

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

13th May 2022

Let's not mention the date....Friday the 13th, considered to be an unlucky day and associated with bad luck. Thankfully the Year 6 SATs assessments all came to a conclusion yesterday – which is a blessed relief!



Our Year 6 children have been amazing this week and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Year 6 children on their determination, perseverance and resolve during SATs week (May 9th – 12th). Considering everything they have had to contend with and the disruption to normal schooling caused by COVID-19 restrictions and lengthy periods of enforced school closure the children have been brilliant. Without exception the children tackled these tests with a superb attitude and demonstrated their desire to do well and showcase their learning and progress across Key Stage 2. I know that the Year 6 staff were very proud of their conduct and efforts and we hope this has paid off and will be reflected in the results due in early July. Congratulations to everyone in Year 6 – children and staff!

Yesterday you should have received, via Parent Hub, the Summer Term 'Dates for your Diary'. Please do keep these to hand and refer to them regularly so you can keep abreast of school events and key dates. Undoubtedly there will be additional dates to add as the term unfolds and we will communicate these through the fortnightly newsletters and Parent Hub channel. Apologies that these have been released later than intended.

Thank you for your continued support, patience and prayers.

The 2 Johns – E-Safety Training

Earlier this week we sent out details about the return of 'The 2 Johns' to St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School. Once again we are delighted to be welcoming the 2 Johns (in a virtual sense) to school on **Thursday 19th May 2022** to present their online e-safety/stranger danger webinar workshops to our children, staff and parents.



Over the course of the day the 2 Johns will present to Year 3 & 4 (morning), Year 5 & 6 (afternoon), staff (after school) and parents (evening). These webinar sessions are really well put together and cover a range of topics and discussion points that highlight some of the dangers of being online in a virtual world. I am sure everyone who attends will learn something new and there will be plenty of food for thought, reflection and questions.

Please do make every effort to join the webinar information session for parents/carers in the evening from 8:00-9:30p.m. Remember you can do this from the comfort of your own home and without the need to arrange child care. To join this event simply use the invitation details below:

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant & Junior Schools

EST Training – 'Being a Parent in the 21st Century'

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82187708084>

Safeguarding Children in Out of School Settings

It is very important that children are safeguarded at all times, whether this is in school or attending out of school settings. The government website has a guidance document aimed at parents which you may find very useful. The DfE guidance refers to Out of School Settings (OOSS) which includes 'community and youth centres, sports clubs, and places of worship, to individuals offering tuition in their own home, or providing one to one coaching at a playing field or local park. Fees may or may not be charged. Some settings may be run as businesses.'

The parent guidance contains:

- questions you may wish to ask a provider
- examples of the types of good answers you should expect
- warning signs you may wish to look out for when choosing a provider

The guidance can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings/keeping-children-safe-during-community-activities-after-school-clubs-and-tuition-questions-to-help-parents-and-carers-choose-out-of-school-settings>

Waterbottles

It is very important that children have access to clean drinking water throughout the day particularly at this time of year when we start to experience warmer weather. We encourage your children to bring in a waterbottle to school which encourages them to drink and replace their fluids as the day goes on. Children are also given access to drinking water at school to refill their waterbottles once they are empty. However recently we have had a number of problems with water being spilt in the classroom mainly because some children do not have waterbottles with a sports cap. The school policy is that **all** waterbottles brought into school must have a sports cap to prevent such accidents happening. If your child does not have this type of waterbottle can I please ask you to change it as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Local Authority Governor Vacancy

Further to my message in the newsletter sent on 25th March 2022, I would like to draw to your attention this exciting opportunity!

The Governing Body of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School have a vacancy for a Local Authority appointed Governor on the Full Governing Body. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone to play a strategic role in supporting and developing the school whilst representing the views of the Local Authority.

The Governing Body, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in our school and be prepared to play an active part in the work of the Governing Body. I do hope that you will give this opportunity some serious consideration. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me via the School Office.

If this opportunity is of interest to you and you would like to nominate yourself for consideration then please put this in writing and email to clerk@stthomasjnr.essex.sch.uk



National Walk to School Week (16-20th May 2022)

A generation ago, 70% of us walked to school – now it is less than half. So 'Walk to School Week' was started to encourage more children (and parents) to get out of the car and walk to school.

Why Walk to School?

- Walking to school is a brilliant way to get active and healthy - without even realising you are exercising.
- It is also a great opportunity for children to learn those vital road safety skills and make sure they're alert and ready to learn at the start of a new day.
- They will see their friends and be able to chat to them on the way into school - or even make new friends with the children they meet on the way.

- It will also help to reduce congestion especially around Sawyers Hall Lane, reduce pollution and give children some exercise.

Even if you are unable to walk all the way to school, see if you can walk part of the way – you could even use your scooter!



Finally....

I know that some of you may be attending the 'St Thomas' Youth Concert' at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Saturday (14th) evening at 7:00p.m. This will include performances from the St Thomas' Junior School Choir and the St Thomas' Kids.

Doors open at 6:30p.m. There is no charge for entry and a retiring collection will be held. I do hope many of our school community and church congregation will be able to pop along and support our talented young people.

Take care and have a wonderful weekend.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher