

Year 6
Class Information
2026-2027
Autumn Term



St Thomas of Canterbury School

Year 6 Autumn Term 2026

Welcome to Year 6! We have had a fantastic start to the autumn term, and it has been wonderful getting to know the class already. The children have settled in brilliantly and have shown enthusiasm, kindness and a real willingness to embrace the challenges of their final year at primary school.

This newsletter gives you an overview of what we will be learning this term, our weekly timetable and key information about homework and routines. Please keep an eye on the school newsletter too, as it will contain important dates and information about parents' evenings, open afternoons and other events throughout the term.

I'm looking forward to a brilliant year ahead and all the exciting opportunities Year 6 has to offer.

Homework expectations

This is sent home & set online each Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Children have been reminded of their logins for MyMaths and Times Table Rockstars, which are the same on both platforms. These logins are also stuck in the front of their homework book.

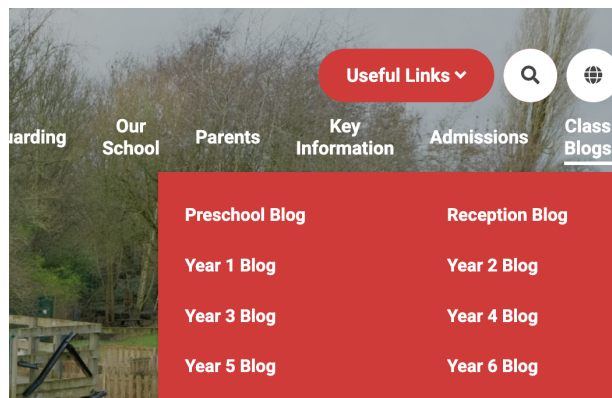
- Reading every night – please encourage your child to read out loud as often as possible to build fluency and expression in their reading.
- Weekly list of spellings to learn.
- One piece of writing skills practise, linked to the current class focus.
- One piece of maths problem solving or calculation each week from My Maths, linked to the unit being covered in class. This is set **online** each Friday, and children should login to complete this before the following Friday.
- Weekly fluency practice using Times Table Rock Stars.

A summary of the weekly homework tasks will be available on the class blog for your reference.

The children also have access to LetterJoin, our handwriting platform, to allow additional practice where relevant. A letter containing log-in instructions for the free app has been sent home with the first homework of the year.

Class blog

You can find out what is happening in Y6 on the class blog. You will be able to view knowledge organisers here so that you can support your child at home with key concepts and find out what is at the core of our learning. Homework and general class information will also be posted here. The class blogs are accessible via the school website.



Keeping in Touch

We really value the relationship between home and school and know that working together makes a real difference to children's learning, wellbeing and success. If there is anything you would like to share with us, staff are happy to catch up briefly before or after school, or an appointment can be arranged if you need a little more time to talk. You can also contact the class teachers using the email address below.

E-mail address: enquiries@st-tc.co.uk

Curriculum Expectations

We have high expectations for every child in Year 6 and want all pupils to make strong progress from their individual starting points. Teaching and learning will be adapted where needed so that children can access the curriculum successfully, while ensuring that everyone is appropriately challenged.

We continually assess children's understanding and respond to any gaps or difficulties through high-quality classroom teaching and targeted support. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will speak with you and work together to identify helpful strategies for both school and home. Where a child may benefit from additional or more individualised support, this will be discussed with you and, where appropriate, with Miss McKay, our SENDCo.

What will we be learning about this half term?

Religious Education

Branch 1- Creation and Covenant – Exploring the second account of Creation, The Fall and St John's Gospel prologue. Learning how science and religion can be compatible when studying the beginnings of the universe.

Branch 2- – Prophecy and Promise – A special time for Christians. We will learn about some prominent women of the Old Testament and explore how women are responding to God's call in their lives today.

English

Mastery English

This term, we are reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar, a much-loved children's novel that combines mystery, humour and adventure. The story follows Stanley Yelnats, a boy sent to a strange camp in the desert where he and the other boys must dig holes every day — but all is not as it seems. As the plot unfolds, themes of friendship, justice and resilience shine through, making it a brilliant text to explore together as a class.

Holes is an excellent choice for teaching because it engages pupils with its gripping storyline, layered characters and opportunities for deeper discussion about fairness, consequences and hope. We will be using the book as inspiration across our writing this term, with pupils developing pieces to describe (characters and settings), to persuade (such as arguing Stanley's case and writing letters), and to inform (through news reports and fact files linked to events in the story).

