

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

24th September 2021



It was a real delight and joy to see St Thomas of Canterbury Church full of our children and staff this morning, as well as those parents and other visitors who were able to join us for our Harvest Mass. The sun shone for us both on our walk to/from the church and whilst inside and it was a wonderful reminder of God's creation. Thank you once again to those parents who kindly volunteered to help assist walking our children to and from the church safely – your help was greatly appreciated! I would especially like to mention and commend the children in Year 4 and Year 6 who read and led us in prayer so beautifully. Many people commented on their confidence, clarity and sensitivity when contributing to our act of worship. After the service Fr. Mark and I discussed how perhaps a small step for our younger children will allow them to be more visible from behind the lectern!

As I mentioned during my welcome and introduction this morning we are still collecting food and other items for the Brentwood Foodbank and hope that we have a generous harvest to donate to them at the end of this half term. If you still haven't donated it is not too late – I do hope you might be able to pop an extra tin or packet into your next shop to donate to this very worthy cause. Please look further down this newsletter for suggested items to donate.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative in keeping up to date with the life and work of the school and once again I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support this term.

Congratulations!

During worship on Monday I had great pleasure in announcing and presenting badges to those children in Year 6 who have been chosen to take on positions of responsibility this year as House Captains, Sports Captains and Music Captains. I am sure you will join me in congratulating these children on achieving these prestigious positions in school and we look forward to seeing them developing in these roles and being outstanding role models for St. Thomas'.

The Year 6 children chosen were:

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Canterbury- Sophie Gale & Tanya Kapoor

Chester- Zoe Muir & Edward Freeman

Lincoln- Scarlett Robinson & Oliver Pallett

York- Scarlett Stevenson & Charlie Tasker

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Elliot Jamieson & Tammy Egbeyemi

MUSIC CAPTAINS

Dolly Humphrey & Rohan Keith



C.A.T.S 2021-2022

Since the last newsletter we have also chosen the Children Able To Speak (CATS) who have been successfully nominated and elected by their peers to represent their classes this year. The CATS members will be involved in charitable work as well as decision making this year and be used to share and express their opinions about the school. This is a very privileged position and one which comes with great responsibility. Below are the names of the children who make up our new CATS group. Congratulations to:

Lower School

3BW – Alex Davies

3S – Isla Shand

4A – Harry Sullivan

4W – Lila Keith

4P – Bertie Drake

Upper School

5S – Pollyanna Fetherston

5B – Reuben Howard

6CG – Ava Shorter

6P – Harrison Rodriguez-Holmes

6M – Ellie Monaghan-Bishop

Midday Assistant Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Assistant (MDA) role in school to assist in the care and welfare of the children during the lunchtime period. The hours are 11:55a.m. – 1:15p.m. Monday to Friday. No previous experience is necessary and training will be provided. Any successful applicants will be subject to pre-employment checks including a DBS disclosure. If you are interested in this opportunity and becoming part of our fantastic MDA team or would like to find out more information please give your details to the School Office. We will then arrange for an application pack to be sent to you with further details.

PTA News

I am sure you will join me in thanking our PTA for arranging and running such an enjoyable and successful Inflatables Afternoon yesterday. The weather was fine and we witnessed lots of children and adults having a fun time. After such a long period of being unable to hold these community events it was lovely to see the friendly atmosphere and children enjoying each others company. By attending and supporting these events arranged by the PTA you are also raising additional funding for our school – thank you!



At our PTA Committee meeting on Wednesday plans are already in place for further events both this term and beyond. Here are just a few for you to pop in your diaries!

- Thursday 25th November 2021 – PTA Christmas Shopping Event (6:30-8:30p.m.)
- Thursday 2nd December 2021 PTA Children's Christmas Bazaar (9:00-11:30a.m.)

Raring2Go

Raring2Go have been busy bees researching things to do to keep the children busy for the autumn season, with ideas such as preparing the garden for the autumn, caring for hedgehogs and having fun with some great outdoor activities, to name a few.

