

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER



8th July 2022

This week has been all about our Year 6 children and what a talented bunch they are!



On Tuesday we received the end of Key Stage 2 assessment outcomes (SATs results) for this cohort of children and let me just say we are delighted with their achievements! Many of you may have seen the headlines on Tuesday relating to national outcomes. I am very pleased to say we buck the national trend of a downward decline and considering the disruption caused by the last 2 years of pandemic restrictions and periods of enforced school closure our children have been amazing. At this stage this is as much as I can say – however, once the Year 6 children have received their end of year reports and SATs outcomes next Friday (15th) we will take great pride in sharing them more widely....watch this space!

Also on Tuesday we were highly entertained by the Year 6 children as they delivered two stunning performances of 'Peter Pan'. All our children (including the Year 2's from the Infant School) were able to see a dress rehearsal on Monday, but the Year 6 children excelled themselves on Tuesday afternoon and evening. The acting was amazing, the singing wonderful, the props and scenery professionally produced and the collaborative team ethos was evidently on display. It made us laugh, it made us smile and we saw gifts and talents which had not necessarily been seen before. Thank you to our audience members for attending and for your support with this production. Over the course of our two performances we raised **£420.21** to be split equally between Great Ormond Street Hospital and Challenging MND.

UK Houses of Parliament

On Wednesday 29th June we were delighted to take our House Captains, Sports Captains, Music Captains and CATS reps on an educational visit and tour of the UK Houses of Parliament. This was a complete honour and privilege as we were taken behind the scenes to see how this historic and beautiful building operates and visit both chambers – the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We were even given access to HM The Queen's robing room!

Standing between the green and red benches really gave a sense of how democracy works in our country and many of us saw for real things which we had only ever seen on the television. Thankfully Westminster was not quite as busy as it has been this week!!!

As well as a tour the children also had an opportunity to take part in an educational workshop – 'Campaign & Parliament' where two opposing groups were asked to debate and set Bills and then campaign as to why they should become Laws. We certainly saw signs of future politicians and MPs in the making! I know that all the children and adults who attended had a great experience (despite an early start!) and we hope to be able to apply again for a visit in the not too distant future.



Library News

To encourage the children to strive for their next reading award, we will be offering House Points for all certificates awarded up to and including 15th July 2022. So many of our children are only a couple of books away from their next certificate, so it would be wonderful to be able to hand out many more before the end of term.

At the end of the school day on Friday 15th July, we will be closing the library until the start of the new academic year. Some of the children have reported that their school library books may be hidden in a really safe place at home! Mrs Emery (School Librarian) would be very grateful if you spot any school library books lurking around, that you send them into school before this date. Thank you for your support with this.

Leavers' Service – Friday 22nd July

As is tradition, we are going to St. Thomas of Canterbury Church for our Leavers' Eucharist on Friday 22nd July 2022 starting promptly at 9:30a.m. to celebrate the passing of another school year. We will also be saying goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children as their time at St. Thomas' draws to a close. I hope many of you will be able to join us for this special occasion – our service will be led by Fr. Mark. If you are able to help walk the children to and from the church your support would be greatly appreciated – please speak to your child's classteacher.

Exercise Books

As we draw close to the end of the academic year we will be arranging to send some of your children's exercise books home so you can share in their successes and congratulate them on their progress and hard work across the year.

This year we will continue to retain a small sample of children's English and Mathematics books (with the exception of Year 6) as these will act as a valuable source of evidence for your child's new classteacher and year group teams. Owing to the continued impact of the pandemic we expect there to be some gaps in the children's knowledge and understanding and much of our planning for the new academic year will be around continuing a 'catch up curriculum' to make up any deficit and speed up progress.

Of those books we retain, it is our intention to keep hold of these exercise books until the end of the first half term by which time we will have created enough work and evidence in the children's new books to be able to send them home. You will receive these books towards the end of October when they will be sent home via their new classteacher.

We hope you will support us in these arrangements which will assist us in ensuring the transition process is as seamless as possible. The information which can be gathered from these exercise books will ensure our children have a positive start to the new academic year and we are able to support them in realising their full potential.

Year 6 'Flat Stan' First Aid Workshops

On Monday (11th) we are looking forward to hosting the 'Flat Stan' first aid workshops for our Year 6 children. These workshops, using Flat Stan manikins have been developed to allow first aid skills to be taught to primary school children. They provide the children with the skills and knowledge to recognise a variety of first aid situations; how and when to summon help, how to check if someone is breathing, how to deliver chest compressions, how to help someone who is choking, bleeding or help someone who has suffered a burn.

At present we have **25** parents/carers who have not yet paid their £6 contribution. The deadline for this payment is TODAY so please pay promptly via ParentPay if you have not done so already. Thank you.



Finally....

Thank you for your kind messages of support in relation to the announcement last Friday of my new role for September 2022 as Executive Headteacher across both St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant and Junior School. I am very excited by this opportunity to work with both sets of staff and continue to serve our school communities.

I would also like to thank our wonderful PTA for putting on such a well organised Summer Fair last Saturday. The weather was kind and it was lovely to welcome the school and wider community back to this event after a 2 year absence. I hope you all managed to have a good time and congratulations to all our lucky raffle winners. Money is still being counted but I know the PTA intend to let you know how much we raised for our school very soon.

It was a real pleasure and delight to be present for the confirmation service on Sunday morning and see our twenty three Year 5 candidates confirmed by Bishop Norman. As always, Bishop Norman made the experience so special and personal and the presence of the Holy Spirit was tangible! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Mark for all his hard work in preparing our children and for putting together such a memorable service.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher