

# NEWSLETTER



**The Club Edition**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Information Regarding Extra-Curricular Clubs 2022**

I am delighted to be contacting you with information about the return of extra-curricular clubs and activities for the new academic year 2022-2023. There are a wide variety of clubs on offer once again this year! 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 at any time have any queries or concerns, please arrange to speak with the Club Leader. If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter please contact us at the School Office or by telephone on 01277 223651. You can also e-mail the office: [admin@stthomasjnr.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomasjnr.essex.sch.uk).

We will continue to contact you using Parent Hub messages where possible as this has proven to be the most effective and efficient way of getting information to you – please make sure the School Office have your up to date details to allow this to happen!

### **All clubs start from next week – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

I hope you enjoy reading this special edition newsletter and are as impressed as I am at the array of clubs on offer again this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.M. Moran".

Mr Dean Moran  
Headteacher

## The Timetable

On the back page you will see a timetable that outlines when, where and for whom each club is offered. There are a wide variety of clubs open to all children with most being **free of charge!**

Clubs underlined are limited either by cost or by numbers.

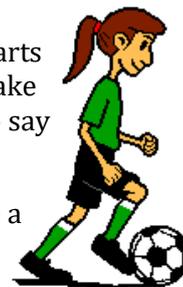
**The following clubs are only for children that are invited:** Gym Trail, Lexia Club, Public Speaking, Homework Help Club, Pioneers Cooking Club & Pioneers Gardening Club

**The following clubs (highlighted in red on the timetable) are ones you have to pay for:** Football with Cam, Fencing with James Beevers, Tag Rugby and Multi Sports with PC & Roo and Tennis with Mrs Kemp.

## How to join a 'normal' free club

If your child wants to attend one of these clubs they need to listen in class to find out when it starts and then go along to the first session. At the end of the first session there may be a letter to take home that will explain any specific details about the club. We may also request a reply from you to say that your children are going to commit to attending regularly.

If your child has tried a club two or three times it is then expected that they will either commit to a regular weekly attendance or stop going.



## Please be on time – but not too early!

Clubs that run after school rely on parents being on time to collect their children. Please ensure that you are prompt, otherwise we may have to ask that your child no longer attends. Alternatively, if your child is in Upper School you can give permission for your child to walk home on their own – **but we need written confirmation of this.** **Please Note:** During the autumn/winter months when it is dark after school we do not permit children to walk home unaccompanied.

Sometimes siblings “hang around” after school waiting for their brother or sister to finish a club – while we understand it does not always make sense to go home and come back again - all children need to be supervised by an adult after school. So please do not allow your children to stay on their own or to play on the equipment outside. The playground gates will continue to be locked at approximately 3:30p.m. each day to ensure the safety of our children and staff. Parents must wait on the outside of these locked gates.

If your child is attending a club that starts before school it is very important that they are not dropped off too early. All children must be supervised by a responsible adult until the club begins and the Club Leader takes responsibility for their care. Please **do not** attempt to gain access to the school car park to drop off as this can cause unnecessary congestion for staff who are arriving for work. We would kindly ask you to park on Sawyers Hall Lane and walk your children to the school pedestrian gate. Please **do not** walk through the car park.

## What about music lessons?

At St Thomas' it is possible to learn a wide range of instruments in our purpose built music studios! Most of our peripatetic teachers are once again fully booked. However, if you wanted your child to learn an instrument and have not yet applied, please let us know and we can provide you with a list of contact details for our peripatetic teachers.



## What is Gym Trail?

Gym trail is a specialised club that is offered to a small group of specific children at a time. It improves co-ordination, strength, self-esteem and confidence. It also helps children with their school work, especially handwriting. If you think your child would benefit, please mention it to our SENCo (Mrs Moran) or their classteacher at parents' evening.



## Football with Cam

We are pleased to be continuing to work with Football with Cam this year to support our provision of football clubs (Year 3 & Year 4). Further details are contained within a separate letter. There is a charge for this club. If your child wants to play football they will need: astro boots or trainers, shinpads and long socks. We also recommend they bring a football kit (shorts and shirt) rather than use their PE kit.



## Tag Rugby & Multi Sports Club



We are delighted to be continuing with Tag Rugby and Multi Sports Club this year! Tag Rugby is a great sport for boys and girls to play, combining teamwork with enjoyment, with improved agility and co-ordination. It is non-contact and the sessions will introduce the children to Tag Rugby through many active and fun elements. Mr Simon Peace will be running the sessions. He is a Level 2 qualified coach and Chairman of the Old Brentwoods RFC Acorns. Further details are contained within a separate letter. There is a charge for this club.

## Further Club Update

Last academic year we were delighted to introduce Fencing with Little Musketeers, run by James Beevers and develop a new partnership with Brentwood Tennis Club bringing tennis back to our clubs offer with Mrs Kemp. I am pleased that both of these clubs will continue this year. There is a charge for both these clubs.

As this academic year progresses we will look to make contact with additional external club providers ensuring that all safeguarding and insurance checks are in place.

## School Choir

Due to the fact that we are no longer able to use the school hall for clubs at lunchtime we successfully continue to amalgamate the Lower and Upper School Choirs into one 'School Choir'. This has proved particularly successful in previous years under the expert direction of Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wild, whilst Mrs Dunn was on maternity leave. Our School Choir offers an exciting year of concerts, trips, performances and fun. Children that attend choir get an excellent musical education and I strongly recommend it to you.

## How do children get picked for teams?

From time to time we have opportunities to compete in matches or competitions. When this happens, the Club Leader (in consultation with the Headteacher) will decide the criteria for team selection. Due to the competitive nature of these sporting activities we strive to select the strongest team to represent our school. However, our aim is for every child to represent the school at least once (at something!) while they are at St Thomas' Junior School.

**We kindly ask you to respect the Club Leader's decision; any interference, unpleasantness or threatening behaviour from children or parents will not be tolerated and may be referred to the Governing Body.**

