

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

27th March 2026



Although only 11-weeks in length, the spring term has proved very busy with so much to squeeze in to a short space of time. It is hard to believe that this term started in the depths of winter at the beginning of January and now, at the end of March, we see signs that spring has very much arrived. In recent days, it has been wonderful to see some sunshine, and witness our school environment changing with the appearance of daffodils and other plants waiting to bloom within our beautiful grounds. These signs give us a perfect reminder of growth, renewal and anticipation. This also reminds us of our continued patience and journey through the liturgical season of Lent as we await the glory of Easter Day.

Also contained in this newsletter is a poster for Holy Week and Easter at St Thomas of Canterbury Church. Please keep a copy to hand and maybe pop one on the fridge so that you know what is happening when. Fr Mark warmly invites you all to come and join the worship at St Thomas' as we ponder on the events that reveal our salvation and celebrate with joy the Lord's resurrection from the dead.

As we prepare to break up for the Easter holiday, I am sure many of our children will reflect upon what they have achieved and the many, varied experiences they have had this term. Having recently gone 'live' with our new social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, we hope that our regular posts have given you a flavour of what goes on in school. Regular reports on school events and achievements and snippets of bite-size news will hopefully keep you more informed and involved in school life. If you are not yet following us on these two platforms – why not!? Please follow us:



<https://www.facebook.com/stthomascofeprimary>



@stthomascofeprimaryschool

This weekend we also prepare for the clocks to change – don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour at 1a.m. on Sunday 29th March 2026 as Daylight Saving Time/British Summer Time starts. Unfortunately, that does mean we lose an hour in bed!

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

Staffing Update

It is with mixed emotions that I have to inform you that **Mrs Sophie Antrobus** has tendered her resignation and will be leaving St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School at the end of this academic year. After 11 years of dedicated and loyal service, Mrs Antrobus has gained a well-deserved promotion and will take up post as the new Deputy Headteacher at Mountnessing Church of England Primary School from 1st September 2026. On the one hand we are delighted and take great pride in seeing Mrs Antrobus progress to the role of Deputy Headteacher at Mountnessing Primary School - a role she is so ready for and so capable of undertaking. I have every confidence that Mrs Antrobus will continue to act as an inspiration for others and her new school will very quickly appreciate what an outstanding classteacher and inspirational leader she is. However, on the other hand we are devastated to be losing such an excellent senior leader and classteacher, core member of our school community and trusted colleague. I am sure the whole school community will join me in thanking Mrs Antrobus for her unwavering commitment and dedication to our school and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Trish Polley will also be leaving us today as she prepares for a well-deserved retirement. Mrs Polley leaves her Learning Support Assistant (LSA) role in school at the end of the spring term after more than 25 years of service. I know this has been a difficult and emotional decision for her to leave after being at the school for so many years. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Polley for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to our school and the many children and families she has worked with and supported. I know she has thoroughly enjoyed her time at our school and has built up many positive relationships with children, parents and carers.

Mr Tom Beales and his partner have welcomed their second child into the world this week after the safe arrival of their new baby daughter! Erin Orla Beales was born on 25th March 2026 at 8:06p.m. Mother and baby (and Dad!) are doing very well. Mr Beales will be taking 2-weeks of paternity leave straight after the Easter holiday break as they welcome the new addition to their family. Cover arrangements will be put in place for 1B during this 2-week period with the majority of the teaching responsibility covered by our own staff. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr Beales and his family at this very exciting time.

School Uniform – Final Reminder!

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 home school diaries.

SUMMER

[Must be worn for the summer term and first half of the autumn term]

EYFS/Key Stage 1

Green gingham check dress, ***bottle green cardigan or jumper**, White socks must be worn.
Grey tailored shorts or tailored trousers, ***white polo shirt**, ***bottle green jumper**
Grey or black socks only.

Key Stage 2

Green gingham check dress (compulsory for Year 3 & 4)
and/or ***white polo shirt** with grey skirt (Year 5 & 6 have option of both).
***bottle green cardigan or jumper**,
White socks must be worn.

***white polo shirt**, Grey tailored shorts or tailored trousers,
***bottle green jumper**,
Grey or black socks only.



N.B. Items marked * must have the school badge embroidered on the garment.

Shoes need to be sensible black leather (not boots) with soft soles or black leather closed-toe sandals. **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 home school 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 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.

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE under any circumstances so it makes sense to leave these at home altogether. However, if you insist on your child wearing earrings, please ensure they are plain gold or silver studs and that they are capable of taking their earrings out themselves.

May I also remind you that long hair must be tied back with a black, white or green hairband. Children's hair should not be coloured or have patterns shaved into it.

Mobile Phone Policy

At our full Governing Body meeting held yesterday, the Governor's agreed and ratified the school's revised and updated Mobile Phone Policy. This policy has been written in line with the Department for Education (DfE) mobile phone guidance stating all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default. This is essential in establishing and maintaining high standards of behaviour ensuring the school is a calm and safe environment for all pupils and staff.



For the reasons highlighted above, St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School's approach to pupils bringing mobile phones to school is:

- **Mobile phones (and other smart technologies) are banned from the school premises altogether.**

A copy of this policy is freely available from the school website (www.stthomaspri.org)

Please do take the time to read the policy. Thank you for your continued support.

Parents' Evening – Thank You!

Thank you to all those parents/carers who attended our Parents' Evening meetings this week – a total of **81%** signed up for an appointment.

