

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



NEWSLETTER

3rd May 2024

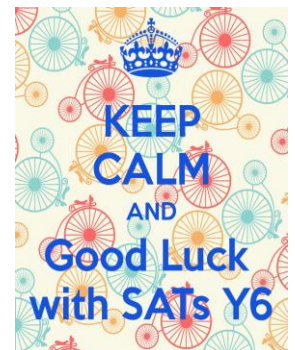


On Thursday morning there was much talk amongst the children and adults about the thunder and lightning storm we experienced in the early hours. Many had ventured to the nearest window to watch the lightning which in some areas was quite spectacular. Amazingly some people had slept right through it and were not really aware what all the fuss was about!! As we continue through the summer term and enter the month of May we are all longing for some prolonged sunshine and warmth...when will it arrive?

Being a Bank Holiday weekend we can be fairly confident the weather will not improve, although I am sure we are all looking forward to the extra day at home and a chance to lay in on Monday morning. I do hope you can all take advantage of the long weekend and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 7th May – don't be late!

Year 6 SATs Week – 13th May 2024

The week of the 13th May 2024, is probably one of the most important weeks of the year for our children in Year 6. Throughout the course of this 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 be 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. I am sure you will all join me in wishing our Year 6 children the best of luck for SATs week and pray that they are able to demonstrate their tireless work ethic and realise their full potential.



As with any week in school it is very important that all Year 6 children arrive in school on time having had an early night and a good breakfast. If children arrive late or are absent it causes major problems for the administration of the tests and in some cases means we have to contact the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) for advice and guidance. I hope we will be able to have a smooth journey through the week. Thank you for your support and encouragement in this matter.

Dust Off Your Wheelbarrows!!

On Friday 17th May 2024 we will be taking delivery of a huge quantity of bark chippings which needs to be spread in the school spiritual garden and other surrounding areas. We need your help!!

We are looking for willing volunteers of all ages, armed with shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows to help undertake this task on the morning of **Saturday 18th May 2024**. If you are able to help and assist with this task on this morning we would be delighted to see you! We intend to start at 8:00a.m. but you are welcome to join us at any point during the morning. We will open up the school car park so you can drive in and continue working until we have finished. As the saying goes, 'many hands make light work', so the more volunteers we have the quicker we will complete the task. We should definitely be finished by 12 noon. Please do bring your own tools as we have only a limited number in school.

Please do come along to take part in this activity and help support our school community. We will provide refreshment for all the workers and we may even throw in a chocolate biscuit! I look forward to seeing you there.



Mobile Phones - Reminder

The staff and I are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of children, particularly in Upper School (Year 5 & Year 6) who appear to be bringing mobile phones in to school. Our school policy, agreed by the Governing Body, is that children are **not permitted to bring mobile phones in to school**. This is clearly communicated in our school literature and correspondence.



A growing number of children are seen before school, outside of the school premises, using a mobile phone. This behaviour is then seen again as the children prepare to leave school at the end of the school day. No child in school should be seen using or carrying a mobile phone whilst on the school premises. If a child is spotted using a mobile phone on the school premises, they will be reminded in the first instance of the school mobile phone policy and protocol. If this behaviour is repeated then the mobile phone will be confiscated and a parent/carer will be asked to collect it from the School Office.

Please can we ask for your continued support in this matter. In doing so, we would also ask parents/carers to refrain from using your mobile phones on the school premises. We would encourage you to talk to your children when you drop them off and/or pick them up about their day ahead and what they have been doing in school. Having that valuable opportunity to have a face to face conversation and share in your child's school experience is really valuable. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Waterbottles

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 (hopefully!) We encourage your children to bring in a waterbottle 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 waterbottles 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 waterbottles with a sports cap. The school policy is that **all** waterbottles brought into school must have a sports cap to prevent such accidents happening. If your child does not have this type of waterbottle can I please ask you to change it as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.



National Walk to School Week (20th-24th May 2024)

As in previous years, St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School will be taking part in the national Walk to School Week (20th – 24th May). This nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

This year's challenge, 'The Magic of Walking', encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various magical beings along the way, they will learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or park and stride) to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer? We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school in the week commencing 20th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution in Sawyers Hall Lane and around the school gates. Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.



Finally....

The St Thomas' Girls' Football team very narrowly missed out on retaining the Essex Schools' County Cup on Wednesday 24th April, losing a tight final at Aveley FC on penalties to St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Dagenham. The match itself finished 2 -2 with goals from Jessica and Edee. Although disappointed, the girls can be so proud of their achievements, playing fantastic attractive football throughout the competition and gaining many compliments from all the Essex FA officials for their character, teamwork and quality of play. We are very proud of them!



We are almost at 100% of children now wearing the correct summer uniform – thank you for your support and co-operation. There are still a few children who continue to wear the wrong coloured socks and incorrect footwear. As a reminder girls' socks should be white/grey or black; boys' socks should be grey or black.

Sensible black leather shoes (not boots or trainers) or black leather closed-toe sandals can be worn. We do not allow shoes with lights or toys in them as these become an unnecessary distraction, so please bear this in mind when you are purchasing any new shoes.

Whatever you may be up to this weekend I do hope you will be able to enjoy time with family and friends and make the most of the extra day on Monday.

I look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 7th May 2024.**

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:

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