

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

"Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community"



NEWSLETTER

5th February 2021



"Tomorrow will be a good day." These were the words of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who sadly died from Coronavirus on Tuesday this week. Aged 100 and a retired member of the military, Captain Sir Tom became an inspiration for the nation as he completed his sponsored walk, planning to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday and hoping to raise £1,000 for the NHS. News of his charity walk went viral, spreading around the world and over 1.5 million people sponsored him, encouraging him to keep on walking and enabling him to raise more than £32 million to help support NHS Charities Together and NHS staff and volunteers caring for COVID-19 patients.

The day that Captain Sir Tom died was the Feast of the Presentation, often known as Candlemas. This is when we remember how Jesus is brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph according to the law of Israel. There, he is recognised by Simeon, who declares him to be a 'light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel.' Through this period of the pandemic and beyond, following Captain Sir Tom's example, may we each be recognised as a light to lighten the glory of God's people.

Next week, during collective worship I will be discussing the life and achievements of Captain Sir Tom. We will talk about his death and the impact on his family and wider society. This is to allow the children to explore their thoughts and feelings about loss and sadness in a safe environment. Your child may want to talk to you about their feelings of loss including missing important events and people who they cannot see at present.

Captain Sir Tom was seen as a beacon of hope during the pandemic. Hope for the future is so important in helping us get through this difficult time.

As this half term draws near to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support with remote learning, your child's wellbeing and trust in the school. We are acutely aware how challenging it remains for us all and pray that our children will soon be safely back in school where they belong. Next Friday (12th February) we break up for half term - I wish you and your family a restful and safe half term holiday. Please remember the spring term resumes on **Tuesday 23rd February 2021**. The school is closed on Monday 22nd February 2021 to **ALL children** for staff professional development and training.

Letton Hall October 2021

A letter is being prepared to send home after half term for all children in **Year 4** with initial details and information about the Letton Hall residential trip taking place in October. Please make sure you read this carefully and take note of the key dates and actions if you would like your child to take part in this exciting opportunity once they are in Year 5. We have tried once again to keep the cost of this trip to an absolute minimum but have also had to include the rising costs associated with travel, insurance and accommodation. I do hope we can take as many Year 5 children as possible in October 2021 as this activity really helps with team building and getting to know each other and their teachers at the beginning of the academic year. If you have any questions or concerns related to this matter please speak to Mrs Lawrence in the School Office.

Children's Wellbeing Survey

Last week I invited your children to take part in a short wellbeing survey supported by Bounce Together. Participation is voluntary but the more information we can gather the easier it will be to support all our children when they return to school and pick up on common themes. If you are able, please encourage your child to take part – it should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and all replies will be treated in the strictest of confidence. The link to the survey can be accessed via the Parent Hub message titled 'Winter Wellness – Bounce Together' which was sent on 29th January 2021. Thank you for your support.

The Real Easter Egg

Lent begins in the half term break this year on 17th February 2021. This period of reflection leads us in to the celebration and glory of Easter when we rejoice in the risen Lord.

As in previous years we have teamed up with Fr. Mark and St Thomas of Canterbury Church to offer you the opportunity to order and purchase an Easter Egg from 'The Real Easter Egg' company. Out of 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box. This year they will not be stocked by local supermarkets and are only available online or via local churches.

If you wish to order a real Easter egg, then you will be able to do so via ParentPay from **Monday 8th February 2021**. There is a choice of Easter eggs on offer – please select from:

- Original (milk) - **£4.50**
- White chocolate - **£4.50**
- Dark chocolate - **£5.50**
- Fun Pack - **£5.00**
- Special Edition - **£9.99**



All orders must be received via ParentPay by Friday 26th February 2021 They will then be delivered to school and we will arrange for collection and distribution before we break up for the Easter holiday (26th March 2021).

#LiveLent 2021



#LiveLent God's Story, Our Story is a number of daily reflections designed to encourage all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.

We witness to God's story and the impact this has made to our story so that others might also find their story taking on new meaning in the light of God's love. While the current restrictions on daily life necessitated by the pandemic present significant challenges, the suffering and isolation many continue to face make the need for us to share God's love with our communities greater than ever. Rather than just being a Lenten discipline, this year's #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.

Non-Pupil Day – 22nd February 2021

As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, Monday 22nd February 2021 is a non-pupil day and the school is closed to ALL children. As it is a staff professional development and training day there is no expectation to set remote learning and all staff will be unavailable on this day. **The spring term will resume on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 with the school remaining open for children of critical keyworkers and those who are deemed vulnerable. For the majority of the children learning will return to remote provision via Google Classrooms.**

We will be watching with anticipation over the next couple of weeks to learn more about the proposed plans to begin reopening schools to more children from the 8th March 2021. This was indicated by the Prime Minister at the end of last month but there are no further details available at present.

Finally....

Many of you may already be participating in the 'Prayer for the Nation' initiative taking place throughout February 2021. In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000+ deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite us all to call on God in prayer. Starting from 1st February they invite us to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6:00p.m. each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other.

There are a number of prayers and other resources online to support the Archbishops' Prayer for the Nation initiative. [Visit this page](#) of the national Church of England website to access more details and resources.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us:
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