

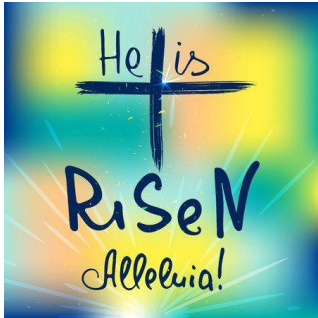
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

24th April 2026



A warm welcome back to the summer term! I do hope you all managed to have a wonderful Easter holiday, although it soon becomes a dim and distant memory once we return to the usual routine. It has been a delight to welcome all our children and families back to school as we look forward to another successful term and the improving summer weather. As we enter this final phase of the 2025/2026 academic year many of us will be wondering where the time has gone! At the same time we continue to journey through this season of Eastertide rejoicing at the new life around us and continuing to reflect upon the real story of Easter and proclaim the news of the risen Lord –

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The term ahead looks as busy and exciting as ever with lots going on and lots to look forward to. Earlier this week we were pleased to be able to issue the 'Summer Term 2026 - Dates for the Diary' sheet detailing the events and activities taking place this term. Please keep it somewhere safe and refer to it as necessary. Please remember that all newsletters and key communication from the school appear on the school website (www.stthomaspri.org) and are also sent electronically via Parent Hub. Also, don't forget to check out and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts:



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



@stthomascofeprimaryschool

This half term we will be thinking very much of our Year 6 children as they complete their end of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs). We are very confident that they will approach these with confidence, determination and resilience and demonstrate their true potential and the progress they have made over their time at St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School. Good luck to everyone involved!

We will endeavour to keep you up to date and fully informed through use of Parent Hub, social media, the school website and fortnightly newsletters. Please take the time to read them as a great deal of time and effort goes into preparing them. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement and we look forward to working with you in partnership over the coming term.

Summer Uniform – Reminder!

It is wonderful to see all the children returning after the Easter break in their summer uniforms with some lovely new, crisp white polo shirts on display. By the end of this week almost 100% of children were in correct and approved summer uniform – thank you! Nobody should now be wearing a school tie and collared shirt in Key Stage 2 (winter uniform), but following the school uniform policy and guidance clearly displayed on the school website or in your child's home school diary.

Can I also remind you that girls who wear hairbands/clips..etc. must wear them in the approved school colours and they must be of a size that they do not become a distraction or hinderance to themselves or others. Children with long hair are also required to have this tied back and away from their face.



Children are NOT permitted to come to school with patterns, logos or designs shaved into their hair; dyed hair or hair colouring is NOT permitted.

We expect our school uniform to reflect our high expectations across the primary school and we thank you for your support in this matter. As we notice children wearing incorrect uniform they will get a reminder sticker placed in their home school diary.

Water Bottles

It is very important that children have access to clean drinking water throughout the day particularly at this time of year when we start to experience warmer weather. We encourage your children to bring in a water bottle to school which encourages them to drink and replace their fluids as the day goes on. Children are also given access to drinking water at school to refill their water bottles once they are empty. However recently we have had a number of problems with water being spilt in the classroom mainly because some children do not have water bottles with a sports cap. The school policy is that all water bottles brought into school must have a sports cap to prevent such accidents happening. If your child does not have this type of water bottle can I please ask you to change it as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Easter Egg Scene Competition Results 2026

Thank you to all those children who entered our annual Easter Egg competition and submitted entries in to school last week. I witnessed for myself the amazing creations being carefully carried and delivered in to school which demonstrated wonderful imagination, design and many with a humorous twist or egg pun!! Judging was no easy task and much thought and deliberation went in to picking our eventual winners. These were announced to the children in collective worship on Tuesday by Mrs Antrobus, who co-ordinated the competition. I am therefore delighted to announce the following results and share a few photographs:

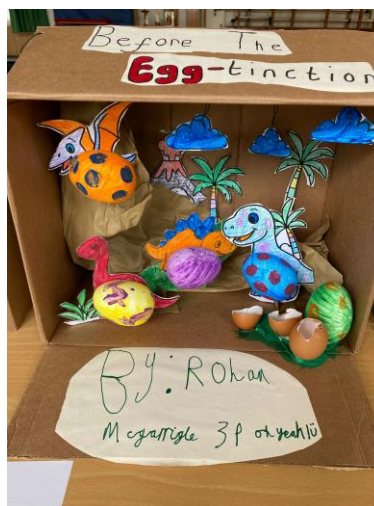
EYFS/KS1 Runner Up - **Bow Feeney**

EYFS/KS1 Winner - **Ariana Van De Burg**



LKS2 Runner Up - **Oliver Wood**

LKS2 Winner - **Rohan McGarrigle**



UKS2 Runner Up - Evelyn Madden
UKS2 Winner - Maria Russell



Congratulations to all of our winners – you did an egg-cellent job!!

