

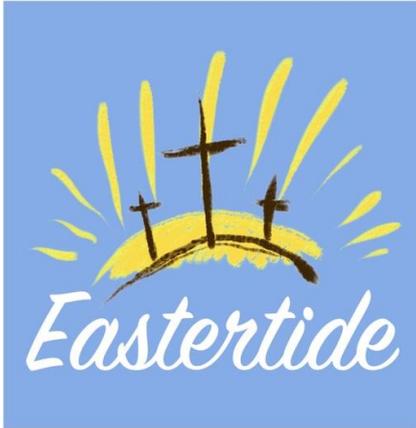
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

29th April 2022



I do apologise for sending a rather belated 'welcome back' to the summer term and hope you all had a wonderful Easter break – although it may now be a dim and distant memory? Unfortunately last week saw me having to self-isolate after succumbing to COVID-19, having managed to avoid it for over 2 years!! I know many of you have been through a similar experience and I was quite surprised at how dreadful I felt. Thankfully I am now on the road to recovery but am very sorry to have missed the start of a new term in school. In my absence I know the summer term has got off to a positive start. It is always a treat to return at this time of year to lighter mornings, longer hours of daylight and a chance to enjoy and make the most of our superb school grounds. As we journey through this season of Eastertide we rejoice at the new life around us and reflect upon the real story of Easter and proclaim the news of the risen Lord –

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The term ahead looks as busy and exciting as ever with lots going on and lots to look forward to. Next week we will issue the 'Dates for the Diary' sheet detailing the events and activities taking place this term. Please keep it somewhere safe and refer to it as necessary. Please remember that all newsletters and key communication from the school appears on the school website (www.stthomasjr.org) and are also sent electronically via Parent Hub.

This half term we will be thinking very much of our Year 6 children as they complete their end of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs). We are very confident that they will approach these with confidence, determination and resilience and demonstrate their true potential and the progress they have made over their time in the Junior School. Good luck to everyone involved!

We will endeavour to keep you up to date and fully informed through use of Parent Hub, the school website and fortnightly newsletters. Please take the time to read them as a great deal of time and effort goes into preparing them. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement and we look forward to working with you in partnership over the coming term.

Staffing Update

Sadly, **Mrs Rena Cable** has announced her resignation from our Teaching Assistant (SEND) team and will be leaving St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School on Friday 13th May 2022.

Mrs Cable has been at our school for the past 10 years and worked in a number of different year groups assisting a range of children supported through our SEND provision. Mrs Cable is moving on to a new role and a new experience as a Family Support Assistant. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Cable on her new position and also thank her for her dedication and commitment to our school.

Year 6 SATs



Next week will see the start of May which for all primary schools is a very important month with Key Stage 1 assessments taking place and Key Stage 2 SATs tests just around the corner. As a Junior School we have been working exceptionally hard to prepare our Year 6 children for these tests despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 2 years. I am

confident that the staff and children will approach SATs Week, commencing on 9th May, with determination, confidence and faith in their own abilities.

I would ask you to keep them all in your thoughts and prayers. I am sure you will join me in wishing them good luck and every success in their final preparations ahead of the real thing.

Library Design a Book Cover Competition 2022



The school library is running a competition for the month of May! We would like the children to choose one of their favourite books that they have read as part of the St Thomas' reading challenge, and create an alternative 'front cover'.

The size of the cover must be A5, and can be designed at home. We will also provide access to A5 sized plain paper and colouring pencils during library drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the month of May.

The only rule of entry is that the children are actively taking part in the reading challenge.

The closing date is **Friday 27th May 2022**. There will be a tray on the librarian's desk, where the children can leave their finished design. Please make sure that they add their name (in capitals) and class on the back.

The Lower and Upper School entries will be judged separately after half term. There are prizes (1st, 2nd and 3rd) for the winning entries - book tokens that have been kindly donated by the PTA.

For further information, the children can speak to Mrs Emery (School Librarian). Good luck!

Summer Uniform – Reminder!

It was wonderful to see all the children returning this term in their summer uniforms with some lovely new, crisp white polo shirts on display. By the end of this week almost 100% of children are now in correct and approved summer uniform – thank you! Nobody should now be wearing a school tie and collared shirt (winter uniform), but following the school uniform guidance given out in the last newsletter or clearly displayed in your child's homework diary. We have had to mention to a number of boys about the colour of their socks – these must be black or grey only (NOT white or patterned). Can I also remind you that girls who wear hairbands/clips..etc. must wear them in the approved school colours and they must be of a size that they do not become a distraction or hinderance to themselves or others. We expect our school uniform to reflect our high expectations across the school and we thank you for your support in this matter. As we notice children wearing incorrect uniform they will get a reminder sticker placed in their homework diary.



Year 5 – Confirmation Classes

It was wonderful to see 25 of our Year 5 children starting confirmation preparation classes on Tuesday after school with Fr. Mark. I think this has been our largest group to date and all are excited at taking this next important step in their journey of faith. Our weekly class-based Eucharists have really given all our children an opportunity to explore, question and become confident with the sacrament of the Mass and I think this is a key factor in seeing so many children wanting to be confirmed.

These candidates are now preparing to be confirmed at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Sunday 3rd July 2022 and will receive the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Norman, the Bishop of Richborough. Over the coming weeks these children will continue to complete confirmation preparation classes with Fr. Mark and revisit their baptismal promises and understanding of their faith. I hope you will be able to pray for these children and their families at this very special time.

Summer Term Clubs/ Extra Curricular Activities

Please find attached to this newsletter the new clubs and extra curricular timetable for the **Summer Term 2022**. At this stage we can confirm these clubs but additional ones may become available later on in the term as staff have more time to offer. Clubs underlined are limited either by cost or by numbers. I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who are willing to give of their time and expertise for the children of our school. I hope you will encourage your children to offer their appreciation, not only in words, but also through their attendance and dedication. Should you have any queries or concerns, please arrange to speak with the Club Leader. Thank you.



PTA Spring Term Review

The PTA Committee have put together another really informative infographic based on the events that took place in the spring term – [please see Parent Hub attachment sent with this letter](#). It highlights the wide variety of events that were put on and the money raised as well as the donations made to the school.

You will notice that a sizeable donation of **£1,800** has been given for our 'Prayer Shed' which will form the centre piece to our Spiritual Garden which will be landscaped and created over the summer holiday period. Watch this space for further news and updates....!!

Finally....

Early next week you will receive (via Parent Hub) the new Lower and Upper School Curriculum Guide for Parents for the Summer Term. Please have a look through this with your child to see the exciting areas they will be exploring over the course of this term. Hopefully you will be able to identify some ways in which you can support their knowledge and understanding at home – and bring this in to school to share!

Congratulations to all those children and adults who took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 on Monday 25th April. I know that this was a wonderful and uplifting experience as a choir of thousands of school children came together to sing and perform. I have received some really positive feedback from all who attended and despite a late night everyone had a memorable and fantastic time!

As always we are looking forward to working in partnership with you over this new summer term and thank you in advance for your trust, commitment and support of the school.

Enjoy the long weekend – see you on Tuesday!

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher



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