

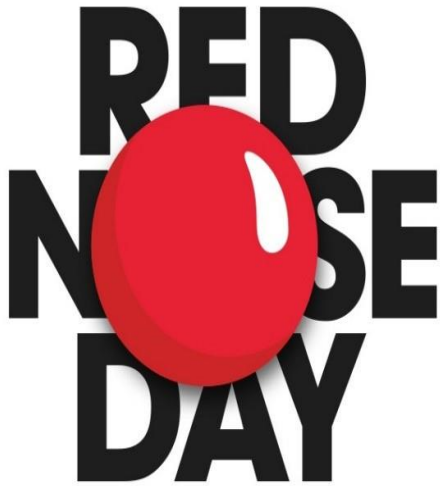
# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14*



## NEWSLETTER

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024



As we continue through this period of Lent, we are reminded that it is not just about giving things up but also what we can take on to focus our hearts and minds and help those that are vulnerable or less fortunate than ourselves. Over the past week we have seen our school community coming together to put this into action with our charitable fundraising day last Friday and our support for Red Nose Day today.

Last Friday saw all the children across the primary school taking part in a series of outdoor activities and completing their challenge of '5 in a day'. All the children thoroughly enjoyed participating and thankfully the weather was kind! Thanks to the hard work of the children and your generous sponsorship we have raised a fantastic total of **£1255.50** for the children's chosen charity – Little Havens Children's Hospice. This money will be added to our ongoing fundraising total which will be presented to Little Havens at the end of the academic year. A huge well done to everyone who supported this event.

Today we have changed our focus to turning the school red with our support for Red Nose Day. I am sure many of you will continue to support this worthy cause by watching some of the televised events at home this evening.

Please do take the time to read the rest of this newsletter as it contains some important information and reminders.

### Early School Closure – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

This is a polite reminder to make sure you have read and taken notice of the letter which was distributed via ParentHub last Friday.

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School will be closing early to all children on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 to allow the staff and wider school community to attend the Memorial Service for Mrs Rosie Infanti following her death last month. **All children must be picked up from school promptly at 1:00p.m.**

The school gates will be opened just before 1:00p.m. to allow parents/carers on site to collect their children. Please be prompt and leave the school site quickly in order that all staff have time to walk to St Thomas' Church. We do not want to be left with children collected late which will prevent staff from being able to pay their final respects to a much loved colleague.

Thank you for your support and co-operation at this very sad time.

### Further Reminder: School Uniform

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that **AFTER** the Easter break all children must be wearing **summer uniform** as set out in the school prospectus. The Governing Body continue to uphold high expectations by regularly reviewing and tightening up the uniform policy and we would request that all parents/carers adhere to this. From the beginning of the summer term all children **must** wear summer uniform as set out in the school prospectus and homework diaries.

**All** girls in EYFS (Reception), Year 1 & 2 (Key Stage 1) and Year 3 & 4 (Lower School) must wear the green checked gingham dresses and bottle green cardigan with logo as part of regulation summer uniform. Girls in Year 5 & 6 (Upper School) may choose to wear either the green checked gingham dresses or a white school polo shirt with logo with a grey skirt. White socks must be worn.

**All** boys need a white school polo shirt with logo, bottle green jumper with logo and shorts or trousers – also in grey. Grey or black socks must be worn.

Shoes need to be sensible black leather shoes (not boots) with soft soles or leather sandals (black or brown). Black trainers are not permitted. We do not like lights or toys in the shoes so please bear this in mind when you are purchasing any new shoes. Incorrect or inappropriate uniform will be flagged up in the new term by putting a gentle reminder sticker in your child's homework diary or reading diary. Please help support us in achieving greater consistency, smarter presentation and a sense of pride – thank you.

A reminder - jewellery can cause problems in school due to Health & Safety requirements. Children may wear an inexpensive named analogue or digital watch to school providing it is not too big or colourful and they will not be distracted by wearing it. Smart watches are not permitted in school. Smart watches can cause issues with data protection and data security if these devices are trying to access our school Wi-Fi or have the ability to record and/or capture video or audio. No bracelets, rings or necklaces are permitted.

## Parents' Evening – 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have accessed SchoolCloud and booked your parents' evening appointments for the final week of this term - **74%** have signed up so far! If you have yet to make your appointment you have until 12 noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to do so – don't miss out!

