

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

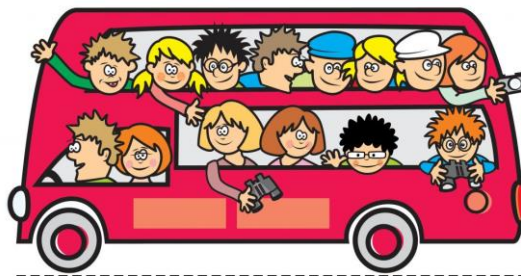
NEWSLETTER



14th October 2022

It was wonderful to welcome back our Year 6 children, staff and volunteers last Friday as they returned from a fantastic week away at the Rock UK Summit Centre in South Wales. Having made surprisingly good time on their return journey the coaches appeared in Sawyers Hall Lane at probably the busiest time of the day!

It was clear to see that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed their experience on the residential trip and there were certainly a lot of tired but happy faces stepping off the coach. I do hope that everyone managed to return with all their belongings and I am sure adults and children enjoyed an extra hour or two in bed on Saturday morning! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Year 6 parents and carers for trusting us with your amazing children. Also a huge thank you to all the school staff and parent volunteers who were away last week looking after the children and keeping them safe. It is always a pleasure to be part of these residential experiences but is also extremely tiring.



Next week we prepare to wave off our Year 5 children as they depart on Wednesday morning for their residential trip to Letton Hall, Norfolk.

Finally I would like to remind you that we are still collecting harvest produce and items for the **Brentwood Foodbank** and very much rely on your support to ensure we have a generous amount to donate. At present we have a growing but modest amount of food items in each class and would urge you to try and pop a few extra items in your shopping basket or trolley. We will continue collecting harvest donations up until the end of this half term (21st October). So if you have not yet donated – it's not too late!!

Parents' Evening 2022



Our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings 2022 will once again be conducted virtually via video appointment. Our previous experiences of using virtual video appointments for Parents' Evening shows a greatly increased attendance rate and the ability to ensure the meetings are conducted in a timely and efficient manner. It also means you can join from the comfort of your own home without

having to come back to the school on a cold, damp autumn evening or worry about child care. We do plan to have hybrid (face-to-face or virtual) Parents' Evenings in the Spring Term 2023.

We will be facilitating our virtual video appointments for Parents' Evening using a purpose built platform provided by **SchoolCloud**. On Monday next week we will be sending out further details via Parent Hub about how this will work and how you go about booking video appointments with your child's classteacher. Appointments will be available on Wednesday 2nd November and Thursday 3rd November 2022 between 4:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. The appointments will be kept strictly to 10 minutes per child.

You will be sent instructions about how to book and log in to these video appointments where you will be able to see and speak to your child's classteacher to discuss how your child has started the new academic year 2022-2023, their progress so far, any gaps that are apparent in their learning and how we can work together to best support their continued achievement over the course of this academic year.

As with our face to face appointments children must not attend these virtual video meetings as it is important that they are conducted in a professional manner and parents and classteachers can have discussions without interruptions and maximise the limited time. The meeting should be conducted in a quiet environment free from distraction.

School Stationery Shop

We often have children who have items missing from their pencil case either because they have been lost or broken. It is very important that all children are properly equipped for school each day and have the correct equipment to be able to access their learning. In order to help alleviate this problem we will continue to run our School Stationery Shop with a range of essentials that are competitively priced.





The shop will be open every week on a **Wednesday** during morning break (10:30-10:45a.m.) Mrs Dansey will 'man' the shop and be very happy to assist your child in purchasing any of the items below. Please ensure children bring in cash only and the correct money where at all possible. We do not have lots of change!



Glue Stick	85p
Whiteboard Pen	40p
Pencil	10p
Handwriting Pen	30p
150mm Ruler	10p
Rubbers	15p
2-hole Pencil Sharpener	60p
1-hole Pencil Sharpener	10p

More School Librarians!