At present they are only producing a digital version of Raring2Go so if you want to read about what is going on in our area use the link below to the autumn edition....we hope you find it enjoyable and useful!

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/brentwoodandbillericay/autumn/>

IMPORTANT - Contact Details



It is vitally important that the school holds all current and up to date contact details for every child on roll in case of needing to contact you in emergencies. Recently it has come to light that some contact details, especially mobile telephone numbers, are out of date or not working. Please can I ask you to make sure that all contact details we hold for you are up to date. If you have recently changed mobile or landline numbers, or moved house we must be informed as soon as possible to ensure we hold the correct details. If you need to inform us of recent changes please put it in writing and email in to the School Office so we can update our system.

The new statutory guidance for schools 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSIE)' came in to force on 1st September 2021 (further details are available from our school website). One aspect of safeguarding that is very clear in this document is that schools need to have more available emergency contacts for children. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 says that schools should have at least two emergency contacts for every child in the school in case of emergencies, and in case there are welfare concerns at the home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

For your information our Child Protection Policy has also been updated to reflect the new KCSIE 2021 guidance and this policy and Part 1 & Annex C of KCSIE can be found on our website.

Administering Medicines in School

At the beginning of a new academic year we always like to take the opportunity to remind parents/carers of the school policy on administering medicines in school. I would particularly urge the parents of Year 3 children to take note of this information. The full policy adopted by the Governing Body can be accessed via the school website under the 'Information' → 'School Policies' tab. You will also find a copy of the 'Administering Medication Form' which can be downloaded, completed and returned to school. Can I please draw your attention to the extract taken from the policy below:

"St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School can only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration. Office staff will seek new up to date contact numbers for all those pupils in need of medicine. We will only guarantee medicine will be given to the most serious of cases – in these cases it is good practice to ask parents and pupils to be involved in reminding the office staff.

Medicines will be stored in a secure cabinet during the day or a staffroom fridge where necessary.

Parents/Carers should make arrangements to collect the medicine from the school office at the end of the day unless alternative arrangements are made with the school staff. Medicines will not be handed to a child to bring home."

It is very important that all parents/carers adhere to these guidelines. We do experience a number of parents who hand in medicines without the original container or instructions for administration. Please help us to implement our policy for the safety of your children and the protection of our staff. The School Office may refuse to accept medicines brought into school.



Harvest Collection

Once again our Harvest collection of gifts will be to support the **Brentwood Foodbank**. 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK. During the pandemic period more and more families have found themselves relying on local foodbanks and this has put increased pressure on their supplies and resources.

The **Brentwood Foodbank** need the following on their 'Harvest Festival Shopping List':

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tinned spaghetti | Tinned tuna |
| Tinned meatballs | Tinned sardines |
| Tinned potatoes | Tinned ham |
| Tinned salmon | Tinned all day breakfast |
| Tinned ravioli | Chicken in Sauce |
| Mince & Onion | Beef casserole |
| Chilli con carne | Ravioli |
| Corned beef | Hot dogs |
| Tinned rice pudding | Tinned fruit |
| Tinned custard | Instant mash packets |
| Jams & spreads | Sweets & treats |
| Washing powder/liquids | Shaving gel/foam |
| Washing up liquid | Pump anti-bacterial soap |



I do hope that every child can bring in at least one item on this list. I am sure we are all able to put one or two extra items in to our shopping trolleys and baskets to help those that are less fortunate than us. We will be pleased to accept your donations between now and half term when we will arrange for the items to be delivered to the Brentwood Foodbank. Please send items in to school with your child and they will be collected in their classrooms by their classteachers. Please be mindful of use by/sell by dates and ensure they have a long enough expiry date to be used by the Brentwood Foodbank. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Finally....

Once again may I remind all parents of children in **Year 6** that your Secondary School applications need to be completed and returned to the Local Authority by **31st October 2021**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year. I am sure you all have this in hand and are busy visiting various Secondary Schools at this time.

You might also find it useful to watch the following link: <https://youtu.be/Q0a8fi06WKY>

Stay safe everyone and have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us: admin@stthomasinr.essex.sch.uk