Over the course of the two evenings we enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and discuss the successes of your children and their achievements since the beginning of this academic year. I know the teaching staff really enjoy these opportunities and developing stronger links between home and school. I do hope you were able to share some of the feedback with your child/ren and demonstrate how proud you are of their enthusiasm and efforts. Many thanks for your continued support.

REMINDER: Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy

IN A WORLD
WHERE YOU
CAN BE
ANYTHING,
BE KIND.

We are very grateful to the vast majority of parents/carers and others visiting our school who are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school – thank you! However, it saddens me to report that on an increasingly regular basis, we are experiencing negative attitudes towards the school which are expressed with aggression and verbal and intimidating behaviour. This is happening both face-to-face and through telephone and email communication.

All members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence, intimidation and abuse. We expect all parents/carers and other visitors to behave in a reasonable, respectful way towards members of school staff. The Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable. In extreme circumstances, unacceptable behaviour may result in the Local Authority and/or the Police being informed of the incident.

The Governing Body have approved and ratified our Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy. A copy of this policy is freely available from the school website (www.stthomaspri.org)

Please do take the time to read the policy. Thank you for your continued support.

School Dinner Menus – April 2026

You should by now have seen and returned your summer term school dinner menu choices following the communication sent out via Parent Hub earlier this term.

The new menus commence on **Monday 13th April 2026 (Week 1)** on our return from the Easter holiday.

Midday Assistant Vacancy - We Need You!!

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Assistant (MDA) role in school to assist in the care and welfare of the children during the lunchtime period. The hours are 11:55a.m. – 1:15p.m. Monday to Friday. No previous experience is necessary and training will be provided. Any successful applicants will be subject to pre-employment checks including a DBS disclosure.

If you are interested in this opportunity and becoming part of our fantastic MDA team or would like to find out more information please give your details to the School Office. We will then arrange for an application pack to be sent to you with further details.

Advance Notice: St George's Day

After the Easter holiday, we will reach the last of our House feast days for this academic year. On **Thursday 23rd April 2026** we will be celebrating **St George**, the patron saint of England.

On Thursday 23rd April we are inviting all the children who are in St George's House to wear non-school uniform and dress in their House colour which is **RED**. This opportunity is only for children in St George's House as the other Houses have already had the opportunity this academic year. We do hope that all the St George's children encouraged by their House Captains will take pride in marking this event. In preparation, the children in St George's House may like to research some facts about the life of St George and share it with their class.



Finally....

A few reminders...

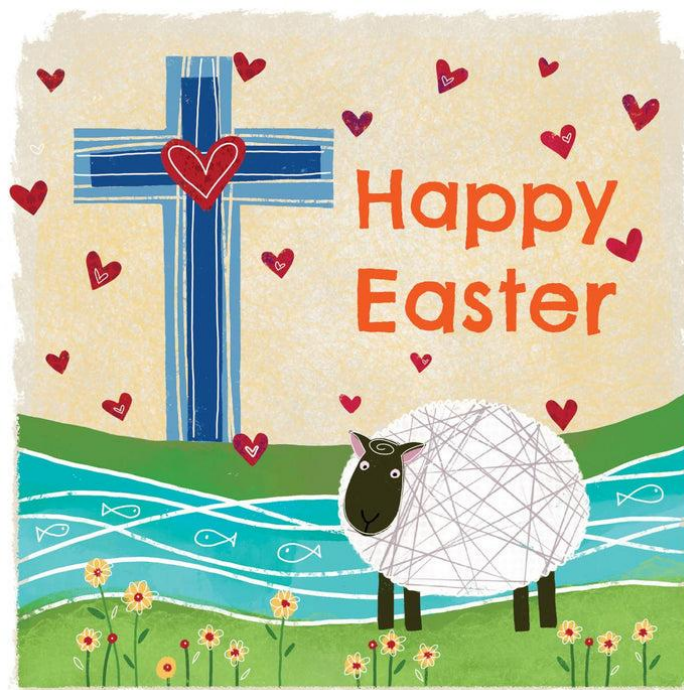
- As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, the clocks change this weekend so don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour at 1a.m. on Sunday 29th March 2026 as Daylight Saving Time/British Summer Time starts.
- We break up for the beginning of the Easter holidays TODAY – this is our last day.
- We return to school for the start of the summer term on Monday 13th April 2026.
- Thank you to all those people who supported our **Red Nose Day** event last Friday – so far we have managed to raise a grand total of **£642** – well done to everyone involved!

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

May the joy of the resurrection fill your heart with peace, hope, and renewed strength this Easter season.

Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Easter filled with the warmth of God's love and the happiness of new beginnings.

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, BRENTWOOD

SERVICES & EVENTS

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday: 29th March

8am - Mass

10am - Mass & Procession
(starting at Chapel Ruins)

6pm - Choral Evensong

Monday 30th March

Chrism Mass - 12pm at
Chelmsford Cathedral

8pm - Mass

Tuesday 31st March

9:30am - Mass

8pm - Mass

Wednesday 1st April

12:15pm - Mass

8pm - Mass

9pm - Compline

Maundy Thursday: 2nd April

8pm - Sung Mass of the Lord's
Supper

Good Friday: 3rd April

9am - Morning Prayer

10am - Stations of the Cross

3pm - Liturgy of the Passion

5pm - Maria Desolata

Holy Saturday: 4th April

9am - Morning Prayer

8pm - Easter Vigil

Followed by our Easter Party

Easter Sunday: 5th April

8am - Mass

10am - Sung Mass

6pm - Choral Evensong &
Benediction

HE IS RISEN INDEED - ALLELUIA!



WWW.ST-THOMAS.ORG.UK
01277 231629

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