I was delighted to be able to award more School Librarian badges this morning in collective worship to a further four children who have applied and been successful for this very important role in school. Each child wrote an excellent letter to Mrs Emery explaining why they should be considered for this job and made very compelling cases for how they will continue to develop and improve our school library and love of reading. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the following children:

-  Meena Zohri
-  Frankie Tilbury
-  Harry Palmer
-  Angelina Andonova



REMINDER - School Uniform



With the autumnal weather starting to make an appearance it is time to start getting ready for the colder winter months ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that AFTER the October half term holiday all children must be wearing winter uniform. This means all children wearing ties and white shirts with collars. Girls need to wear grey skirts or pinafores. Boys need shorts or trousers – also in grey. Boys need to wear a green jumper with the school crest on. Boys socks must be grey or black only – white socks are not acceptable. Girls can wear a green jumper or green cardigan – again with the school crest on. Girls tights should be grey, green or black. Shoes need to be sensible black leather with soft soles. We do not like lights or toys in the shoes so please bear this in mind when you are purchasing any new shoes, especially from Clarks.



Jewellery can cause problems in school due to Health & Safety requirements. Children may wear an inexpensive watch (no Smart watches) to school providing it is not too big or colourful and they will not be distracted by wearing it. No bracelets, rings or necklaces are permitted. Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE under any circumstances so it makes sense to leave these at home altogether. However, if you insist on your child wearing earrings please ensure they are plain gold or silver studs and that they are capable of taking their earrings out themselves.

May I also remind you that long hair must be tied back with a black, white or green hairband. We prefer boys to have short hair. Children's hair should not be coloured or have patterns shaved into it.

Keeping Children Safe During Community Activities

Questions to help parents and carers choose out-of-school settings

As we continue through a new school year, parents may well be looking for after-school clubs, theatre groups or sports' clubs. The Department for Education (DfE) has a document that helps parents identify the safeguarding issues to consider when choosing a provider. Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: Questions to help parents and carers choose out-of-school settings.

Parents can access the guidance 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>

Healthy School – Healthy Snacks

We are proud to be a healthy school and promote healthy lifestyles and diet. We encourage you to send in a healthy snack for your child to eat at morning break. The vast majority of children do bring in a piece of fruit or healthy cereal bar. However recently we have observed a few children who are not eating a healthy snack! Please can we ask you to support us in this matter and remember that under **no circumstances** should children be bringing in crisps, chocolate, chocolate covered snack bars or sweets. It is also worth pointing out that a number of fruit based snack products marketed in the main supermarkets contain a very high sugar content and are probably not as healthy as you might think! The classteachers will be reminding the children about what constitutes a healthy snack.

Can I also remind you that we have a number of children with severe allergies to nuts so please **do not** send in any snack items that obviously contain nuts. Thank you for your co-operation.

Be Bright & Be Seen

At the end of October the clocks will go back which means it will get darker much earlier. It is more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you are out and about near roads. On Thursday we sent out a leaflet via Parent Hub from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership with lots of ways to be seen and stay safe – please do check out these top tips!



MarvellousMe Reminder

Thank you to the 181 parents who have already signed up to the MarvellousMe app. It is a great way for us to share with you the successes that your children are having in school either as a class or individually. We are re-sending the letters to those of you that have not signed up yet as either a reminder or because you may have lost the original. Please keep an eye out for these in your children's bag as they contain the unique code which relates to your child. Many thanks for your support with this exciting new initiative!

Wear Your Wellbeing

Please look out for a separate letter sent via Parent Hub today with details about our themed non-uniform day on Friday 21st October 2022. This event is in support of Kids Inspire children's charity, an organisation we work closely with across both the Infant and Junior Schools. Kids Inspire undertake important therapeutic work supporting emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile fundraising event.



Finally....

IMPORTANT REMINDER - As you are well aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is **31st October 2022.**

I would like to remind any parents of Year 6 children who have yet to submit an application, that they must do so by 31st October 2022.

Applications can be made via the Essex website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

You might also find it useful to watch the following link: <https://youtu.be/Q0a8fi06WKY>

Thank you for your continued support this term and I would ask you to keep the life and work of our school in your prayers.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us: admin@stthomasjr.essex.sch.uk