

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

At St. Thomas More, we attach the greatest importance to Religious Education in the life of our School.

We are excited to share with you that our whole school has now moved from the old 'Come and See' scheme of work to the new approach, titled 'To know You More Clearly', which is based on the new Religious Education Directory. This new approach provides the children with a greater theological understanding of the Catholic faith and has been planned to ensure there is clear progression in learning from EYFS to Year 6. It follows the liturgical calendar and is taught in 6 overarching branches, with one branch being taught each half term.

Please see below an overview of the topics and learning in Religious Education this term and some suggested activities that you could do with your child at home.

BRANCH 1: CREATION AND COVENANT

(08.09.25 – 24.10.25)

Early Years – In this branch, through scripture, children will learn that God made the whole world – the earth, sky, sea, plants, animals, and people – and that everything God created is good. They will discover that God made each of us, that we are all special and unique, and that God loves everyone.

They will begin to understand that because God made the world, we have an important job to care for it – looking after the earth, water, air, plants, animals, and people. This is called stewardship. Children will also explore how we show love and care for ourselves, our families, others, and the world around us.

Through prayer and actions, they will be introduced to the Sign of the Cross – “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” – and learn that it reminds us we belong to God’s family, the Church, through baptism.

Children will celebrate God’s beautiful creation with joy and thankfulness, learning that every person has dignity and deserves kindness, because we are all made and loved by God.

Year 1 – In this branch, children will learn that Christians believe God made everything that exists – all that is seen and unseen – and that this shows God’s great love for us. They will hear the first story of Creation in Genesis, understanding it as a way of showing God’s love and wisdom, not as a scientific explanation.

Children will explore how the world is God’s gift, and with this gift comes the responsibility to look after it. They will be introduced to the Catholic Social Teaching principles of stewardship (caring for creation), human dignity (valuing every person), and solidarity (working together as one family). Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si’* that we must care for our common home, the Earth.

They will also learn to express their belief in God the Creator through the words of the Nicene Creed and in prayer, especially the Our Father, which shows that God is a loving Father who is close to us in our daily lives. Through reflection and prayer, all pupils will be invited to think about what prayer means for them and how they can show love for God, others, and the world around them.

Year 2 – In this branch, pupils will learn about the story of Noah, focusing on God’s promise (covenant) with Noah and all creation, symbolised by the rainbow. The story is not a historical account but a way of showing the relationship between God and humanity, and the hope that comes from God’s love. Although people turned away from God, Noah remained faithful, and through him God offered humanity a new beginning.

Pupils will understand that Noah’s covenant also depended on his responsibility to care for creation, showing the importance of being good stewards of the Earth. The children will learn that the Church teaches us that the story of Noah points forward to Baptism, where water becomes a sign of salvation and new life. Through Baptism, a person is ‘reborn’ into God’s family and that Baptism is more than a naming ceremony – it is the beginning of Christian life. They will begin to see that Baptism connects us to Jesus’ mission and to the Christian community. Infant baptism shows parents’ desire to raise their child in faith, while later sacraments like Confirmation allow children to affirm this faith for themselves.

Year 3 – In this branch, children will revisit the first story of Creation from Genesis, building on their earlier learning. They will explore how God brought order out of chaos, creating the world through His Word and Spirit, and how everything God made is good. Pupils will learn that humans are made in God’s image, male and female, which teaches about equality, the value of each person, and caring for others. They will reflect on the idea of rest, showing that taking time to appreciate Creation is important. Through reading psalms and reflecting on the world around them, children will develop a sense of awe and wonder. They will also begin to understand the importance of caring for Creation, inspired by Pope Francis’ message about protecting the environment and nurturing our relationships with God, others, and the earth.

Year 4 – In this branch, children will learn about Abraham, an important figure in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, who shows faith and dedication to God. They will explore how Abraham listens to God’s call (Genesis 12:1-4) and enters into a series of covenants (Genesis 15:1-6; 17:1-8), which Christians believe are fulfilled in Jesus. Pupils will also begin to understand that biblical stories can be studied in different ways: considering the historical context, the way the story is written, and what it teaches us today. Children will also hear the story of Joseph, who was rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:12-36) but, through God’s guidance and his ability to interpret dreams (Genesis 41:1-40), rises to a position of influence in Egypt and saves his family during a famine (Genesis 45:1-15). Joseph’s story teaches forgiveness, trust in God, and prefigures aspects of the gospel. This story also helps children understand why the Israelites came to live in Egypt before the story of Moses (Exodus 1:1-7).

