

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

16th May 2025



Blink and you'll miss it! Where has this half term gone? With a 5-week half term now nearly over (2 of those weeks being 4-days), we find ourselves approaching another school holiday. Next week is our final week of this half term which seems to have raced by since our return on 22nd April. Thankfully the weather is beginning to feel more 'summer-like' and the temperature is rising nicely!

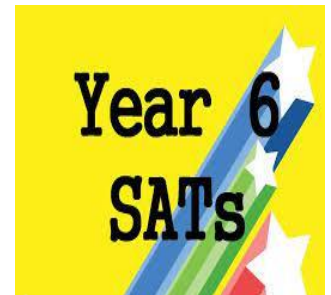
Although a very short half term, we have still had a great deal to pack in and the whole school community has been working tirelessly to ensure everything is completed up against tighter timescales. Although we are not quite at the end of the academic year yet, we are already thinking about preparations for the 2025-2026 academic year in September. To that end, it has been wonderful to send welcome packs and share important information with the families of EYFS/Reception children starting school with us in September. Some have already begun to return their forms and other documents to the School Office and it has been great to say 'hello' to them and their children. I am aware that some of our 'new' families have already had children come through the school and it is always an honour to welcome returning families as their younger children take the same journey into starting school.

We have also sent out further details about the transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 (Year 2 → Year 3) and we are looking forward to welcoming some parents/carers to our Key Stage 2 tours next week.

As we prepare to move in to the last week of this half term, I would like to thank you as always for your continued support, trust, patience and prayers.

Well done Year 6!

Our Year 6 children have been amazing this week and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Year 6 children on their determination, perseverance and resolve during SATs week (May 12th – 15th). Without exception the children tackled these tests and assessments with a superb attitude and demonstrated their desire to do well and showcase their learning and progress across Key Stage 2. I know that the Year 6 staff were very proud of their conduct and efforts and we hope this has paid off and will be reflected in the results due in early July. Congratulations to everyone in Year 6 – children and staff. You deserve a good rest this weekend!



I would also like to extend thanks to all the other children and staff in our primary school for your support of our Year 6 children this week and for making some small adjustments to our normal routine and timetable. You have all been fantastic too!

Sporting Success!

Last week we had two teams (Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2) from St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School that took part in the Panathalon event at Old Brentwood Rugby Club. Mr Beales who accompanied both teams writes:

Last week a group of children from KS1 and a group from KS2 entered the Panathalon competition. The children took part in an eight event Panathalon, the children needed to use a range of skills that they have developed from their PE lessons. The events included football dribbling, basketball skills, throwing a bean bag to a target and hitting a ball off a tee towards a scoring zone. All of the children represented the school amazingly, they were supportive of each other and listened brilliantly to the Shenfield School children that led the events. The children worked well as a team and the results speak for themselves because KS1 came first winning GOLD and KS2 came third winning BRONZE. All of the children were so proud with their result and couldn't wait to share it with friends and family.



Mental Health Awareness Week

This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week. To mark this in school all classes have been taking part in 'Wellbeing Walk & Talk' sessions. This has involved our younger classes pairing up with our older classes in a walk and talk wellbeing session around the school grounds – the children have thoroughly enjoyed it!!

We all recognise that moving our body makes us feel well, but just as important is that it teaches us to communicate, share, know ourselves, and bond whilst exercising. Furthermore, its an opportunity to give encouragement and positive feedback to each other. As well as working together to solve problems, come up with different ways to address things that might be worrying us, go through options and alternatives and check understanding. The benefits of walk and talk are:

- Great exercise and good for the human body
- Can make you calmer, happier and reduce stress levels
- Can build self-esteem, trust and relationships with friends and family members
- A great way to get fresh air and see natural environments
- Boost energy and concentration levels for the remainder of the day



Why not give it a try this weekend? Leave your mobile phone and other gadgets at home and enjoy a good 'walk & talk' in the park!

Open Classrooms – 21st May 2025



We are very excited to be inviting you to our 'Open Classrooms' opportunity! 'Open Classrooms' for parents/carers will be held on **Wednesday 21st May 2025** from 3:30p.m. until 4:15p.m. This is a great opportunity for you to see 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 (English and Maths) 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 back in April.

