

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

6th June 2025



This Sunday is **Pentecost Sunday**. 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.

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.

It was wonderful to welcome parents/carers and friends of the school to our Pentecost Eucharists this morning which reminded us of the significance of these events and how the Holy Spirit is active in our school and our lives. My thanks to Fr. Mark for celebrating both of our services and to all those who helped with the liturgy through readings, prayers and music. It was a very uplifting experience.

As we begin the last half term of this academic year, I would like to thank you as always for your continued support, patience and prayers.

Staffing Update

Sadly, we will be saying a fond farewell and goodbye to **Mrs Anna Dunn** who will be leaving St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School at the end of this academic year. Mrs Dunn is a longstanding member of our school community and has been a much valued and highly respected classteacher for the past 13 years. As well as being a classteacher, Mrs Dunn has also spent time as part of the senior leadership team of the school and her contributions to school life have been wide and varied. I am sure many of you will be aware and recognise Mrs Dunn's significant contribution to music at our school. Her passion for this subject has been infectious and she has given many, many children a rich and valuable experience of music. This has enhanced and changed their lives and for many will continue to develop as they grow up.

Mrs Dunn is moving on to a new school in September in Chelmsford. This will allow her to work closer to home and be able to spend more time with her family. I know many of you, like us, will be very sad to hear this news and will join me in wishing Mrs Dunn all the very best for the future. She and her family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

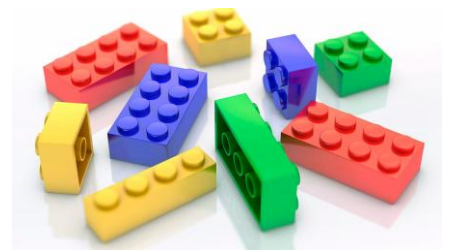
I am delighted to inform you, that following our recent recruitment process, we have appointed a new classteacher to start with us in September 2025. **Miss Abbie Stone** will be joining the teaching staff team in the new academic year and bringing with her a passion for teaching and desire to make a difference to the lives and aspirations of the children in our school. Miss Stone is very excited to be starting her teaching career at our school and I am sure she can count on your support and encouragement as she prepares to join us for the start of the academic year 2025-2026.

We have also welcomed **Miss Jenna Thompson** to our staffing team this week, as she takes up her new post of Midday Assistant (MDA) within the school. Miss Thompson has joined our fantastic team of MDA staff who supervise and take such good care of your children during the busy lunchtime period...come rain or shine! It is a massive team effort to get over 500 children 'fed and watered' in a little over an hour and our Midday Assistants are amazing! I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

Lego Competition Winners

As you may know, the results of the International Lego Day Competition were unfortunately delayed and there were so many brilliant entries, it was very difficult to decide on the finalists. At the end of last half term, we had the pleasure of announcing the winners. They were:

Reception Winner – Maya Khan (RN)
Year 1 Winner – Alice Madden (1NC)
Year 2 Winner – Freddie Simmons (2K)
Year 3 Winner – George Malyon (3B)
Year 4 Winner – Lucy Connell (4BW)
Year 5 Winner – Amelia-Jayne Allan (5S)
Year 6 Winner – Ellie Riisnaes (6M)



A Special Commendation went to **Cameron Polaczek-Mohamed (6S)**, for his clever design incorporating the school crest/logo.

The competition was judged by Ms Marshall, together with a builder and an architect. The children each received a certificate and summer goodie bag and their outstanding creations will be displayed in school.

Thank you to everyone who entered, it was so lovely to see your creativity and imagination!

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.

Sports Day 2025

As I am sure you are aware from the dates sent out at the beginning of this term, Sports Day is fast approaching and is scheduled for **Friday 20th June 2025**. This will obviously be weather permitting! We do hope that you will be able to join us for this popular annual event!

EYFS & KEY STAGE 1

Parents/carers and other spectators can enter the school premises from **9:10a.m.** when the pedestrian gates to the school premises will be opened. We would kindly ask that you allow us time to get the children in to school safely before asking you to re-enter the school site. The event is due to start promptly at 9:30a.m.

