

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER



22nd July 2022



We have made it! Today we bring to an end the 2021/2022 academic year after what has been another challenging and exhausting yet rewarding and enjoyable journey which we all embarked on back in September 2021. Another academic year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but thankfully to a lesser extent, with no enforced school closures, remote learning and compared with previous years a sense of 'normality'. This period will certainly go down in the history books!

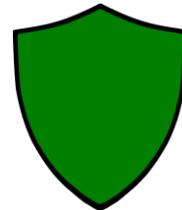
In recent days we have also had to contend with the hottest recorded summer temperatures in the UK which has been an additional challenge for us all to respond to. As always the staff at all levels have been incredible demonstrating resilience and tenacity. Your children continue to amaze and delight us and the support and trust from our parent and wider community is fantastic. As we all prepare for a well-deserved summer holiday I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and wish you a safe and happy summer with a chance to spend time with loved ones and family.

For some it is goodbye and good luck. For most, we will see you again in the new academic year 2022-2023. The new academic year begins on **Monday 5th September 2022** when we will be delighted to welcome you back for what I am sure will be another fantastic year!

The Winners Are....?

Congratulations to all the children in **Lincoln** who were announced as the Golden House Point winners for the 2021/2022 academic year in worship this week. A particular well done to Scarlett Robinson and Oliver Pallet who have been the Lincoln House Captains this year always leading by example. All of the children in Lincoln are now proudly wearing their Golden House Point badges! As you will see below, it has been a close run competition this academic year with the top spot changing between Houses on a frequent basis. The final results are:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st | Lincoln | 11 Golden House Points |
| =2 nd | York | 9 Golden House Points |
| =2 nd | Canterbury | 9 Golden House Points |
| 4 th | Chester | 8 Golden House Points |



Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Results

Last Friday (15th) your child will have brought home their end of year annual report. Thank you to all those parents/carers and children who have completed and returned the report reply slip to the School Office. If you haven't yet done so then please return it to us as soon as possible.

For our Year 6 children we were able to share their individual KS2 SATs results as well as the school results compared to the national outcome for 2022. We have also been able to compare our results with Essex Local Authority outcomes and look at comparisons for children achieving the expected standard as well as those achieving greater depth. Our data at this stage is provisional as we have a number of papers where we have requested a marking review and the outcome of these will not be known until September 2022.

I am delighted to share with our parent and wider community the KS2 SATs outcomes for 2022 in the two tables below. This information has also been shared amongst our staff team and the Governing Body. I am sure, like me, you will be immensely proud of the results which demonstrates the quality of teaching and learning across the school and the commitment by our whole school community to ensure our children achieve their full potential. Bearing in mind the disrupted education our Year 6 children have had over the past 2 years, the results are quite incredible!! I will leave you to digest this information and draw your own conclusions but I hope you feel as proud as I do when you see them!

| % pupils achieving expected standard | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| Measure | School | School | Essex | National |
| | 2019 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Reading | 78 | 88 | 74 | 74 |
| GPS | 89 | 79 | 72 | 72 |
| Writing | 86 | 80 | 70 | 69 |
| Maths | 78 | 86 | 71 | 71 |
| RWM | 71 | 76 | 58 | 59 |

| % pupils achieving greater depth (high attainers) | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| Measure | School | School | Essex | National |
| | 2019 | 2022 | 2022 | 2022 |
| Reading | 36 | 40 | 27 | 28 |
| GPS | 42 | 42 | 28 | 28 |
| Writing | 36 | 37 | 16 | 13 |
| Maths | 22 | 41 | 22 | 23 |
| RWM | 19 | 25 | 9 | 7 |

Thank you – Mrs Carvell



After a long and distinguished career at St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School we have said a sad farewell to **Mrs Carol Carvell** as she looks forward to a well-deserved retirement. Mrs Carvell has had a long association with our school (23 years) and I know this is an emotional time as she prepares to leave our school family. Many of you will know Mrs Carvell as the voice on the end of the telephone or the face at the School Office hatch and I know many of you have had an opportunity to do your own goodbyes and good luck. I know Mrs Carvell has seen and experienced many changes during her time at the school and I hope she is able to take many fond and happy memories with her.

Sadly, after three rounds of advertising and attempting to shortlist since March 2022 we have drawn a blank with finding suitable candidates to interview for the position of Finance & Administrative Assistant following the retirement of Mrs Carol Carvell. Various options have been considered in recognition of the fact that we have a very limited period to undertake transition, training and handover ahead of September 2022. As a temporary appointment we are delighted that **Miss Katy Forder** has agreed to take on this role and join the school office team working alongside Mrs Anita Lawrence and Mrs Hilary Forder. We will start another recruitment round in September 2022 in the hope that a permanent replacement can be found to begin in January 2023.

Congratulations!

Back in January 2022 we launched our St Thomas of Canterbury Junior School Reading Tree Challenge. This also coincided with the Essex Local Authority 'Year of Reading'. Since then it has been wonderful to see so many children climbing the reading tree and each Friday in collective worship we are able to award various certificates for achievement. I do hope your child has gained at least one of the awards on offer. The reading reward scheme has been a huge success and I would especially like to thank Mrs Coughtrey, Mrs Emery (School Librarian) and our Upper School librarians for their support of the scheme.

