

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

5th June 2026

Welcome back to the final half term of this academic year 2025-2026! I hope you all managed to have a fantastic half term break last week and made the most of the glorious sunny weather – perhaps a little too hot for some of us? However, to have a Bank Holiday weekend and a half term week full of sunshine was a real treat.

Sadly, it appears that the meteorological start of summer (1st June) has decided to disappoint us and this week by contrast, has been cold, damp and decidedly wet!! This was particularly challenging for our Upper Key Stage 2 children and staff who ventured out on geography field work trips on Tuesday and Wednesday. Despite the weather, these off-site learning opportunities still delivered the intended experiences and activities. I would like to thank those parents/carers who also volunteered to accompany the children and hope you have dried out by now – we really do appreciate your support.



This half term proves to be very busy with lots going on in and across the primary school. Please do take note of key messages and reminders in this newsletter, via our regular Parent Hub communications, and also keep up to date by following our social media channels. This gives a really good opportunity to see what is going on in school.

Premises Update

You may have noticed that the builders/contractor compound at the top end of the car park has disappeared over half term, only to be replaced with a new compound at the bottom end of the car park. Confused? Let me explain!

I am delighted to report that our new walkway linking EYFS/KS1 and KS2 has now been completed and is fully operational. This means we can move around the school building more freely, improving circulation and no longer having to disturb learning and lessons in the two school halls and the computing suite. The staff and children are getting used to using this fabulous new addition to our school - keep an eye out on our social media channels for a short reel of this new walkway in action – don't forget to follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram.

The new builders/contractor compound has appeared as we have now successfully gained funding via the Diocese of Chelmsford for a full boiler replacement project which started during half term. This is to fully replace our current aging boilers with new, modern and energy efficient ones. The work will continue up to the beginning of the school summer holidays but should cause minimal disruption to the school community. By completing the project now, it will ensure we are nice and warm and cosy come the winter!

Staffing Update

Sadly, we will be saying a fond farewell and goodbye to **Mrs Katie Knight** who will be leaving St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School at the end of this academic year. Mrs Knight has taken the decision to resign her classteacher position in school and will not be returning from her maternity leave. I know this has been a very emotive and difficult decision for Mrs Knight, but she is looking forward to continuing to be a new mum and spending quality time with her daughter and her family. I know many of you, like us, will be very sad to hear this news and will join me in wishing Mrs Knight all the very best for the future. She and her family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

In light of the above announcement, I am delighted to inform you that **Mrs Suzanne Brind** will be remaining at our school and become a permanent, full-time member of our teaching staff from 1st September 2026. Many of you will be aware that Mrs Brind has been employed to cover the maternity leave of Mrs Knight, but will now remain with us into the new academic year. We are thrilled to be making such a strong appointment to

our teaching team at St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Brind on this wonderful news.

We will also be saying goodbye and a huge 'thank you' to **Mrs Alison Hearn** who has announced her retirement at the end of the academic year. Mrs Hearn has served over 25 years on the staff, both as a valued member of our Learning Support Assistant (LSA) staff and as one of our Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA). I know this has been a difficult decision after such a long and successful association with the school. I am sure you will join me in taking this opportunity to thank Mrs Hearn for her care, dedication and commitment towards the school and particularly the children she has worked with during her time at St. Thomas'. I am sure she will take many fond and happy memories with her after over 25 years of loyal service! I am sure you join me in wishing Mrs Hearn a well-deserved retirement.

IMPORTANT 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 12th June 2026** is a non-pupil professional development and training day and the school is closed to the children.

Sports Day 2026

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 19th June 2026**. 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 19th June 2026** (3:30p.m. – 5:45p.m). The PTA have recently sent out additional information via a Parent Hub message on 4th 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 AT ALL TIMES 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 Photographs

On **Wednesday 17th June 2026** we will be welcoming the school photographer from Kittle Photography in for the day to take class photographs. 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!

In order for your child to be included in the class photographs you **MUST** have given media parental consent via your child's individual Arbor log in. This can be accessed via the Arbor app. The School Office have also been contacting parents/carers directly via Parent Hub where consent is still outstanding or has not been given.

Our media consent basis changed at the beginning of this academic year to legitimate interests in line with guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

School Uniform Policy

The school uniform policy, standards and expectations are available from the school website and also contained within your child's Home School Diary. These expectations are set by the Governing Body and monitored by the School Development Committee on a regular basis.

The expectations set by the Governing Body also includes appropriate hair styles, as follows:

"When hair is long enough, we request it is tied back all the time, using plain green, black or white hair bands/clips. Hair accessories (in approved colours) should be small and discreet and not cause distraction within the class.

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; braided hair must not contain coloured thread/ribbon and must not contain beads for health and safety reasons.

Make-up (including nail varnish/stick on tattoos) is not permitted and any child found to be wearing it will be asked to remove it when in school. Any make-up items found in school will also be confiscated and parents/carers asked to collect it from the school office."

Since returning from the half term break, we have had to speak to a number of children and their parents/carers about appropriate hairstyles, specifically relating to shaved patterns/shapes – this is not permitted.

Please help us maintain our high standards of age appropriate presentation in school and wear our school uniform with pride!



Residents invited to influence future NHS priorities in Essex

Local people, staff and communities across Essex are being invited to share their views on the future of local health services as NHS Essex launches a new public survey to help shape priorities over the next five years.

The survey forms part of the ongoing development of a plan, which sets out how the NHS will work with partners to improve health, reduce inequalities and make services more sustainable across the county.

The plan aligns with national NHS ambitions and has already been informed by conversations with more than 500 residents, staff and community organisations across the county. People told the NHS they want:

- faster access to care
- more care closer to home
- better joined-up services
- stronger mental health support
- more focus on prevention and early help.

The NHS in Essex now invites further feedback on suggested priorities, what matters most to local people and where improvements should happen first. This is an opportunity to work with and listen to local people to design services that suit the needs of every community.

Residents can complete the survey online:

[NHS Essex Virtual Views: help shape the future of NHS services in Essex](#)

We want to understand:

- what is working well
- what needs improving
- what support people need earlier
- what should be prioritised first

The survey asks:

- How can we make services better in Essex?
- What is the biggest health issue facing Essex?
- What does good health and care look like to you?

Feedback will help shape future health and care priorities across Essex.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete. It will close at 5pm on Tuesday 30th June.

Finally....

As well as preparing for various transition visits to their new Secondary Schools for September 2026, the Year 6 children are busy rehearsing for their end of year production – *'Peter Pan'*. 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 **Summer Music Concert** which is being held on Tuesday 23rd 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.



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

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