This term, we are focussing on sentence structure and word classes. We are doing this to ensure that our writing is coherent, and that we think carefully about our vocabulary choices and punctuation. We will begin by revising main clauses, and move on to co-ordination and subordination when we are confident and using precise and impactful vocabulary. .

Mathematics

This term in maths, we will be developing both arithmetic fluency and reasoning skills, with regular opportunities to practise key calculations, explain our thinking and apply our knowledge to a range of problems. Our main units will focus on place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, before moving on to fractions. Throughout each unit, children will build confidence with efficient methods and develop the skills needed to tackle increasingly challenging problems.

Science

Our science topic in Autumn 1 is 'Electricity'. This topic builds on the year 4 work on electricity taking it into the scientific use of symbols for components in a circuit, as well as considering the effect in more detail of changing components in a circuit. The children can apply their learning with exploration of electrical circuits

In Autumn 2, we will study 'Light'. This unit introduces the concept of light travelling in straight lines. It starts by looking at beams of light and how light travels to enable children to understand how we see things. This understanding is then applied to the production of shadows and starts to look at how light is reflected. The unit then takes the learning into the realm of coloured light and rainbows, using scientific skills to raise and answer questions. It builds on the work carried out in year 3 on light, shadows and reflection.

Computing and Online Safety

Communication & collaboration- learning how data is transferred over the internet, through addressing and data packets. We will look at online communication and collaboration- completing shared projects using online resources. We will then move onto coding, learning how to build layers of code to make multi-functional activities online.

We will also learn about bias and echo chambers in online safety, as well as having regular reminders and discussion about responsible online behaviour and safety.

Physical Education and Sport

Autumn Term 1- Dodgeball & athletics
Autumn Term 2- Tag rugby & gymnastics

This year, Evo will continue to lead games-based PE lessons (e.g. dodgeball and tag rugby), and Mr Wake will lead the other lessons.

Spanish

In Spanish this term, Year 6 are working with the Language Angels curriculum, focusing on two engaging topics: ***Mi Casa*** (My House) and ***en el colegio*** (At School).

In *Mi Casa*, pupils will learn how to describe their homes using key vocabulary for rooms, furniture and household objects. They will practise speaking and writing in full sentences, developing their confidence to say more than single words and beginning to use adjectives to add detail.

In *en el colegio*, pupils will expand their vocabulary to talk about school subjects, classrooms and routines. They will also begin to give opinions about their favourite and least favourite subjects, helping them to use Spanish more expressively and personally.

These units not only build pupils' language knowledge but also strengthen their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

History/Geography

The Maya Civilisation- 'Why should we remember the Maya?'

In this unit, the children will explore the world of the Maya, and debate whether they should continue to be remembered today as a significant culture. The children will begin by learning about the lives of the Maya today, before focusing on ancient Maya architectural achievements, their religion and surviving writings. They will also study the possible reasons why the Maya city states declined after 900 AD, looking at conspiracy theories and considering whether everything they read online is reliable. They will consider the issues faced when studying a culture where only limited types of evidence are available, predominantly archaeological evidence. While studying the unit, it is important to check the news for information about any new finds about the culture.

Through fun games, role-plays and written activities, pupils will see how learning another language can connect to their own everyday experiences at home and in school.	South America- The Amazon- ‘What is life like in the Amazon?’ In this unit, pupils will embark on an exploration of the Amazon, discovering its vast and unique geography, the people and communities who live there, and its crucial role in the global environment. They will begin by learning how the Amazon region spans across nine countries in South America and is defined by the Amazon River Basin, which houses the largest rainforest in the world. Pupils will locate these countries on a map and understand how this expansive area forms an interconnected region. Moving on, pupils will delve into the Amazon River, which holds the title of the largest river by discharge of water. They will grasp the significance of the Amazon River in sustaining the rainforest ecosystem and supporting the lives of people, plants, and animals that depend on it. Focusing on human geography, pupils will study Manaus, the largest city in the Amazon, examining its unique physical and human characteristics. Comparing Manaus with their own city, students will gain insights into the differences in lifestyle, culture, and environment. By the end of this unit, pupils will understand the Amazon’s immense value, its complex web of life, and the challenges it faces. They will be empowered to communicate their geographical insights and develop their own ideas on how they can contribute to the Amazon’s preservation. Through maps, research, discussions, and creative projects, pupils will not only learn about the Amazon but also appreciate its significance as a crucial and irreplaceable part of our planet.
--	---

Design & Technology

‘Textiles’.

