

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

"Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community"



NEWSLETTER

23rd September 2022

Our thoughts this week clearly remain with the Royal Family following Monday's state funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II. I know many of you, along with much of the nation, will have spent the day observing the proceedings and will have been moved by the tributes. The end of the second Elizabethan era is certainly a significant moment in the history of Britain, with the vast majority of us seeing the transition from one monarch to another for the very first time.

Sadly, the good old British weather has scuppered our plans to hold the PTA Inflatables afternoon today. However it is vitally important that events such as this take place safely and all children and adults are protected from unnecessary risk and danger. The weather arriving for school this morning and throughout today has certainly vindicated the decision to postpone. Thank you for your understanding and continued support for the PTA – a new date will be set for later in the academic year (summer term) and a Parent Hub message was sent out yesterday regarding refunds.



As we prepare for our Harvest Eucharist at St Thomas of Canterbury Church next Friday morning (9:30a.m.) we consider how grateful we are for God's creation and provision but also those that are less fortunate than ourselves. As in previous years we will be collecting food and other items for the **Brentwood Foodbank** and hope that we have a generous 'harvest' to donate to them at the end of this half term. I do hope you might be able to pop an extra tin or packet into your next shop to donate to this very worthy cause. Please look further down this newsletter for suggested items to donate.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative in keeping up to date with the life and work of the school and once again I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support this term.

C.A.T.S 2022-2023

Since the last newsletter we have chosen the Children Able To Speak (CATS) who have been successfully nominated and elected by their peers to represent their classes this year. The CATS members will be involved in charitable work as well as decision making this year and be used to share and express their opinions about the school. This is a very privileged position and one which comes with great responsibility. Below are the names of the children who make up our new CATS group. Congratulations to:

Lower School

3S – Grace Bancroft

3BW – Matilda Allen-Ross

4B – Ellie Palmer

4DW – Noah Fairweather

4P – William Penfold

Upper School

5SP – Dylan Rees

5SM – James Cansell

6P – Harry Southgate

6CG – Mia Camfield

6M – Lottie Palmer

Midday Assistant Vacancy

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.

MH Ambassadors 2022-2023

This year we have also introduced children's Mental Health Ambassadors to our school positions of responsibility. This new initiative is being organised and led by Mrs Coughtrey and Mrs Pritchard. This term our new MH Ambassadors are receiving training to become peer mentors, by teaching them strategies to create positive mindsets, which they can share within our school community. The MH Ambassador team will meet regularly to develop ways to disseminate their learning to children and families of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the following children on their new and exciting role in school:

Ollie Benns
Taylor Wootton
Luke Thompson
Sienna Buckle
Eliyas Halabi
Thea Shorter
Olivia Van Veen
George Simpson
Evan Garn-Blow
Violet Eldred



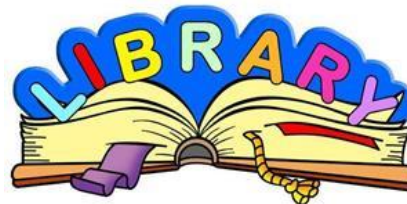
Librarians 2022-2023

As we journey through the 'Essex Year of Reading' we continue to encourage and excite your children to read and explore new and intriguing books across a range of genres. The St Thomas' Reading Tree Challenge is due to be launched again next week with a few subtle changes and alterations to the successful initiative that ran last academic year, seeing a majority of our children achieving their Bronze award and some reaching the prestigious Platinum award!

We are very proud of our library environment which lies at the heart of our school. It is a bright, colourful and exciting place to be and I am sure you will join me in extending our thanks and gratitude to Mrs Emery (School Librarian) for all her hard work in our school library.

