

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

17th June 2022



Well things are certainly warming up and this week we have been able to enjoy some gloriously sunny weather! Today has been a little too hot for my liking but the current heatwave is due to come to a crashing conclusion over the weekend as thunderstorms roll in with some fresher, cooler air. I hope it doesn't spoil our weekend!

On Thursday we were delighted to welcome the PTA Committee and additional volunteers to help set up and run our Father's Day Sale. This Sunday is Father's Day and I hope everyone is ready to spoil the 'marvellous men' in their families. I saw some discerning shoppers in the hall on Thursday morning with various gifts and surprises secreted away in plastic bags. Hopefully these will remain well hidden before Sunday!

With the Father's Day Sale out of the way I know the PTA Committee are turning their attention and energy to the PTA Summer Fair planned for **Saturday 2nd July 2022** (12 noon – 3:00p.m). They have recently sent out a plea for additional help and volunteers via a Parent Hub message so I do hope some of you were able to respond? Even if you cannot help, please do come and visit us on the day as it promises to be a fantastic community event.

As always we look forward to strengthening our partnership with you and bringing another busy, challenging but successful year to a close. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Please see below for some updates, information and announcements.

Library News

At the end of our Lower School and Upper School Trinity Eucharists last Friday, we were delighted to be able to announce the results of the 'Design a Book Cover Competition'. We had a large number of entries - both from the Lower and Upper School - all of a very high standard. This made judging very difficult. The prizes that were kindly donated by the PTA were book tokens, and were given out to:

Lower School:

- 1st Prize - Henry Bannister
- 2nd Prize - Jessica Cifor
- 3rd Prize- Melody Shanley

Upper School:

- 1st Prize - Anna Benns
- 2nd Prize - Charlotte Wood
- 3rd Prize- Imogen Forbes Buckingham



Congratulations to all our winners listed above and thank you to all that took part.

This week Holly Wylie, Reuben Howard and Mrs Emery (School Librarian) had a very productive visit to Brentwood Library to learn more about this year's Summer Reading Challenge – '**Gadgeteers**'. They have returned to school equipped with resources ready and enthusiastic to share them with the rest of the children. Over the next few weeks we are hoping that Holly and Reuben will be able to put together a short presentation to encourage as many children as possible to participate. I am sure you will wish them luck as they take on this whole school responsibility.

School Streets Project

As part of our ongoing engagement with the School Streets project, we aim to get as many children and families travelling actively to school for all or part of their journey. Greener modes of travel should be part of our daily travel routines, so in order to enable this, the School Streets Community Engagement Officers are offering a free parking permit at either William Hunter Way Car Park or Chatham Road Car Park to enable you to park the car and walk the remaining 15 minutes with your child(ren). Studies show that walking aids

creativity, reduces stress and boosts the immune system. By changing our behaviour we set a great example for younger generations improving individual and environmental health.

Free parking for one hour and 15 minutes is available when you obtain the half hour free ticket at the car park. Joining this programme will help create less congestion in Sawyers Hall Lane and at the school gates making it a safer and healthier environment for the children, parents and members of staff.

Free parking will only be available between the times of 8:00 to 9:15 and 14:45 to 16:00 and the School Streets Community Officers ask for parents and guardians to please display their ticket and the parking permit sticker in clear sight on your vehicle's dashboard. Please note that the car park is still open to the public at this time. The finer details of this scheme are being finalised and we will give you an update as soon as possible. To obtain a free parking permit you will be required to give your name and postcode.

In addition, School Streets are exploring setting up a Walking Bus which supports children walking to school from the park and stride site by being led and chaperoned by adults. A Walking Bus not only boosts exercise and lowers carbon footprints but sees different parts of the community working together and allows more time for parents to go off to work or wherever they might need to go. If the Walking Bus scheme would be of interest to you or you would be willing to be a part of the supporting adults leading the walk, please let us know so we can pass your details on.

We hope you will find this project of use and help us make it a success!

Sports Day 2022

It is back.... after a 2 year absence! As I am sure you are aware from the dates sent out at the beginning of this term, Sports Day is fast approaching and is scheduled for next **Friday 24th June 2022**. This will obviously be weather permitting! We do hope that you will be able to join us for this annual event and popular afternoon. Parents and other spectators can enter the school premises from 1:10p.m. when the gates to the playground will be opened. The event is due to start promptly at 1:30p.m. There will be refreshments available to purchase during Sports Day with cold drinks and snacks on sale from the PTA. Can I kindly ask you to use the litter bins provided once you have finished with cups, wrappers...etc.

Parents are kindly requested to stay behind the cordon on the school side of the track and should not under any circumstances make their way across the track to the children. The children will be sitting in their house groups and cheering for the children competing on their behalf in each race. The children will be closely supervised by members of our own staff, first aid will be on hand, and there is absolutely no need for any parents to come across to their children. Please respect these guidelines to ensure everyone is able to enjoy the event!

Please remember there will be no swimming lessons on this day.

REMINDER: Class & Team Photographs

On Tuesday 21st June 2022 we will be welcoming the school photographer from Kittle Photography in for the day to take class photographs as well as some team pictures. Can I remind you that all children need to be wearing school approved summer uniform on this day. Don't forget to brush your hair and ensure you bring your best smile! Please ensure your child arrives to school on time as if they are late they may miss being in the class photograph!

Open Classrooms - A special invitation!



We are delighted to inform you that we are going to have another 'Open Classrooms' opportunity for parents on **Tuesday 28th June 2022** from 3:30p.m. until 4:15p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to view your child's working environment and marvel at the displays within the classroom. The classteacher's will also be present to answer any questions you might have about the work on display. You will also get a chance to look at some of your child's exercise books to see the work they have completed to date. It is not an opportunity to discuss academic progress and attainment as this will have been covered during parents' evening and updated in End of Year Reports.

This is an open invitation with no designated appointment times and I'm sure your child will relish the opportunity to proudly show you around their classroom. Please remember to wait on the playground until 3:30p.m. Unfortunately we are not able to admit any pushchairs due to health and safety/fire regulations. We look forward to seeing you!

Geography Field Trips

This week you will have received a Parent Hub message with regard to the forthcoming Lower School and Upper School Geography field trips. These are taking place locally in the week commencing 27th June 2022. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore what is on our own doorstep as well as develop and reinforce some of their geography skills. If you are able to assist on the field trips and have previously registered as a parent helper with us then please speak to your child's classteacher as soon as possible. You will need to have an in date DBS check which is registered at St Thomas' rather than a work related one.

Finally....

As well as preparing for various transition visits to their new Secondary Schools for September 2022, the Year 6 children are busy rehearsing for their end of year production – 'Peter Pan'. I am sure this will be a great opportunity to have a bit of fun and showcase their gifts and talents!

Please do continue to pray for our Year 5 children who are currently preparing for Confirmation with Bishop Norman on Sunday 3rd July at St Thomas of Canterbury Church.

The staff and I would like to thank you for your continued support and trust. Please keep the life and work of the school in your on-going thoughts and prayers.

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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