This term, children will explore how different fabrics and fabric shapes can be combined to create a purposeful 3D textile product. They will investigate existing products before developing their sewing skills, including different stitches, seams and fastenings. Children will then design, make and evaluate their own textile product, creating patterns and selecting appropriate materials and techniques to produce a high-quality finished piece.

Personal, Social and Health Education	Music
Friends & family- stereotypes, sexism and acceptance of others Online safety – bias, echo chambers Community- prejudice (history & what to do if we encounter it) Anti-bullying week & internet safety assembly RSE (TenTen Life to the Full) Calming the storm- emotional regulation Gifts & talents, girls bodies, boys bodies, spots & sleep	Charanga Model Music Curriculum Scheme Year 6 Autumn term– ‘Music & Technology’ & ‘Developing Ensemble Skills’. We will also continue to have weekly hymn practice to develop our singing skills. Mr Richardson & Mr Wake will also be working on our Peter Pan show songs with us!

PSHE terminology to be encountered: sexism, propaganda, gender stereotype, non-binary, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, sexual orientation, prejudice, discrimination, racism, segregation, homophobic, puberty, breasts, genitals, menstruation, vagina, penis, erections, ejaculation, semen, nocturnal emissions, hygiene. *Please see the PSHE/RSE curriculum map on the school website for more information regarding the PSHE curriculum and coverage.*

SATs & Residential

Later in the autumn term, we will begin to prepare our Y6 children for their SATs that will happen in May 2027. We do this through a combination of practice tests, quality first teaching and interventions. To reach all children in various areas for support, any interventions will take place in short bursts throughout the day, with a 'little and often' approach. This is carefully designed to have the biggest impact on outcomes, with as little disruption to their usual class learning as possible. Some interventions will be one to one, whilst others will be in small groups.

Mental health is at the forefront of our minds during what can be a challenging time for our children. We therefore also ensure we make time every day for a wellbeing check-in using the Zones of Regulation, along with teaching children to use our 'things I wish my teacher knew' note box and the check-in cloud. We will also be teaching mindfulness strategies and techniques for children to utilise.

Our 2027 residential is booked for **Wednesday 26th-Friday 28th May**. Please contact the school office with any queries regarding arrangements.

Year 6 Timetable

To provide consistency for the children, Mr Richardson and Miss McKay will usually teach the same two days each week, sharing alternate Wednesday mornings. On Wednesday afternoons, the class will have their PPA cover with Mr Wake. Occasionally, our teaching days may need to change due to Deputy Headteacher or SENDCo responsibilities; however, we will continue to teach the same subjects to maintain consistency and will always aim to prepare children for any changes to the normal routine.

Time	Monday 7th (MR)	Tuesday 8th (MR)	Wednesday 9th (LM AM; PPA cover PM)	Thursday 10th (LM)	Friday 11th (MR)	
08:45-09:00	Morning Tasks / Maths Meeting	Morning Tasks / Maths Meeting	Morning Tasks / Maths Meeting	Morning Tasks / Maths Meeting	Morning Tasks / Maths Meeting	
09:00-09:15	Gospel Assembly (whole school)	KS2 Assembly (whole school)	Hymns	English	Homework Feedback	
09:15-09:30	English	English			English	English
09:30-10:00						
10:00-10:15						
10:15-10:30						
10:30-10:45	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	PE	BREAK	
10:45-11:00	Maths	Maths	Maths arithmetic		BREAK	Maths
11:00-11:15						
11:15-11:30			Maths	Maths reasoning	Spellings	
11:30-11:45						
11:45-12:00	PSHE	Spellings				
12:00-13:00	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	
13:00-13:15	Science (Pt 1)	Science	History / Geography (alt. half-terms) PPA COVER	RE	RE	
13:15-13:45	PE					
13:45-14:00		Computing (alt D&T)	Music – Peter Pan Songs PPA COVER	RSE	Spanish	
14:00-14:15						
14:15-14:30	Whole class reading		Golden Time			
14:30-14:45						
14:45-15:00	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Golden Time	
15:00-15:15						