It is very clear from monitoring the appointment booking system that there is still an appetite for remote virtual appointments and our decision to make available hybrid appointments has proved to be well supported. Please remember that each date (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>) have been split into two blocks of appointment types. Face-to-face meetings will run between 4:00 – 5:30p.m. with remote virtual appointments between 5:50 – 7:00p.m. Whether you choose to attend virtually or in-person the appointment time will be strictly timed to **10 minutes**.



If you are arriving for a face-to-face appointment you will need to enter either via the Finance Office (old Infant School office) for children in EYFS or Key Stage 1 and the main School Office entrance for children in Key Stage 2. From these two locations you will be escorted by one of our Year 6 House Captains to your child's classroom – the appointments are NOT taking place in the school hall. Don't worry if you are not sure where to go – there will be a friendly face to guide you in the right direction! Please do not arrive too early for your appointment – 5 minutes beforehand should be enough. When you arrive if the appointment slot before you has not concluded we would ask you to sit on the seats provided outside the classroom and wait for the classteacher to invite you in. Once your appointment has finished you can exit the school via either entrance depending on which side of the building you finish up in.

Children must not attend in-person or virtual video meetings as it is important that they are conducted in a quiet, professional manner and parents and classteachers can have discussions without distraction and interruptions, maximising the limited time. I hope you have had sufficient time to arrange necessary child care if needed. It is very unfair on parents who do make these arrangements when others attempt to bring their children along. Please be respectful towards others and I thank you for your support in this matter.

## St Patrick's Day – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Now that we have determined the new names of our 4 Houses – named after our patron saints – St George, St Andrew, St David and St Patrick, we reach the third of their feast days. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March is St Patrick's Day but we will be celebrating St Patrick's Feast Day on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March!

On this day we are inviting all the children who are in St Patrick's House to wear non-school uniform and dress in their House colour which is **GREEN**. This opportunity is only for children in St Patrick's House as the other Houses have either celebrated their saints' day or will get their opportunity later in the academic year – April for St George. We do hope that all the St Patrick's children encouraged by their House Captains will take pride in marking this event. In preparation, the children in St Patrick's House may like to research some facts about the life of St Patrick and share it with their classteacher.

# Royal Academy – Art Competition



Now in its sixth year, the **Young Artists' Summer Show** is a free, open submission exhibition for children/students aged 4–19 studying in the UK.

Each child/student can submit one piece of artwork and there is no theme. When you enter, the Royal Academy will ask for an image of your artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Your artwork will be seen by their panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in the RA online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Time is running out and it is almost your last chance to register and submit - submissions close on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5pm.

Submitting artwork is completely free and is done online. If you're 12 or under, a parent/guardian will need to enter for you. Use the following link: <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

Good luck!

## Maundy Thursday Eucharists

We are delighted to be holding two school Eucharists on **Maundy Thursday – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

The children in **Key Stage 2** (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) will be going to St Thomas of Canterbury Church to celebrate their Eucharist with Fr. Mark – we do hope you will be able to join us! The Eucharist service will start at 9:30a.m. As always we would greatly appreciate any help you may be able to give in escorting children safely to and from the church. If you are able to walk with your child's class then please speak to your child's classteacher for further details and information.

On the same day at 2:00p.m. the **EYFS** and **Key Stage 1** children (Reception, Year 1 & 2) will be gathering in the Key Stage 1 school hall to celebrate their Eucharist with Fr. Mark. Parents/carers and friends of the school are very welcome to join us too.

I am sure that both services will be a very holy occasion allowing us to reflect upon our journey through Lent and look forward to the glory of Easter Day.

## Finally....

A few reminders...

- We break up for the beginning of the Easter holidays on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – this is our last day.
- Letters detailing the new school dinner menus for after the Easter holiday were distributed on Monday. If you are intending for your child to have a school dinner in April when we return for the summer term then this must be returned by **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

Thank you for all your continued support over the course of this term.

***"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16***

Have a great weekend!

**Mr D. Moran**  
Headteacher

*A Christian community where children are known by name and loved, which empowers them to learn and to grow in faith, knowledge and fellowship.*

**And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us:**

[admin@stthomaspri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomaspri.essex.sch.uk)