

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

11th November 2022



The school fell silent this morning as we came together for collective worship as a school community at 11 o'clock to observe 2 minutes silence in memory of all those lost in war and conflict. We also remembered all those families who have been affected by war; men, women and children. It is so important that we mark Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in this way. During World War I alone approximately nine million people were killed, millions more were injured and families were destroyed. The children marked this period of silence impeccably, reflecting upon the ultimate sacrifice made by the many so that we may live in peace today. We shared the words of hope and commitment:

***'When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow
we gave our today'.***

Today we were also in attendance at the Brentwood branch of The Royal British Legion Schools' Service when our House Captains, joined by the School Council Representatives from the Infant School, laid wreaths on behalf of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant & Junior School. It was a fitting tribute and allowed us to pay our respects to our local heroes.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a shoebox for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. I have witnessed a growing number being carried into school and carefully stored in the classrooms over the course of this week. Our collection date for the pick up of shoeboxes is Tuesday 22nd November 2022 so all completed boxes must be in by **Monday 21st November 2022** to ensure they get to vulnerable children ready for Christmas. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile cause.

As always there are a number of important reminders in this newsletter regarding up and coming events and I hope you will respond to them accordingly. Please remember that most of the correspondence we send out to you is always freely accessible via Parent Hub or from the school website, so if you think you may have missed a letter or it does not arrive safely home with your child, please visit www.stthomasjnr.org or check your Parent Hub channels.

Children in Need 2022

Today you will have received a Parent Hub message from Miss Pullin and Class 4P who are busy and excitedly organising events for Children in Need next Friday. This is an annual charitable event that we have supported in the Junior School for many years raising thousands of pounds for children and young people in need and less fortunate than ourselves. On Tuesday next week Miss Pullin and Class 4P will be leading collective worship for the whole school and giving further details about the events and opportunities on offer next Friday 18th November and how they can get involved – including a 'Spotacular' non-uniform day! I do hope that every child will be able to take a full and active part and bring in some money to support our fundraising efforts. Thank you in advance for your support.



Year 2-3 Admissions for September 2023

The process for Year 2 to Year 3 transfers for Year 3 admissions into junior schools for September 2023 requires that parents of current Year 2 children at an infant school need to make a formal application to the Local Authority and can do this via their website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

The junior admissions round opened on **7th November 2022**, for parents of children to apply for a junior school (Year 3) place for September 2023.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15th January 2023**.

I have written separately to all the parents of children currently in Year 2 of the Infant School this week explaining the importance of making this application through the Local Authority. However, if you know of parents who are in this position please can you remind them of the importance of making this application before the deadline.

In the week commencing 21st November 2022 we are looking forward to welcoming some of these parents as they visit the school for our Year 2 Parent Tours. This is an opportunity for them to learn a little more about the school and to see the school in action over the course of the afternoon.

School Closures



I never like to use the 's' word but as we move further through the autumn and closer to winter we need to talk about snow!! At this time of year we must be realistic and be prepared for the onset of winter and the colder weather it will inevitably bring and our response to snow which may enforce a school closure. A few years ago we were informed that the local radio stations will **no longer** be announcing or publicising via their websites the school closures lists. Instead Essex County Council will be continuing to use their notification system to schools. Schools are now able to complete a short notification either on the day or the day before the closure via the secure access area on ESI. Once the notification is submitted a live feed will appear on the

Essex.gov website (www.essex.gov.uk) so parents can stay informed. Closure lists on the Essex website will constantly update as and when notifications are received. Closure lists for the next day will go live the night before so parents can plan ahead. Once again we are being requested to direct parents to check the Essex County Council website for closure information. In addition, we will continue to use other means such as our Parent Hub service or our school website to inform parents of closures.

Coats!

With the colder weather on its way I would like to give a general reminder about coats. Rather worryingly we still have a growing number of children who seem to come to school without a coat. Many of you may arrive by car in the morning but the children still need a coat in school to wear at morning break and lunchtime. Please ensure your child has a coat in school every day and that it is clearly named. The staff are constantly reminding children to put their coats on during the day and we hope by wrapping up we can prevent coughs and colds developing. Thank you.



Christmas Productions 2022 – Lower & Upper School

We are delighted to be able to share with you details of our Christmas productions that will be taking place in December. Last year saw the welcome return of performances after a lengthy period of disruption caused by the pandemic. Some of the adjustments we made last year have proved to work so well both for the school and audience members that we have kept them in place this year to make the experience more enjoyable and comfortable.