Year 5 – In this branch, children will learn about Moses, focusing on two important events in his life. They will hear how God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-15), helping pupils reflect on God’s presence and power. Children will also learn about the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), understanding that they were given to guide the Israelites after being freed from slavery, showing them how to live in freedom, care for one another, and value family and life. Pupils will explore how Jesus summarised the commandments as loving God, loving others, and loving oneself in a good way (Matthew 22:37-40). They will also be introduced to the idea of virtues—both theological virtues (faith, hope, and love; 1 Corinthians 13:13) and cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance)—and how these help people develop good habits, strong relationships, and a flourishing life. Children will learn that these virtues are connected to the Christian understanding of true happiness and are valuable for people of all faiths or none. This teaching helps children connect biblical stories to everyday life, showing how God’s guidance and virtues support personal growth, moral development, and care for others.

Year 6 – In this branch, children will study the second account of Creation from Genesis (Genesis 2:4–25). They will learn that this story, like a parable, teaches deeper truths about human nature and God’s generosity rather than providing scientific facts. Pupils will explore how God forms Adam from the earth, breathes life into him, and places him in the Garden of Eden to care for it, highlighting humanity’s role as stewards of Creation. They will also learn that God creates woman to provide companionship, showing that humans are made for relationships (Genesis 2:18–23). Children will reflect on the choices Adam and Eve make in the Garden, how they give in to temptation, and the consequences of their actions (Genesis 3:1–19). They will be introduced to the concept of Original Sin, understanding it as a failure to trust God and live according to his goodness, which disrupted harmony in creation. Pupils will also study the prologue of St John’s gospel (John 1:1–5, 14) to see how Jesus brings about a new Creation, fulfilling God’s plan and restoring humanity. They will learn that, for Christians, the first sin is seen as a “happy fault” (Felix culpa), because it leads to God’s ultimate gift of salvation through Jesus. Finally, children will explore Pope Francis’ teaching in *Laudato Si’*, helping them understand that scientific knowledge and a theological understanding of Creation can complement one another, encouraging care and respect for the world God has made. This helps children connect biblical teachings about Creation with Christian beliefs, human responsibility, and care for the environment.

BRANCH 2: PROPHECY AND PROMISE

(10.11.25 – 19.12.25)

Early Years – In this branch, through scripture children will learn about the special story of Jesus’ birth. They will hear how the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby, and that his name would be Jesus. They will learn that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, and visited by shepherds who were told the good news by angels. Children will celebrate the season of Advent as a time to get ready for Christmas. They will explore traditions such as the Advent wreath and the crib (Nativity scene), which help us remember and retell the story of Jesus’ birth. They will understand that Christmas is a celebration of God sending His Son, Jesus, to show His love for everyone. They will also begin to learn that people around the world celebrate Jesus’ birthday in different ways, and that Advent is a time when we can show love for God and others by helping and caring for one another. This links to the idea that everyone’s work is important and should be respected, because God loves each person.

Year 1 – In this branch, children will begin to understand that Christians believe God showed His great love by sending His Son, Jesus. They will learn that in Jesus, the invisible God becomes visible, especially in the story of His birth in Bethlehem. Following the Gospel of St Luke, pupils will explore the story of the Annunciation (Mary’s “Yes” to God), the Nativity, and the role of angels as God’s messengers who announce the good news and point to the divine nature of Jesus. The focus will be on knowing the story of Jesus’ birth and its meaning, helping children to connect with Christmas traditions in school and the wider community, such as Advent celebrations, nativity plays, the crib, and carols. Children will also come to recognise the special role of Mary, chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. They will learn that Catholics show love for Mary and draw closer to Jesus by praying the Hail Mary..

Year 2 – In this branch, children will learn about the infancy of Jesus through stories from St Luke’s gospel. They will hear about Mary’s “yes” to God, Zechariah and John the Baptist, and how the shepherds were the first to welcome Jesus. The themes focus on prayer, listening to God’s Word, and the Holy Spirit’s presence. Children will also explore Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas, learning about symbols such as the Advent wreath and traditions like Las Posadas from Mexico. Throughout, they will be encouraged to think about how Christians can share joy and kindness with others.

Year 3 – In this branch, children will learn about the infancy of Jesus through St Matthew’s gospel. They will explore how Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, and understand the significance of his birth in Bethlehem, known as the “house of bread.” Pupils will also learn about the Mass, making connections with the theme of Creation by understanding how the gifts of bread and wine are offered and blessed. The focus will be on the Liturgy of the Word, helping children see how Christians gather, listen to Scripture, and reflect on how God’s message can guide their daily lives. This teaching will develop their understanding of the Church’s prayer life, while also recognising that some pupils may have different religious backgrounds and experiences.