Year 6 SATs Week – 11th May 2025

As we prepare next week to start the month of May, which for all primary schools is a very important month, the children and staff continue to work very hard in preparing for the statutory Key Stage 2 SATs assessments that are just around the corner.

The week of the **11th May 2026**, is probably one of the most important weeks of the year for our children in Year 6. Throughout the course of the week the children in Year 6 will be undertaking statutory assessment tests (SATs) in grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS), reading as well as arithmetic and maths reasoning papers to measure their attainment and progress across Key Stage 2. It can seem quite a daunting and anxious time for everyone involved but I am very confident that the children have been well prepared, through daily high quality teaching and learning, to tackle these assessments with a wealth of skills, knowledge and understanding.



As a Primary School we work exceptionally hard to prepare our Year 6 children for these tests. I am confident that the staff and children will approach SATs Week, with determination, confidence and faith in their own abilities.

I would ask you to keep them all in your thoughts and prayers. I am sure you will join me in wishing them good luck and every success in their final preparations.

Upper Key Stage 2 – Confirmation Classes

We now have **28** of our Upper KS2 children who will be continuing confirmation preparation classes on Thursday after school with Fr. Mark. Like last year, this is another large group and all are excited at taking this next important step in their journey of faith. Our weekly class-based Eucharists have really given all our children an opportunity to explore, question and become confident with the sacrament of the Mass/Eucharist and I think this is a key factor in seeing so many children wishing to be confirmed.

These candidates are now preparing to be confirmed at St Thomas of Canterbury Church on Sunday 14th June 2026 and will receive the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Luke, the Bishop of Richborough. Over the coming weeks these children will continue to complete confirmation preparation classes with Fr. Mark and revisit their baptismal promises and understanding of their faith. I hope you will be able to pray for these children and their families at this very special time.

Summer Term Clubs/ Extra Curricular Activities

Earlier this week you will have received via Parent Hub a copy of the new clubs and extra curricular timetable for the **Summer Term 2026**. Please make sure you refer to the revised copy sent on Tuesday (21st) as there was a slight error on the first copy sent last Friday – sorry! At this stage we can confirm these clubs but additional ones may become available later on in the term as staff have more time to offer. I would like to thank all the

staff and volunteers who are willing to give of their time and expertise for the children of our school. I hope you will encourage your children to offer their appreciation, not only in words, but also through their attendance and dedication. Should you have any queries or concerns, please arrange to speak with the Club Leader. Thank you.

Courageous Advocacy



What is 'courageous advocacy'? Courageous advocacy is defined by the Church of England as "the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard." At St. Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School we encourage and support our children to become courageous advocates who believe that they can become 'agents of change' to strive towards a fairer and more joyous world. This means that they champion causes that are special and meaningful to them; connected to matters and concerns personal and close to home for them or linked to wider global issues.

Recently we have had two amazing examples of our children taking on this role as courageous advocates. Over the Easter holiday, Mabel & Willa Shacklady made a selection of colourful bracelets and bangles and set up a pop-up stall outside their house to sell these items to passers-by. Sitting for 5 hours and with lots of interested customers they raised a total of **£110.80**. They then divided this money in half, donating £55.40 to a charity supported by their family and then divided the remaining £55.40 in half again to donate to our two school charities this year – a total of £27.70 for Rock UK and Kids Inspire. A brilliant achievement by both girls and two potential contestants on The Apprentice!

Another example was undertaken by Matilda Bannister, who organised with her class (6Mc) to collect Easter Eggs for Broomfield Hospital. These were delivered to the hospital by Matilda and her dad, to be given out on the wards over the Easter holiday. The hospital stated, "Your Easter eggs brought lots of smiles and happiness to children and families on the wards and helped make their hospital stay a little bit brighter."

Finally....

You will also have received (via Parent Hub) the new **EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower and Upper Key Stage 2 Curriculum Guide** for Parents/Carers for the Summer Term. Please have a look through this with your child to see the exciting areas they will be exploring over the course of this term. Hopefully you will be able to identify some ways in which you can support their knowledge and understanding at home – and bring this in to school to share!

As always we are looking forward to working in partnership with you over this new summer term and thank you in advance for your trust, commitment and support of the school.

Have a wonderful 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