As part of our risk assessment and to enable us to meet fire regulations we are limiting the audience of each **Lower School** performance to **100** people. This will allow us to ensure there is adequate space and ventilation in the school hall.

For the Lower School production there will be three performances:

Lower School (Year 3 & 4) will be performing "**The Egyptian Nativity**" on Monday 5th December and Tuesday 6th December 2022. The first performance will be on Monday 5th December 2022 at 2:00p.m. This will be followed by a second performance on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 9:30a.m. and a third performance on the same day at 2:00p.m.

The afternoon performances are strictly for **adults only**; children under 12 years of age and babies will not be admitted under any circumstance.



Fr Mark has kindly agreed that our Upper School Carol Service can take place at St Thomas of Canterbury Church. This venue will allow us to have a larger audience. The audience size for each Upper School performance will be limited to **200**.

Upper School (Year 5 & 6) will be preparing a service of Christmas readings and carols/songs to be shared at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Tuesday 13th December 2022. The first performance will be at 2:00p.m. with an evening performance on the same day at 6:30p.m. The evening performance is strictly for adults only; children under 12 years of age and babies will not be admitted under any circumstance.

The Upper School will continue to perform an end of year production at the end of the summer term 2023 instead of a Christmas production. This proved very successful last year and was a highlight within the Upper School calendar! In this way the children in Upper School can spend more time during this autumn term on their curriculum needs at this crucial time and in preparation for statutory assessments in May.

We will continue issuing tickets for entry so we can monitor adults/visitors who attend the performances and ensure they are legitimate visitors to the school and church.

Each family is allocated **2 tickets** in total. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter, or fill in the paper copy sent home with your child, to indicate which performance you would like to receive tickets for, indicating your 1st and 2nd preference. First preferences will be allocated on a first come first served basis. **You will need your ticket to gain entrance to the hall or church.**

Requests for tickets must be received by **Friday 25th November 2022**.

Finally....

The Brentwood Foodbank have issued us with a letter of thanks for all the donations received as part of our Harvest collection before half term. The Junior School donated a total weight of **227.60kg** – which is amazing!

The School Office spend an increasing amount of time each week chasing parents who are in arrears with their school dinner payments. Please can I remind you, once again, that the school does not offer credit and all school dinners must be paid for in advance. Please ensure your Parent Pay accounts are kept up to date and in credit. For parents who persistently fall into arrears we may ask you to start providing packed lunches for your children to eat at lunch time. If you feel you may be eligible for free school meals then please see the information on our school website or speak to Mrs Lawrence in the School Office.

Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

The Great World War

*Here is the story of the Great World War,
The one that made people gape in awe.
When Kaiser the German took more than he should,
The British expeditionary said they would,
Protect the French and the Belgium's too,
But Haig said he had some plans that were new.
He sent lots of men to their doom,
Some soldiers died in the light of the moon,
But a war of attrition was what was needed,
So, the words of advice were not heeded.
But then the Brits invented tanks,
So, the Germans started to hide in their ranks,
But by 1918 the Germans had retreated,
And finally, World War I was completed,
And that's why on the 11th of November,
We remember,
Those who died in the war.*

(Ava Shorter, Year 6)

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

Christmas Productions – Ticket Request Form 2022

LOWER SCHOOL (YEAR 3 & 4) – “The Egyptian Nativity”

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Signed: _____

	<i>Number of Tickets</i>	<i>Preference (1st or 2nd)</i>
<i>Monday 5th December 2022 – 2:00p.m.</i> <i>(Adults only – children under 12 years of age and babies will not be admitted)</i>		
<i>Tuesday 6th December 2022 – 9:30a.m.</i>		
<i>Tuesday 6th December 2022 – 2:00p.m.</i> <i>(Adults only – children under 12 years of age and babies will not be admitted)</i>		

UPPER SCHOOL (YEAR 5 & 6) – Carol Service

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Signed: _____

	<i>Number of Tickets</i>	<i>Preference (1st or 2nd)</i>
<i>Tuesday 13th December 2022 – 2:00p.m.</i>		
<i>Tuesday 13th December 2022 – 6:30p.m.</i> <i>(Adults only – children under 12 years of age and babies will not be admitted)</i>		