

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER



26th June 2023

Don't panic as you read this newsletter – it is not Friday! Owing to Sports Day last Friday we were unable to circulate our newsletter in the normal fashion so please accept my apologies for the slight delay in getting this to you!

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank all those parents, carers and other visitors who came to watch and participate in our Sports Day on Friday afternoon. The weather was great (if a little too warm!) and the children all seemed to thoroughly enjoy taking part in the various activities on offer as they competed in running races and moved around the carousel. There was a real variety of skills put to the test from speed, balance, and agility, throwing and aiming. It was wonderful to see the children not only competing for themselves but demonstrating good teamwork as they also competed for their Houses too. Congratulations to all the children in **Chester House** who were crowned as our overall winners. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Miss Berner and all the other school staff that put so much effort and organisation into co-ordinating the event – well done everyone. Like me, I know many of you spent most of the day on the school field as we also held the EYFS/Key Stage 1 Sports Day in the morning. Your support is very much appreciated.

Following on from Sports Day it was also great to see so many children and families attending the St Thomas' Big PTA Picnic on Friday after school. Many of you very wisely took advantage of the shady spots to set up your picnic and I have never seen so many pizzas arriving at the school for consumption! It was a lovely way to come together as a school family and there was plenty on offer to keep everyone busy. Congratulations to all the raffle prize winners. Once again, a huge 'thank you' to the Junior School PTA Committee members and other volunteers who made this event possible.

Infant School - Staffing Update

I am sure many of you may have heard or noticed that a familiar face (and voice on the telephone) has been missing from the Infant School Office over the past few weeks. Unfortunately, **Mrs Rosie Infanti** is currently unable to attend work and is taking a period of long term sickness absence leave. In her absence Mrs Giddings continues to do a fantastic job in the School Office and is being ably supported by colleagues from the Junior School administration team. Therefore, you will get an opportunity to meet and speak to other members of staff who will continue to provide the service you have come to expect and value.

Please do hold Mrs Infanti in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers at home supported by her family and friends. I know Mrs Infanti is missing us as much as we miss her! We are expecting to see Mrs Infanti return to work in the new academic year, at some point in the autumn term.

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

I am delighted to inform you that following our consultation process earlier this year and the subsequent Statutory Notice period, Essex County Council have now signed off and made the final decision to form St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School.

On 21st June 2023, the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability for Essex County Council (Councillor Tony Ball) took a decision to amalgamate St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School and St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, Brentwood from 1st September 2023. The final decision has also now been published on the Essex County Council's website.

This is very exciting news for both schools and over the coming weeks we will be starting the many tasks and activities that need to be completed to allow this transition and amalgamation to go smoothly. Thank you for all of your support and engagement throughout the process and we look forward to taking you on this exciting new journey as we become a Church of England Primary School.

School Dinners – September 2023

Following a meeting of the Finance and Premises Committee of the Governing Body of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant and Junior School, a decision has been made to increase the daily cost of school meals from September 2023.

As you will be fully aware, the cost of food, fuel, transportation and catering staff pay has increased in recent years and our meal costs have remained static. After reviewing our catering trading accounts and factoring in the increased costs it has been decided that school meals will increase to **£2.43** per day (£12.15 a week) from September 2023.

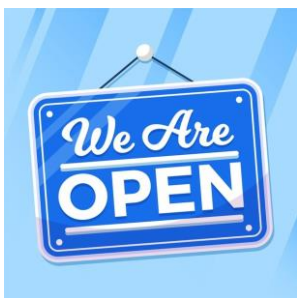
For parents/carers of children in the Infant School, this is for information only as your children will still be eligible for universal infant free school meals as set out by the Department for Education (DfE). However, for parents/carers of Year 2 children moving in to Key Stage 2 and for the Junior School parent/carer community this will impact on you from the beginning of the new academic year.

Please be rest assured that this decision has not been taken lightly but we cannot operate our catering trading accounts at a loss. Please remember that once your child moves to Key Stage 2 you may be eligible for benefits related free school meals. For further information please contact the School Office for further details or visit the Essex County Council website.

Thank you for your support and understanding.



Open Classrooms - A special invitation!



We are delighted to inform you that we are going to have another 'Open Classrooms' opportunity for parents on **Wednesday 28th June 2023** from 3:30p.m. until 4:15p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to view your child's working environment and marvel at the displays within the classroom. The classteacher's will also be present to answer any questions you might have about the work on display. You will also get a chance to look at some of your child's exercise books to see the work they have completed to date. It is not an opportunity to discuss academic progress and attainment as this will have been covered during parents' evening and updated in End of Year Reports.

This is an open invitation with no designated appointment times and I'm sure your child will relish the opportunity to proudly show you around their classroom. Please remember to wait on the playground until 3:30p.m. Unfortunately we are not able to admit any pushchairs due to health and safety/fire regulations. We look forward to seeing you!

Finally....

This week, many of our Year 6 children will be taking part in transition visits to their new Secondary Schools for September 2023. I am sure these opportunities will settle a few nerves and also generate some real excitement and enthusiasm for what will be on offer in the new academic year. I am very confident that our children will represent us well and demonstrate our character values as they meet up with pupils from other schools.

We are looking forward to greeting parents/carers of children joining Year 3 in September 2023 at our new entrants meeting on Friday 7th July 2023. Please do pray for these families as they prepare for their children to join our Key Stage 2 community.

Have a great week everyone!

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