

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

# NEWSLETTER



24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

After the Autumn Term which seemed like a long, steady marathon we now find ourselves almost at the end of a short sprint through the Spring Term! Although fewer in number of weeks we still have the same curriculum coverage to pack in, so if anything it can seem even more tiring. With just a week to go before we break up for the Easter holiday I know there are many children and adults that are looking forward to a well-deserved rest and a chance to spend quality time with family and friends.



With limited signs of spring weather on the horizon it seems somewhat ironic that this weekend we prepare for the clocks to change – don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour at 1a.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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.

## School Uniform – Reminder!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents 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 adhere to this. From the beginning of the summer term all children must wear summer uniform as set out in the school prospectus and homework diaries.

All girls in Year 3 & 4 must wear the green checked gingham dresses as part of regulation summer uniform. Girls in Year 5 & 6 may choose to wear either the green checked gingham dresses or a white school polo shirt with logo with a grey skirt.

Boys need a white school polo shirt with logo and shorts or trousers – also in grey.

Shoes need to be sensible black leather shoes (not boots) with soft soles or leather sandals (black or brown). 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, especially from Clarks. Incorrect or inappropriate uniform will be flagged up in the new term by putting a gentle reminder sticker in your child's homework 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 analogue or digital 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.

## Parents' Evening – 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have accessed SchoolCloud and booked your parents' evening appointments for next week - **86%** have signed up so far! If you have yet to make your appointment you have until 6:00p.m. this evening to do so – don't miss out!

It is very clear from monitoring the appointment booking system that there is still an appetite for remote virtual appointments and our decision to make available hybrid appointments has proved to be well supported. Please remember that each date (Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>) have been split into two blocks of appointment types. Face-to-face meetings will run between 4:00 – 5:30p.m. with remote virtual appointments between 5:50 – 7:00p.m. Whether you choose to attend virtually or in-person the appointment time will be strictly timed to **10 minutes**.

If you are arriving for a face-to-face appointment you will need to enter via the main School Office reception entrance. From here you will be escorted by one of our Year 6 House Captains to your child's classroom – the appointments are **NOT** taking place in the school hall. Don't worry if you are not sure where to go – there will be a friendly face to guide you in the right direction! Please do not arrive too early for your appointment – 5 minutes beforehand should be enough. When you arrive if the appointment slot before you has not concluded we would ask you to sit on the seats provided outside the classroom and wait for the classteacher to invite you in. Once your appointment has finished you can exit the school via the main entrance.

Children must not attend in-person or virtual video meetings as it is important that they are conducted in a quiet, professional manner and parents and classteachers can have discussions without distraction and interruptions, maximising the limited time. I hope you have had sufficient time to arrange necessary child care if needed. It is very unfair on parents who do make these arrangements when others attempt to bring their children along. Please be respectful towards others and I thank you for your support in this matter.

## Statutory Notice

### **Statutory Notice published in respect of St Thomas of Canterbury CE (VA) Infant School and St Thomas of Canterbury CE (VA) Junior School**

Arising from a recent public consultation, the governing bodies of St Thomas of Canterbury infant and junior schools have published a Statutory Notice (available from the school website) proposing to amalgamate the two schools into an all-through primary school, with effect from 1 September 2023.

- Statutory Notice
- Complete Proposal St Thomas of Canterbury CE (VA) Infant School
- Complete Proposal St Thomas of Canterbury CE (VA) Junior School
- Amalgamation Consultation Response Summary Report

Any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposals by sending them to: Governing Bodies of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant & Junior Schools, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX.

This closing date for representations will be **6 April 2023**.

## Lent Eucharist



We are delighted to be going to St Thomas of Canterbury Church on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023** to celebrate our Lent Eucharist with Fr. Mark – we do hope you will be able to join us! The Eucharist service will start at 9:30a.m. As always we would greatly appreciate any help you may be able to give in escorting children safely to and from the church. If you are able to walk with your child's class then please speak to your child's classteacher for further details and information. I am sure it will be a lovely service allowing us to reflect upon our journey through Lent and look forward to the glory of Easter Day.

## Change to School Dinner Menus – April 2023

You should by now have seen and returned your summer term school dinner menu choices following the communication sent out via Parent Hub last week. If you have still not returned your copy to school please do this as soon as possible.

It has become necessary to make a slight amendment to the **Week 3** cycle of the menus, due to begin on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023. For **Week 3**, instead of the sausage (Butcher's and Vegetarian) and mash, we will be having Local Butcher's Roast Chicken with mashed potato, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy or Vegetarian Cottage pie. These will be served with the mixed vegetable medley.

If you wish to change the choices for a Main or Vegetarian that you have already made and given to the school, please let us know by emailing the office. If, however, you are happy to keep with the Main or Vegetarian choices, then you do not need to do anything.

## Red Nose Day 2023 – Thank You!



Last Friday (17<sup>th</sup>) was Red Nose Day and St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School has always been at the heart of this event. Our boundless energy and imagination (led by Miss Pullin) always make this day what it is and inspire so many of us to take part. Once again the enthusiasm and effort this year was truly extraordinary!

The total raised so far for Red Nose Day 2023 is: **£1003.10**

The money raised for Red Nose Day will help some of the most vulnerable people in society find safety and support – and turn their lives around.

We are very grateful for your support with this event – thank you!

## 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.

## Finally....

A few reminders...

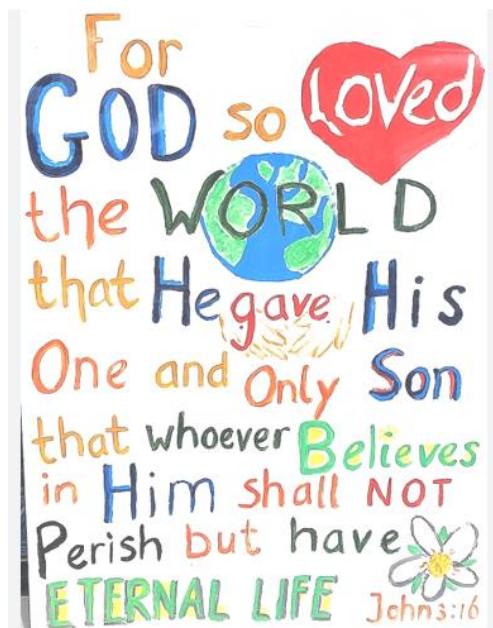
- As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, the clocks change this weekend so don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour at 1a.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as Daylight Saving Time/British Summer Time starts.
- There are a few parents who have still not returned school dinner menus for after the Easter holiday. If you are intending for your child to have a school dinner in April then this must be returned as soon as possible.

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

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.” John 3:16***

Have a great weekend!

Mr D. Moran  
Headteacher



And...please remember if you have any questions or queries or comments feel free to contact us:  
[admin@stthomasjr.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomasjr.essex.sch.uk)