KEY STAGE 2

Parents/carers and other spectators can enter the school premises from **1:10p.m.** when the gates to the Lower Key Stage 2 playground will be opened. The event is due to start promptly at 1:30p.m.

There will be refreshments available to purchase during Sports Day with cold drinks and snacks on sale from the PTA. Can I kindly ask you to use the litter bins provided once you have finished with cups, wrappers...etc.

Parents/carers are kindly requested to stay behind the cordon on the school side of the track and should not under any circumstances make their way across the track to the children. The children will be sitting in their house groups and cheering for the children competing on their behalf in each race. The children will be closely supervised by members of our own staff, first aid will be on hand, and there is absolutely no need for any parents/carers to come across to their children. Please respect these guidelines to ensure everyone is able to enjoy the event!

No smoking or vaping is allowed on the school site at any time.

Please remember there will be no Key Stage 2 swimming lessons on this day.



After Sports Day has finished at the end of the school day, the **'Big PTA Summer Picnic'** will also take place on **Friday 20th June 2025** (3:30p.m. – 5:45p.m). The PTA have recently sent out additional information via a Parent Hub message on 5th June, so I do hope you have had an opportunity to take note of the details. The event is open to families and friends of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School and will be happening straight after Sports Day on the school field. Bring your own food or pre-order Domino's pizza via the PTA website for delivery to the field! There will be plenty of entertainment on offer and it is hoped that with fine weather and good company it will be a fantastic community event. Don't forget to bring your picnic blanket!

Please do take note of the health and safety requirements:

- No nut products to be brought on to the school grounds please
- Due to the terms of the PTA licence, adults are unable to bring their own alcohol – there will be a licensed bar
- Domino's pizza must be pre-ordered – they will not be sold on the day
- Children will need to be supervised by a responsible adult throughout the event
- No dogs on site
- No smoking or vaping is allowed on the school site at any time

The picnic is a great social event with the whole school community coming together after sports day each year to eat, drink and play!. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

REMINDER: Class & KS2 Team Photographs

On **Wednesday 18th June 2025** we will be welcoming the school photographer from Kittle Photography in for the day to take class photographs as well as some team pictures. Can I remind you that all children need to be wearing school approved summer uniform on this day. Don't forget to brush your hair and ensure you bring your best smile! Please ensure your child arrives to school on time as if they are late they may miss being in the class photograph!

Kittle Photography will be returning on Wednesday 25th June 2025 to take a whole school photograph of all the children and staff in the primary school. Using the magic of digital photography and editing the end result will be a fantastic whole school image....watch this space!

CHANGE OF DATE: KS2 Leavers' Eucharist

Due to unforeseen circumstances and availability of key personnel, it has become necessary to change the date of the Key Stage 2 Leavers' Eucharist being held at St Thomas of Canterbury Church at the end of the academic year. This will now take place on **MONDAY 21st July 2025** starting at 9:30a.m. Please adjust your calendars and diaries as this is a change to the published 'Dates for the Diary' circulated at the beginning of this term.

The KS2 Leavers' Eucharist is a wonderful opportunity to mark the end of the academic year and say a fond farewell to our Year 6 children as their time at St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School draws to a close.



Finally....

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our **Smartphone Free Childhood** presentation yesterday evening. It certainly put a focus on the negative situations involving the use of smartphones amongst our pupil population. It was shocking statistics to learn that in Britain today, 24% of 5-7 year olds now own a smartphone, by aged 12 this rises to 97%.

As well as preparing for various transition visits to their new Secondary Schools for September 2025, the Year 6 children are busy rehearsing for their end of year production – '**Aladdin Trouble**'. I am sure this will be a great opportunity to have a bit of fun and showcase their gifts and talents!

On the subject of gifts and talents, we are looking forward to our KS1 & KS2 **Summer Music Concert** which is being held on Tuesday 24th June at 5:30p.m. Tickets will be distributed shortly and we look forward to seeing you.

The staff and I would like to thank you for your continued support and trust. Please keep the life and work of the school in your on-going thoughts and prayers.

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