount and type of homework to expect and its regular weekly pattern

Reading Record Books and Spellings Books are used in Reception and KS1, and Homework Diaries and Spellings Books in KS2. Both Teachers and Parents are strongly encouraged to use these books as a method of communication.

SCIENCE

The teaching of science throughout the school seeks to encourage pupils to carry



out practical investigations, to make and record observations and use deductive reasoning to reach conclusions.

PRODUCTIONS



Senior Citizens from the local parish each October. Both Infants and Juniors present Christmas productions to parents. Year 5 perform a Passion Play just before Easter each year and the Summer performance by Year 6 provides a dramatic end to the pupils' time at St Thomas'.

INFORMATION TO PARENTS

The school's website is an up to date source of information providing class news on trips and events, class newsletters and the fortnightly Parents Newsletter. Paper copies are sent home "pupil" post. Additional information on clubs and outside activities can also be found on the school website and in the main entrance foyer.

Policy information is displayed in the main entrance foyer.

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The Productions provide the high points of the year and are greatly enjoyed by children, staff and audiences. A production and Harvest Tea is prepared for

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM PROVISION



Headteacher: Kevin P Gawley

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Kate Sarama

The curriculum presented at St Thomas of Canterbury School follows the requirements of the National Curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the teaching of the "core" subjects of English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Information and Communications



Technology and Science. The foundation subjects of Art, Design Technology, Geography, History, Music and Physical Education are all taught using both discrete subject teaching and cross-curricular activities. All children at Key Stage 2 receive specialist teaching in music and P.E. A unit of modern foreign language, French, is taught in Year 6.



In the Foundation Stage, the curriculum is based on QCA documents and the Surrey Early Years guidelines. Children are taught to use "cursive script" from Reception.

ENGLISH

Considerable emphasis is placed on the early acquisition of reading skills through the Literacy Hour. Individual and group reading practice with teachers, teaching assistants and parent volunteers are all part of the strategy we employ to further develop reading skills. A variety of reading and language resources are available for pupils at different levels of ability and attainment in each class.

From the beginning, pupils are encouraged to express themselves both orally and in written work. Cursive