



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14*

## Key Stage 1 Curriculum Advice for Parents/Carers Autumn Term 2025

Welcome back to the beginning of a new academic year! It is so wonderful to have all the children back at school again. We would also like to note how impressed we are with how well they have settled in and how sensible they are all being with our new routines.

In addition to the Yearly Outline Curriculum Plan (available from the school website), this grid will give you more details of planned work for this term. We hope that you will be able to help your child to explore and discuss these areas as well as complete any homework tasks and activities. It is also essential to read with your child regularly, this will help with their fluency and understanding of a range of subject areas. Please make sure you note these reads in the Home School Diary so that we can track their progress in school.

All year groups will be having English and mathematics lessons every day. We will be setting weekly spellings; suggested times table activities and other optional tasks. These will be posted on Google Classrooms each week as well as weekly updates on what your child will be learning in their maths and English lessons. Please refer to the Home School Diary to find their log in details for this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Subject	Examples of areas we plan to cover
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	In art this term, we will be focusing on collage. We will study the work of famous artists, including Henri Matisse and develop our cutting, tearing and sticking skills. Finally, we will produce our own landscape collage with the skills we have learnt, using a variety of materials.
<b>Computing</b>	In computing, the children will be exploring Purple Mash. They will be learning the importance of having a secure password and how to save and retrieve their work from their own area. We will then move onto our Maze Explorers unit, where the children will use directions and commands to navigate a sprite around a maze. The children will learn how to debug and correct their algorithm as appropriate. Finally, we will be exploring Binary Trees, where the children will use Yes/No questions to sort and manipulate data. Please try to explore Purple Mash at home with your children so that they build confidence with logging in and using the platform – log ins can be found at the front of the Home School Diary.
<b>D&amp;T</b>	Children will be using a range of textile materials to design and make their own Christmas stocking. Throughout the process, they will be measuring, cutting, shaping and joining materials using appropriate sewing techniques. They will also evaluate their products throughout and discuss alternative ideas to improve the appearance of the stocking.
<b>Geography</b>	The children will be learning about their local area familiarising themselves with the school grounds and how we might create aerial maps. They will explore digital mapping too and the features of our High Street using mapping symbols to represent Brentwood.
<b>History</b>	Our focus will be on learning about schools in the Victorian times. Using a range of resources, including drama, we will find out what life was like for a Victorian school child and identify ways in which schools have changed over time and why. We will then find out about the history of our own school; from two separate infant and junior schools in Coptfold Road, their relocation to a new site in Sawyers Hall Lane and their recent amalgamation to become St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School.

*A Christian community where children are known by name and loved, which empowers them to learn and to grow in faith, knowledge and fellowship.*

Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX

Telephone: 01277 223651 [admin@stthomaspri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomaspri.essex.sch.uk) [www.stthomaspri.org](http://www.stthomaspri.org)

Headteacher: Mr D. M. Moran





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	We will also be learning about individuals beyond living memory through the story of the Gunpowder Plot, and will discuss how and why it is commemorated every year.
<b>Music</b>	In our music lessons this term, the children will be exploring the musical dimensions of pulse, rhythm, tempo and pitch through games, singing and playing instruments. We will start the term by focusing our learning around the topic "The Magical Musical Aquarium". We will be responding to music through moving, exploring the sound of instruments, listening and singing, and working in groups to compose music representing a musical aquarium. We will listen to the piece of music 'Aquarium' from <i>The Carnival of the Animals</i> by Camille Saint-Saëns. As the term progresses, we will turn our attention to more festive fare, focusing on preparing for our Christmas concerts.
<b>P.E. and Games</b>	This term in PE, the children will develop their core fitness skills. They will develop their understanding of the benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle on their physical body, their mood and their overall health. They will also develop their gymnastic skills, as well as the skills for net and wall games and have opportunities to use a variety of apparatus and equipment.
<b>PSHE</b>	We will be creating our own classroom rules and thinking about the importance of rules to make the classroom a safe and happy place to be in. Our theme is relationships and we will consider what makes a good friend and the different ways that people meet and make friends. We will explore strategies for positive play experiences and identify what causes arguments and how these can be solved. We will recognise hurtful behaviours both between friends and online. We will discuss using these strategies in the classroom and the importance of being part of a school and classroom team.
<b>R.E.</b>	Our first enquiry question this year will be "What do my senses tell me about the world of religion and belief?" with a particular focus on learning about Hinduism. The children will learn about the Hindu worship practice of Puja, and will look at different artefacts and art work. We will then start to think about our next enquiry question "How does a celebration bring a community together?" with a particular focus on the Christian celebration of Christmas.
<b>Science</b>	This term in science will be focusing on the seasons and weather. We will begin to observe changes to the school locality as we move into the season of Autumn. We will learn more about weather patterns in Autumn, and will keep a daily weather chart for 2 weeks, using the appropriate equipment and symbols to record rainfall and temperature. We will learn about the sun, and the changes we see from it each day and throughout the year. When learning about Sir Francis Beaumont's wind scale, we will explore the speed and direction of the wind and enjoy making our own windsocks. We will also learn about how the changing seasons and weather affect the world around us.

Please look at the school website for further details. The prospectus (which details how the different subjects are taught) is also on the website available for download - <https://www.stthomaspri.org/>

In addition, you may also wish to:

- ☺ research ideas at the local library and help your child to develop his/her library skills;
- ☺ search the internet for relevant websites and activities;
- ☺ watch relevant television programmes that may support their work, or visit a museum or place of interest;
- ☺ simply talk to your child about what they are learning!

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