Today we awarded badges to five children who have written fantastic letters of application to become School Librarians. They will be assisting with library drop-in sessions throughout the week as well as helping develop new reading initiatives across the year. Congratulations go to:

Medina Halabi
Anca Brescan
Bailey Stanford
Pollyanna Fetherston
Ruby Robinson-Gray



IMPORTANT - Contact Details



It is vitally important that the school holds all current and up to date contact details for every child on roll in case of needing to contact you in emergencies. Recently it has come to light that some contact details, especially mobile telephone numbers, are out of date or not working. Please can I ask you to make sure that all contact details we hold for you are up to date. If you have recently changed mobile or landline numbers, or moved house we must be informed as soon as possible to ensure we hold the correct details. If you need to inform us of recent changes please put it in writing and email in to the School Office so we can update our system.

The new statutory guidance for schools 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (KCSIE)' came in to force on 1st September 2022 (further details are available from our school website). One aspect of safeguarding that is very clear in this document is that schools need to have more available emergency contacts for children. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 says that schools should have at least two emergency contacts for every child in the school in case of emergencies, and in case there are welfare concerns at the home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

For your information our Child Protection Policy has also been updated to reflect the new KCSIE 2022 guidance and this policy and Part 1 of KCSIE can be found on our website.

Administering Medicines in School

At the beginning of a new academic year we always like to take the opportunity to remind parents/carers of the school policy on administering medicines in school. I would particularly urge the parents of Year 3 children to take note of this information. The full policy adopted by the Governing Body can be accessed via the school website under the 'Information' → 'School Policies' tab. You will also find a copy of the 'Administering Medication Form' which can be downloaded, completed and returned to school. Can I please draw your attention to the extract taken from the policy below:

"St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School can only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration. Office staff will seek new up to date contact numbers for all those pupils in need of medicine. We will only guarantee medicine will be given to the most serious of cases – in these cases it is good practice to ask parents and pupils to be involved in reminding the office staff.

Medicines will be stored in a secure cabinet during the day or a staffroom fridge where necessary. Parents/Carers should make arrangements to collect the medicine from the school office at the end of the day unless alternative arrangements are made with the school staff. Medicines will not be handed to a child to bring home."

It is very important that all parents/carers adhere to these guidelines. We do experience a number of parents who hand in medicines without the original container or instructions for administration. Please help us to implement our policy for the safety of your children and the protection of our staff. The School Office may refuse to accept medicines brought into school.



Harvest Collection

Once again our Harvest collection of gifts will be to support the **Brentwood Foodbank**. 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK. Many more families and individuals now find themselves struggling with the current cost of living crisis relying on local foodbanks and this has subsequently put increased pressure on their supplies and resources.

The **Brentwood Foodbank** need the following on their 'Harvest Festival Shopping List':

Tinned spaghetti	Tinned tuna
Tinned meatballs	Tinned sardines
Tinned potatoes	Tinned ham
Tinned salmon	Tinned all day breakfast
Tinned ravioli	Chicken in Sauce
Mince & Onion	Beef casserole
Chilli con carne	Ravioli
Corned beef	Hot dogs
Tinned rice pudding	Tinned fruit
Tinned custard	Instant mash packets
Jams & spreads	Sweets & treats
Shampoo	Deodorants
Household cleaning	Pump anti-bacterial soap
Toilet rolls	



I do hope that every child can bring in at least one item on this list. I am sure we are all able to put one or two extra items in to our shopping trolleys and baskets to help those that are less fortunate than us. We will be pleased to accept your donations between now and half term when we will arrange for the items to be delivered to the Brentwood Foodbank. Please send items in to school with your child and they will be collected in their classrooms by their classteachers. Please be mindful of use by/sell by dates and ensure they have a long enough expiry date to be used by the Brentwood Foodbank. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Finally....

Once again may I remind all parents of children in **Year 6** that your Secondary School applications need to be completed and returned to the Local Authority by **31st October 2022**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year. I am sure you all have this in hand and are busy visiting various Secondary Schools at this time.

You might also find it useful to watch the following link: <https://youtu.be/Q0a8fi06WKY>



REMINDER....If you are able to assist with helping walk the children to and from St Thomas' Church next Friday please could you contact/speak to your child's classteacher. We do rely on willing volunteers to help escort the children safely to the church. We will be leaving soon after 9:00a.m. and should be back in school by 11:00a.m. Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us: admin@stthomasinr.essex.sch.uk