As of 15th July 2022 we had awarded the following:

- Bronze Award – **237** (Read 5 books across 3 different branches of the tree)
- Silver Award – **103** (Read 10 books across 5 different branches of the tree)
- Gold Award – **41** (Read 15 books across 7 different branches of the tree)
- Platinum Award – **20** (Read 25 books from across all 8 branches of the tree)

Many congratulations to all those children who are represented in the figures above and thank you to all those parents/carers who have supported your child on this reading journey. Reading is such an important life skill and I am delighted that we have such a rich and embedded reading culture in our school. In September the Reading Tree Challenge will be re-launched to our children and we hope we can surpass the figures above.



New & Updated Policy

At our summer term Full Governing Body meeting on 14th July, the Governing Body reviewed, updated and ratified the following policy:

- Pupil Attendance Policy (September 2022)

This policy is now freely accessible from the school website (www.stthomasjr.org) and can be located from our home page: Information → School Policies.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the Attendance Policy (Annex B) as this incorporates the Essex Code of Conduct, Penalty Notice for Parents of Truants and Parents of Pupils Excluded from School, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 Section 23.

Gold School Games Mark 2021/2022

We were delighted to be informed this term that St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School had achieved and been presented with the Gold School Games Mark for 2021-2022. Each School Games Mark application is divided into four sets of questions. They cover the following basic topics...

- **Participation** - how many young people at your school are being engaged in sporting activity?
- **Competition** - how many different sports are being played and how many competitions are being entered?
- **Workforce** - how many pupils are involved in leadership activities alongside taking part in competitions?
- **Clubs** - how many local links does your school have with clubs or establishments from the area?

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Berner (PE Subject Leader) for this national award and we will certainly look to build upon this success in the new academic year.

Summer Holiday Online Safety

As we are all aware, children and young people today are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living much of their lives online. The internet provides many opportunities for our children, but also brings with it risks. We need to help our children understand these risks and equip them with the skills to keep themselves as safe as possible online. We also need to be confident that they understand how to report online harm and where to access help and support if they need it. Any child can be vulnerable online, and their vulnerability can fluctuate depending on their age, developmental stage and personal circumstance.

It is important to teach children how to navigate the online world and equip them with sufficient knowledge and understanding to keep themselves safer online. The key to help children and young people develop are:

- ✓ **How to evaluate what they see online** – children need to be able to assess and make judgements about what they see online, and not automatically assume that what they see is real or appropriate
- ✓ **How to recognise techniques used for persuasion** – children should understand the techniques that are often used to persuade or manipulate others
- ✓ **Online behaviour** – children should understand what acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour (in themselves and others) looks like. They should apply the same standards of behaviour and honesty on and offline, including respect for others.
- ✓ **How to identify online risks** – children should be able to identify possible online risks and make informed decisions about how to act
- ✓ **How and when to seek support** – children should understand safe ways in which to seek support if they are concerned or upset by something they have seen online, and also how to report online harm

Resources for parents and carers:

- [Internet Matters](#) – a not-for-profit organisation set up to empower parents and carers to keep children safe in the digital world. Their support for parents includes a range of downloadable guides covering subjects such as transition to secondary school, Vlogging & livestreaming, online gaming and cyberbullying

- [NSPCC](#) - includes a range of resources to help parents keep children safe when they're using the internet, social networks, apps, games and more
- [Parent Info](#) - from CEOP and Parent Zone, Parent Info is a website for parents covering all of the issues amplified by the internet. It is a free service which helps schools engage parents with expert safety advice, endorsed by the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. This website provides expert information across a range of online harms
- [Parent Zone](#) - offers a range of resources for families, to help them meet the challenges of the digital age, including parent guides on the latest digital trends and platforms.

Resources for pupils:

- [BBC Own It](#) - support for young people to take control of their online life, including help and advice, skills and inspiration on topics such as friendships and bullying, safety and self-esteem
- [Childline](#) – includes information for pupils on sexting, gaming, grooming, bullying, porn, relationships.

Reminders!

As we draw this academic year to a conclusion can I take this opportunity to remind you of a few things:

- All outstanding dinner money arrears must be settled before the end of the academic year via Parent Pay
- When we return to school on 5th September 2022 we will start from **WEEK 1** of the school menus
- Year 5 Residential 2022 – **Letton Hall** – Please check on Parent Pay that you are up to date with payments and on schedule to pay this in full
- Year 6 Residential 2022 – **Rock UK** – Please check on Parent Pay that you are up to date with payments and on schedule to pay this in full

Finally....

Thank you to all those who joined us at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church for our Leavers' Eucharist this morning to celebrate the passing of another school year. It gave us a fitting opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children as their time at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School draws to a conclusion.

As this is the last newsletter of this academic year I would like to pass on my thanks, and the thanks of all the staff, for your support and trust over the course of this year. It has been another very challenging but very successful year and I hope you and your children get an opportunity over the summer holidays to reflect upon the many positive experiences, challenges, progress and achievements which have been made.

Wishing you and your family a well-deserved, safe and happy summer holiday!

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