



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL
“Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community”

23rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Children in Year 2,

JUNIOR SCHOOL PARENT/CARER VIRTUAL TOURS

Over the past couple of years we have been reviewing and identifying ways to improve our transition arrangements for both children and parents as they prepare to move into the Junior School and begin their journey in Key Stage 2. We fully appreciate that this process can at times seem rather daunting and wish to support you as a family in the best way possible.

With changes to admissions and applications to Junior Schools we have moved our parent/carer tours from March to November in order for you to be able to make a more informed choice when applying to the Local Authority for your child's Year 3 place. The application window for admissions to Year 3 in September 2021 opens on Monday 9th November 2020 and closes on 15th January 2021. You must apply directly to the Local Authority.

Sadly, the current COVID-19 restrictions placed on schools from the Department of Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) prevent us from hosting our normal face-to-face tours. This is to protect our school community and individual 'bubbles' and ensure we uphold robust systems of control as set out in our COVID-19 secure risk assessment. However, in the absence of physical tours we would very much like you to take part in a virtual tour of the Junior School.

Therefore, I am writing to invite parents/carers of children currently in Year 2 to virtually 'visit' St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School. This will be a chance for you to start familiarising yourself with the Junior School, understand our ethos and Christian values, and help you make an informed choice about the next step in your child's academic journey. We hope that this virtual experience will also allow you to become more familiar with the layout of the school and see for yourself some of the excellent resources and learning environments we have to offer. This opportunity will be in addition to the normal transition meeting which is scheduled in July 2021. Details for this meeting will be sent to you in April 2021.

To access the transition information and virtual tour please visit our school website at www.stthomasjnr.org From the homepage click on the tab on the left hand side labelled 'Year 2/Year 3 Transition Information'. From here you will have two options to explore:

- 1) **Virtual Tour of the School** – This video was made in July 2020 to support the transition of our current Year 3 children. This will give you a walk-through of our school and some of the learning spaces your children will experience. It also introduces our current Year 3 classteachers – please note these will not necessarily be the Year 3 classteachers in September 2021!
- 2) **Year 2 Parent Virtual Tours Presentation** – This PowerPoint presentation will give you a brief overview of the application and transition process and how we will support you and your child in making a smooth journey from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

I very much hope that you will take up the opportunity to visit and tour the Junior School, albeit in a virtual sense. It is my great hope that before too long I can be welcoming you in person and working in collaboration as you and your child prepare for the exciting journey in to Key Stage 2.

If you have any questions related to this letter please do not hesitate to contact the Junior School office and the staff there will be more than happy to help.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Dean Moran
Headteacher