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**Curriculum at**

**St Thomas More**

**Catholic Primary School**



Parent Information Booklet

**Aims of our Curriculum**

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School aims to provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, where all subjects are valued. A curriculum that will equip our pupils with a breadth of knowledge and skills that are underpinned by our Core Aims of ‘Learn, Love, Pray and Play’ and celebrate our location within the wonderful historical town of Kettering.

The core aims promote all of our pupils to be:

●successful***learners*** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve

●***Loving*** individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives

●Team ***players*** who make a positive contribution to society

●***Prayerful*** individuals who are able to recognise God’s love and support to drive them forward.

This enables our pupils to be:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Happy | Aspirational | Resilient | Inquisitive |
| Respectful | Empathetic | Confident | Independent |
| Articulate | Risk takers | workers | Self-aware |
| Passionate | Citizen of the future | Mentally healthy | Eager to learn |
| Organised | spiritual | Community minded | Problem solvers |

**Organisation**

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Our curriculum is designed and delivered in a way that allows pupils to transfer key knowledge to long-term memory, increase storage and increase retrieval strength. Through careful planning of the content for each year group (using the national curriculum or Early Years Framework as the minimum benchmark), we work collaboratively to ensure there is coherence, progression and full coverage of skills and knowledge within our curriculum.

Across the school, we have three overarching topics a year:

* Lights, Camera, Action (Autumn term)
* A step back in time (Spring term)
* Colourful cultures (Summer term)

Within each of these topics, each year group has their own specific focus.

To start each topic, we have a ‘Curriculum Launch Day.’ This immerses the children into their new topic and is a day of creativity and fun. Curriculum Newsletters and homework for the topic will be shared. Each topic finishes with a curriculum celebration, where parents are invited into school to celebrate all the children have achieved throughout it.

Each topic is organised into blocked weeks.

**Developing the whole child**

At St. Thomas more we value the whole child and recognise that the child’s personal development has a large impact on their academic achievement. One of the ways this is addressed, is through themed weeks. These weeks happen outside of our blocked topic weeks. This enables pupils to be fully immersed in their understanding of the theme.

**Faith Week** – This starts every academic year. It brings our community back together, develop the children’s understanding of our mission statement, core aims, school prayer, class saints and supports the transition of year groups.

**Diversity Week** – The children are given the opportunity to celebrate their own and other cultures and languages. They are immersed and given the opportunity for a deeper understanding. They also look at differences between individuals, with a focus on SEND. This week, helps to grow pupils respect, tolerance and appreciation of us all being made unique by God.

**Healthy Me Week** – The children have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities which support their mind, body and relationships. These weeks teach the pupils to learn more about themselves, to know how to stay safe and strategies they can use. It focuses on protective behaviours, Online safety, mental health, anti-bullying, road safety, drug/alcohol awareness, SRE, sun/water safety and first aid.

**Local history week** – The children spend the week focusing on different aspects of our local area. This enables pupils to have a greater understanding and appreciation of their surroundings.

**Science week** – Science is a huge passion at St. Thomas More and a week a year is completely dedicated to it, with hands on experiences, visitors, workshops, outdoor opportunities and parental involvement. It enables pupils of all groups to maximise their science capital.

**Current affairs** – This week focuses on areas that are prominent at the time. It enables pupils to recognise how learning links to real life and provides a context for the use of their skills and knowledge. It also supports pupils in becoming part of the wider community. Areas are focused on such as the train electrification and recycling. Again, this also provides opportunities for pupils to use their knowledge and skills in real life contexts.

**Enterprise/ careers/ community week** – This week provides pupils with the opportunities to work with local business peoples, companies and community groups. It focuses on aspirations and developing them into citizens of the future. Pupils are given the opportunity to consider how they can make positive change and have an impact on the wider world. This also supports cultural capital for all our pupils.

**Enrichment**

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At St. Thomas More, we firmly believe that education is not just about what happens in the classroom. We know that when our pupils leave our school, not only will they take what they have learnt with them, but also incredible memories which will shape them as citizens.

All children at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School are entitled to:

* Two educational visit per year
* A topic enrichment day to launch each topic
* A curriculum celebration to finish a topic
* A range of extra - curricular activities before and after school
* Outdoor experiences
* Two residential trips during their time at the school
* External visitors to enhance the curriculum
* High quality teaching
* An immersive environment

**Inclusion**

There is an inclusive ethos within St. Thomas More which honours the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God. All pupils have access to a rich and challenging education which takes account of their individual interests and needs.

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils. They will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all.

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEND can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English. Lessons will be planned so that teaching opportunities help pupils to develop their English, and to support pupils to take part in all subjects.

Further information can be found in our statement of equality and in our SEND policy.

**Homework**

Homework is set to support core key skills and knowledge to enable retention to be supported. A project is set termly to help enhance foundation subject’s skills and knowledge, sparking interest and enjoyment. To continue to develop the whole child, pupils are also invited to undertake activities from ‘Things to do before they are 11 ¾”

**Key Curriculum dates for the Year**

W/c Monday 6th September – School Faith Week

Monday 13th September – ‘Lights, Camera, Action’ topic launch

Monday 20th September – Autumn term charity launch

Monday 27th September – EYFS ‘Lights, Camera, Action’ topic launch

W/c Monday 22nd November – Curriculum celebrations

W/c Monday 29th November – Healthy Me week

W/c Monday 6th December – Community week

W/c Monday 13th December – Christmas week

Monday 13th December – Carols by candlelight

Tuesday 14th December – EYFS nativity

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Celebration

Thursday 16th December – Christmas lunches

Friday 17th December – Christmas singalong

W/c Monday 3rd January – Diversity week

Monday 10th January – ‘Step back in time’ topic launch

Monday 17th January – Spring term charity launch

W/c Monday 14th March – Curriculum celebrations

W/c Monday 21st March – Local history week

W/c Monday 23rd March – Science and current affairs week

W/c Monday 4th April – Healthy Me week

Tuesday 5th April – EYFS/KS1 Easter festival

Thursday 7th April – KS2 Easter celebrations

Monday 25th April – ‘Colourful cultures’ topic launch

W/c Monday 27th June – Curriculum celebrations

W/c Monday 4th July – Careers week

W/c Monday 11th July – Diversity week

W/c Monday 18th July – Healthy Me week

*Please note that some dates may be subject to change and we will confirm any changes as soon as possible.*