Year 4 – In this branch, children will learn about the prophet Elijah, a key figure in the Old Testament, who called the people of Israel to return to God and challenged King Ahab’s corruption. They will hear about his miracles, such as providing flour and oil for a widow and her son, which Christians see as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21). Elijah’s encounter with God in a gentle breeze also introduces pupils to ideas about the Holy Spirit. Children will explore the connections between Elijah and John the Baptist, learning that John prepared the way for Jesus and that both his life and message fulfil prophecies from Isaiah. They will compare how St Matthew and St Mark describe John’s appearance and mission and reflect on how Christians today can prepare their own hearts for Jesus, especially during Advent. Pupils will also begin to understand Jesus’ genealogy in St Matthew, which links him to Abraham and shows the fulfilment of God’s covenant. This provides context for traditions like the Jesse Tree. Finally, children will learn about the feast of Christ the King, considering what kind of king Jesus is, and how his power—based on love, freedom, and grace—differs from earthly kings, as Pope Benedict XVI explains. This teaching helps children connect Old and New Testament stories, understand God’s promises, and reflect on how these lessons can guide their lives today.

Year 5 – In this branch, children will learn about the first kings of Israel, starting with Saul, whom God chose but who proved an unworthy king (1 Samuel 8:11-18). They will then explore the story of David, a shepherd boy from humble beginnings, who is anointed with the Spirit of the Lord (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Pupils will discover how David’s role as a shepherd king, caring for his people rather than demanding from them, foreshadows Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Children will also learn about God’s covenant with David, promising that one of his descendants would have an everlasting throne (2 Samuel 7:12-16), which links to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and Joseph’s lineage. Pupils will explore the psalms as examples of David’s prayer life and reflect on the type of king Jesus is compared with David. They will also be introduced to the O Antiphons, sung during Advent, which use biblical imagery from Isaiah to proclaim the coming of Christ (e.g., Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-2; 11:1-3; 22:22), and the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” focusing on images like the “Key of David.” The children will also be introduced to the Rosary. This branch helps pupils connect the stories of Israel’s kings with Jesus’ life, showing how God’s promises and care for his people are fulfilled in the Bible.

Year 6– In this branch, children will learn about some of the prominent women in the Old Testament and the important roles they played in the history of Israel. Pupils will explore how these women, such as Miriam (Exodus 2:1-10; Exodus 15:20-21), Sarah (Genesis 17:15-21; Genesis 21:1-7), Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-20), Ruth (Ruth 1:16-17), Judith (Judith 13:1-20), and Esther (Esther 4:12-17), acted with faith, courage, and hope, often challenging the expectations of their patriarchal society. Many of these women show that those who appear weak can be made strong through God’s guidance. Children will also learn about Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25), who continues this tradition. Mary’s “yes” to God changes the course of history, and her prayer, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), celebrates God’s justice, mercy, and care for the poor and humble. Pupils will explore how Mary is called the “Mother of God” because Jesus is fully God and fully human, and through baptism, she becomes the mother of all Christians. This teaching helps children understand the courage, faith, and leadership of women in salvation history and the central role of Mary in the story of Jesus. encouraging reflection on faith. hope. and service.

School Faith Week – (03.09.25 – 05.09.25)

During this week, the whole school will be learning about and celebrating how and why our faith is important at St. Thomas More and what makes our school so special. Children will learn about: our Core Aims and how we live them out, our school's mission statement, our school prayer, the virtues, their class saint and our school saint – St. Thomas More.

Diversity Week – Hinduism (08.12.25 – 12.12.25)

During this week, the whole school will be learning about and celebrating other faiths, with a focus on Hinduism. EYFS – Celebrations (Diwali)/ Year 1 – Stories/ Year 2 – Worship and shrines/ Year 3 – Special places/ Year 4 – Books/ Year 5 – Brahman, Gods and Goddesses/ Year 6 – Dharma, Karma and reincarnation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Ordinary Time (before Advent begins)

1. **Nature Walk & Creation Hunt** – Go for a walk, collect leaves/rocks, and thank God for creation.
 2. **Family Gratitude Jar** – Write down daily blessings and place them in a jar.
 3. **Learn a New Hymn Together** – Practice a hymn you'll sing at Mass.
 4. **Acts of Kindness Challenge** – Each day, choose one small way to help others.
 5. **Family Rosary Night** – Pray a decade together with intentions for loved ones.
 6. **Saints' Storytime** – Read the life of a saint that is important to you and your family.
 7. **Baking Together** – Cook something simple and share it with a neighbour.

Advent (Season of Waiting & Preparation)

1. **Create an Advent Wreath** – Light the candles each week and say a prayer together.
 2. **Advent Calendar of Kindness** – Instead of chocolates, do one good deed daily.
3. **Nativity Scene Building** – Set up the crèche gradually, adding figures as Christmas approaches.
4. **Family Advent Song Night** – Sing traditional Advent hymns like *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.
5. **Prayer Chain** – Make a paper chain where each link has a prayer intention. Break one off daily.
 6. **Night of Silence** – Have one evening with quiet music, candles, and prayer.
 7. **Charity Project** – Donate toys, clothes, or food together as a family.
 8. **Star Gazing** – Go outside and look for stars, reflecting on the Star of Bethlehem.
 9. **Christmas Eve Blessing** – Read the Nativity story before bed, blessing one another.