

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



## NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Spring is in the air! As we step into a new season, the arrival of spring brings longer days, brighter skies, and a renewed sense of energy across our school and wider community. In recent days, it has been wonderful to see some sunshine, and witness our school environment changing with the appearance of daffodils and other plants waiting to bloom within our beautiful grounds. These signs give us a perfect reminder of growth, renewal and anticipation. This also reminds us of our continued patience and journey through the liturgical season of Lent as we await the glory of Easter Day.

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday and I am sure all our children are ready and prepared to spoil and treat their mums and all those in our wider family networks who undertake mothering duties. Our PTA organised and held a fantastic 'Wonderful Women' shopping event yesterday morning and it was lovely to see our children carefully choosing gifts – make sure you hide them well, so it is a lovely surprise on Sunday morning!

This weekend we also prepare for the clocks to change – don't forget to move your clocks forward by one hour at 1a.m. on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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.

### Staffing Update

Some of you may have spotted, or your children may have mentioned, that **Miss Lilly Berner** has been in school over the last couple of weeks completing some 'keeping in touch' (KIT) days as she prepares to return from maternity leave after the Easter holiday. Miss Berner will be returning on a part-time basis and will be contracted to work on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On a Monday and Tuesday, Miss Berner will take on responsibility for teaching in 4TW (4BW) as Mrs Tucker's maternity leave contract comes to an end. Miss Berner will continue to work alongside Mrs Whitaker to take on responsibility for teaching in this Year 4 class. On a Wednesday Miss Berner will cover planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time across the primary school.

I am sure many of you will join me in thanking **Mrs Mel Tucker** for all her hard work, dedication and commitment in 4TW this academic year. I know she has thoroughly enjoyed her time teaching in Year 4 and has built up many positive relationships with children, parents and carers. Thankfully we are not saying goodbye to Mrs Tucker as she will remain in school on a Tuesday to assist and support our PPA provision.

### School Uniform – Reminder!

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

#### SUMMER

*[Must be worn for the summer term and first half of the autumn term]*

#### EYFS/Key Stage 1

Green gingham check dress, **\*bottle green cardigan or jumper**, White socks must be worn.

Grey tailored shorts or tailored trousers, **\*white polo shirt**, **\*bottle green jumper**

Grey or black socks only.

## Key Stage 2

Green gingham check dress (compulsory for Year 3 & 4)  
and/or **\*white polo shirt** with grey skirt (Year 5 & 6 have option of both).

**\*bottle green cardigan or jumper,**

White socks must be worn.

**\*white polo shirt,** Grey tailored shorts or tailored trousers,

**\*bottle green jumper,**

Grey or black socks only.

### N.B. Items marked \* must have the school badge embroidered on the garment.

Shoes need to be sensible black leather (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. Incorrect or inappropriate uniform will be flagged up in the new term by putting a gentle reminder sticker in your child's home school 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 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.

Children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE under any circumstances so it makes sense to leave these at home altogether. However, if you insist on your child wearing earrings, please ensure they are plain gold or silver studs and that they are capable of taking their earrings out themselves.

May I also remind you that long hair must be tied back with a black, white or green hairband. Children's hair should not be coloured or have patterns shaved into it.

## **REMINDER: Parents' Evening – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**

On Friday last week you will have received a Parent Hub message with details about booking appointments for Parents' Evening. Spring term Parents' Evening will be taking place on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** and **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025** – 4:00 – 7:00p.m.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have accessed SchoolCloud and booked your parents' evening appointments for next week - **80%** have signed up so far!

If you have yet to make your appointment you have until 12 noon on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to do so – don't miss out!



**\*PLEASE NOTE: The booking window will be open for 10-days. Parents/carers MUST book within this time frame. We will not allow any bookings after the booking window has closed – there will be no exceptions. In previous years we have had parents/carers asking to make late bookings. This causes a great deal of additional administrative work and does not allow teaching staff adequate time to prepare for the meetings. Please support us by ensuring you make your booking on time!**

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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>) have been split into two blocks of appointment types. Face-to-face meetings will run between 4:00 – 5:00p.m. with remote virtual appointments between 5:00 – 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. 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.

## Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy

At our Governing Body meeting yesterday the Governors approved and ratified our Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy. A copy of this policy has been circulated with this newsletter and will also be freely available from the school website ([www.stthomaspri.org](http://www.stthomaspri.org))

We are very grateful to the vast majority of parents/carers and others visiting our school who are keen to work with us and are supportive of the school – thank you! However, it saddens me to report that on an increasingly regular basis, we are experiencing negative attitudes towards the school which are expressed with aggression and verbal and intimidating behaviour. This is happening both face-to-face and through telephone and email communication.

All members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence, intimidation and abuse. We expect all parents/carers and other visitors to behave in a reasonable, respectful way towards members of school staff. The Parents' & Visitors' Conduct Policy outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable. In extreme circumstances, unacceptable behaviour may result in the Local Authority and/or the Police being informed of the incident.

Please do take the time to read the policy. Thank you for your continued support.

## Lent Eucharists



We are delighted to be holding two Lent Eucharists with Fr. Mark next week as we prepare to bring this spring term to a close. Parents/carers are welcome to attend!

The **EYFS/Reception & Key Stage 1 Lent Eucharist** will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 9:15a.m. in the **KS1 HALL**.

# LENT

The **Key Stage 2 Lent Eucharist** will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9:30a.m. at **ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH**.

For the KS2 Eucharist 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.

## School Dinner Menus – April 2025

You should by now have seen and returned your summer term school dinner menu choices following the communication sent out via Parent Hub last Wednesday. The deadline for returning these menus was 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The new menus commence on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 (Week 1) on our return from the Easter holiday.

## 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.

## Advance Notice: St George's Day



After the Easter holiday, we will reach the last of our House feast days for this academic year. On **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025** we will be celebrating **St George**, the patron saint of England.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April we are inviting all the children who are in St George's House to wear non-school uniform and dress in their House colour which is **RED**. This opportunity is only for children in St George's House as the other Houses have already had the opportunity this academic year. We do hope that all the St George's children encouraged by their House Captains will take pride in marking this event. In preparation, the children in St George's House may like to research some facts about the life of St George and share it with their class.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 as Daylight Saving Time/British Summer Time starts.
- We break up for the beginning of the Easter holidays on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – this is our last day.
- We return to school for the start of the summer term on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.
- Thank you to all those people who supported our **Red Nose Day** event last Friday – we managed to raise the grand total of **£881** – well done to everyone involved!

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

Have a great 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](mailto:admin@stthomaspri.essex.sch.uk)