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!

Road Safety – Please Take Care!

We are all aware of the challenges faced in Sawyers Hall Lane when it comes to traffic. The mix of vehicles and pedestrians in a busy and congested road raises many dangers and all users of the road need to have their wits about them and be alert and vigilant at all times. Thankfully we are blessed to have Gill Hall undertaking her crucial role on the crossing patrol, helping parents/carers, children and other pedestrians cross the road safely.

However it is not just in Sawyers Hall Lane that you need to be alert. The roads leading to/from school are also very busy with a mix of traffic presenting their own dangers. This week I have received an email from a concerned member of the public who described the following incident:

I was in traffic queuing near the top of Doddinghurst Road (approaching the mini roundabout). A mother was pushing a buggy with her child (wearing St Thomas uniform) walking behind.

The boy was engrossed in playing on something (looked like a mobile phone) ... so engrossed that he stepped into the road in front of my car. As I was queuing and moving at slow speed, I was able to stop without making contact and he was ok, he startled himself when he stepped off the kerb and then walked back to catch his mum up. His mum did not see any of this occur as she was walking in front of him. She was looking back occasionally but not at the moment it happened. He then continued playing on it and veered off into someone's drive way before realising and running back to catch his mum. Again she did not see this occur.

I know as this occurred outside of school it is not necessarily in your jurisdiction but if you could raise a general awareness to the parents as it could have turned out very differently when he stepped into the road.

Please can I encourage you to be vigilant at all times.

REMINDER: Healthy Snacks

We are proud to be a healthy primary school and promote healthy lifestyles and diet including participation in The Daily Mile™. We encourage you to send in a healthy snack for your child in Key Stage 2 to eat at morning break. Please note: The children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are still receiving their free piece of fruit or vegetable each day through the National Fruit Scheme. The vast majority of KS2 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.

REMINDER: Non-Pupil Professional Development & Training Day

In case you have missed this date on our previous newsletters, Parent Hub and the school website we would like to remind you that **Friday 13th June 2025** is a non-pupil professional development and training day and the school is closed to the children.

Finally....

Looking further ahead after the half term break, we will be holding school **Pentecost Eucharists** on **Friday 6th June 2025** with Fr. Mark, as we come together to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' Ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language!

Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them. The colour most often associated with Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire which the Acts of the Apostles describes appearing above the heads of the disciples as a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit.

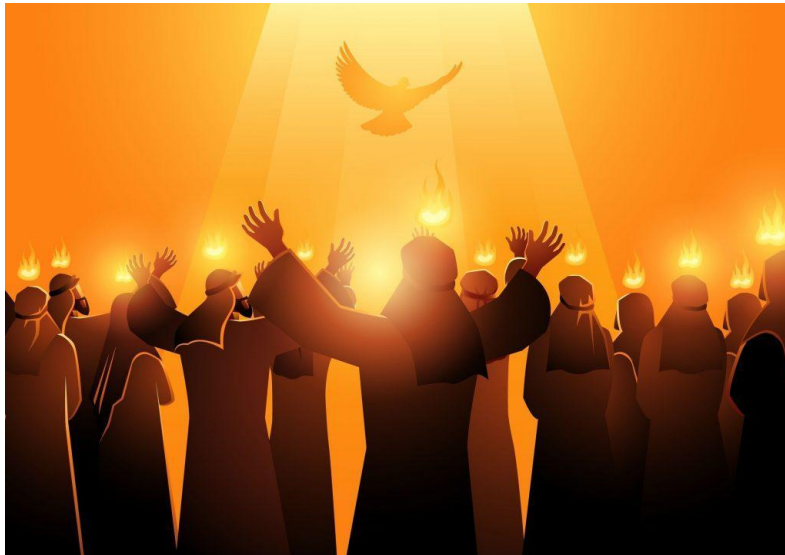
Both Pentecost Eucharists will be held in the school halls. Parents/carers and other visitors are very welcome to attend!

The EYFS/Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 Pentecost Eucharist will take place at 9:15a.m. in the KS1 Hall.

The Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 Pentecost Eucharist will take place at 10:45a.m. in the KS2 Hall.

Half term is from Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025. Once it arrives, have a super half term week, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 2nd June 2025**.

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