

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



## NEWSLETTER

15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Although a relatively short half term, we have still had a great deal to pack in and the whole school community has been working tirelessly to ensure everything is completed up against tighter timescales. Although we are not quite at the end of the academic year yet, we are already thinking about preparations for the 2026-2027 academic year in September. To that end, it has been wonderful to send welcome packs and share important information with the families of EYFS/Reception children starting school with us in September 2026. Some have already begun to return their forms and other documents to the School Office and it has been great to say 'hello' to them and their children. I am aware that some of our 'new' families have already had children come through the school and it is always an honour to welcome returning families as their younger children take the same journey into starting primary school.

As we prepare to move in to the last week of this half term, I would like to thank you as always for your continued support, trust, patience and prayers.

### Well done Year 6!

Our Year 6 children have been amazing this week and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Year 6 children on their determination, perseverance and resolve during SATs week (May 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>). Without exception the children tackled these end of Key Stage 2 tests and assessments with a superb attitude and demonstrated their desire to do well and showcase their learning and progress across Key Stage 2. I know that the Year 6 staff were very proud of their conduct and efforts and we hope this has paid off and will be reflected in the results due in early July. Congratulations to everyone in Year 6 – children and staff. You deserve a good rest this weekend!



I would also like to extend thanks to all the other children and staff in our primary school for your support of our Year 6 children this week and for making some small adjustments to our normal routine and timetable. You have all been fantastic too!

### Pentecost Eucharists - Update

We have previously informed you of the date for our school Pentecost Eucharists via the 'Dates for the Diary' information shared with you at the beginning of the summer term. However, we have had to make some adjustments and changes to allow these to continue to run smoothly in school.



Owing to the ongoing construction and completion of our external walkway linking Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and the associated internal modifications to the KS1 Hall, Fr. Mark and I have made some adjustments. This is due to the creation of a new internal corridor space in KS1 which has reduced the overall size and capacity of the KS1 Hall space. It will now be much more difficult to accommodate the children and parents/carers based on the current model of organisation. We are very keen to continue to invite and engage our wider school community to attend and participate in school acts of collective worship.

Therefore the arrangements for the Pentecost Eucharists will be as follows:

The Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & Year 4) Pentecost Eucharist will take place at 9:15a.m. in the KS2 Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.

The Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & Year 6) Pentecost Eucharist will take place at 10:45a.m. in the KS2 Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.

**AFTER** half term:

The EYFS/Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Pentecost Eucharist will now take place at 9:15a.m. in the KS1 Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' Ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the crowds gathered in Jerusalem – representing many nationalities and speaking many languages – were able to hear the disciples preaching in their own language!

Jesus had promised his followers that, although they would not see him after his Ascension, they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire them. The colour most often associated with Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire which the Acts of the Apostles describes appearing above the heads of the disciples as a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit.

All Pentecost Eucharists will be held in the school halls. Parents/carers and other visitors are more than welcome to attend!

## Open Classrooms – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026



We are very excited to be inviting you to our 'Open Classrooms' opportunity! 'Open Classrooms' for parents/carers will be held on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026** from 3:30p.m. until 4:15p.m. This is a great opportunity for you to see your child's working environment and marvel at the displays within the classroom. The classteacher's will also be present to answer any questions you might have about the work on display. You will also get a chance to look at some of your child's exercise books (English and Maths) to see the work they have completed to date. It is not an opportunity to discuss academic progress and attainment as this will have been covered during parents' evening back in March.

This is an open invitation with no designated appointment times and I'm sure your child will relish the opportunity to proudly show you around their classroom. Please remember to wait on the playground until 3:30p.m. Unfortunately we are not able to admit any pushchairs due to health and safety/fire regulations. We look forward to seeing you!

## Calculations Policy Meeting

It was wonderful to welcome parents and carers to our EYFS and Key Stage 1 calculations policy session on Tuesday evening. This proved a wonderful opportunity to outline how your child is taught maths within our school and give you ideas and top tips of how you can best support them with their learning at home. Thank you for your feedback and comments and your positive engagement with the interactive elements of the presentation.

I would like to thank Mrs Antrobus (Maths Lead) for organising this special event and presenting in such a clear, concise and logical way. I also extend this thanks to Mrs McKechnie, who co-presented, and all the members of staff who stayed to support and be on hand to model the methods we use in school.

Don't forget the KS2 calculations policy session is being held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026** (5:30p.m.) and it is not too late to attend and join in! Please complete the attendance form via the link contained in the Parent Hub message sent on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – we would love to see you there!



## Staffing Update

After 12 years of service and dedication to St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School, **Mrs Deborah Finck** has taken the difficult decision to resign and will be leaving our school at the end of this academic year. Mrs Finck has been a longstanding and highly valued member of our fantastic learning support team and has worked with many of your children as they have progressed through our school. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Finck for her dedication, care and support for the school and wish her all the best for the future. Mrs Finck has recently purchased a new motorhome so is excited by the prospect and opportunity to spend more time with her family and explore new adventures...far and wide!

## REMINDER: Healthy Snacks

We are proud to be a healthy primary school and promote healthy lifestyles and diet including participation in The Daily Mile™. We encourage you to send in a healthy snack for your child in Key Stage 2 to eat at morning break. Please note: The children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are still receiving their free piece of fruit or vegetable each day through the National Fruit Scheme. The vast majority of KS2 children do bring in a piece of fruit or healthy cereal bar. However recently we have observed a few children who are not eating a healthy snack! Please can we ask you to support us in this matter and remember that under **no circumstances** should children be bringing in crisps, chocolate, chocolate covered snack bars or sweets. It is also worth pointing out that a number of fruit based snack products marketed in the main supermarkets contain a very high sugar content and are probably not as healthy as you might think! The classteachers will be reminding the children about what constitutes a healthy snack.

Can I also remind you that we have a number of children with severe allergies to nuts so please **do not** send in any snack items that obviously contain nuts. Thank you for your co-operation.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026** is a non-pupil professional development and training day and the school is closed to the children.

## Finally....

We have received communication this week from the School Crossing Patrol Co-ordinator for Brentwood to inform us that our new School Crossing Patrol Officer will be commencing work at the Sawyers Hall Lane crossing site on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Mr Aedrck Llegardo will take up post on our very busy road and I am sure you will offer him your full support and make him feel welcome as he starts his new role in our school community.

Looking a little further ahead...the May half term holiday is from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Once it finally arrives, have a super half term week, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**.

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.*



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomascofeprimary>



Instagram: @stthomascofeprimaryschool

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)