

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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Headteacher Mrs C B L'Estrange BA Ed (Hons) NPQH



19
2nd February 2018

Dear Parents,

Education Sunday Thank you to all of you who came to Education Sunday at St Thomas' last Sunday. I was so pleased to see so many children and parents there, as well as governors and staff. The children were amazing and the governors and staff are all so very proud of them all. I have received so many compliments about the children from the parish community, including about the children's confidence and behaviour, which was a credit to you as well as them. Congratulations go to Reuben Howard and Adam Huntingford (both from Y1NW) for their award winning cakes. Well done to all the other entrants - I know that Mr Scott-Evans, the Infant category judge, found it very difficult!

Class worship Our first class worship of the Spring Term is **next** Wednesday, 7th February, and will be led by Y1NW, Mrs Newman and Mrs Whitaker's class. Parents and younger siblings of children in Y1NW are welcome to join us for this worship at 9am.

Open classrooms will be after school on Wednesday 7th February. Please come and see what your children have been up to in their classrooms this half term. There will be lots of lovely work on display.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6th February E-safety (staying safe online) is an area which more and more parents are becoming concerned about. Increasing numbers of children now have access to devices that access the internet and its content and also provide the ability to communicate and talk to other people. As a school, we are committed to educating your children about staying safe online. This is part of our computing curriculum and, to support this, we will have a special focus on this next Tuesday - Safer Internet Day - when your children will be engaged in a variety of activities to help them keep safe on the internet and while using computers and related technology. Please take a look at www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018 and www.thinkuknow.co.uk. These websites are full of useful information and activities for you to do with your children to support them in their understanding of the importance of internet safety.



Reading at home Today the children in Year 1 have chosen a book from any shelf in our school library; next week it is the turn of the children in Year 2. Please support your child in reading the books if they are more difficult or help them to develop their comprehension skills if they have selected an easier read.

Bag2School Thank you for the bags that have been sent into school this week. Our collection day is next Tuesday, 6th February, so please, over the weekend, see if you have anything that can be recycled and send it into school on Monday. You can use any suitable bags and they can be filled with a range of items (men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), handbags, hats, bags, socks, belts and soft toys). Remember, we will receive 40p per kilogramme of clothing collected so it is a fantastic way of raising much needed funds for our school, so please get recycling!

Phonics Drop-in Session (Letters & Sounds) A message from Mrs Morum: On Thursday 8th February we will be holding a Phonics Drop-in Workshop between **3pm and 3.45pm**. As you know, at our school we teach a daily 15-20 minute phonics session in every year group to support the children's reading and spelling. If you would like to try out some phonics games with your children, get some ideas for quick activities you can do at home without the need for lots of resources, or have any questions about phonics or Letters and Sounds, please call in to the school hall any time between 3pm and 3.45pm next Thursday. To help us ensure there are sufficient appropriate activities for everyone I would appreciate it if you would complete and return the slip at the end of the newsletter if you are hoping to attend. Thank you!

Parent / Teacher Meetings - Thursday 15th March 3.30pm to 6pm and Tuesday 20th March 5.30pm to 8pm These meetings are a valuable opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their classteacher. Sheets for appointment times will be on classroom doors from Tuesday 6th February for you to sign up for an allotted time. Please remember that children must not be brought to school on these evenings.

School Meals We will be on week 1 of the menu next week, with the all day breakfast on Monday.

Going home arrangements Thank you to everyone who has already completed and returned the pink forms. Please send in any remaining forms by Tuesday 6th February. Accurate and up to date information is vital to enable us to look after your children.

Attendance and Punctuality Policy The Governing Body has approved the school's updated Attendance and Punctuality Policy this week. The school expects every child to attend school every day and arrive on time (8.45am for children in Reception and 8.55am for children in Year 1 and Year 2) unless there are exceptional circumstances. The update reflects the Local Authority changes in relation to penalty notices. A penalty notice can be issued if a child has ten or more unauthorised absences in a period of ten school weeks. An unauthorised absence is absence for a morning or afternoon (meaning that one day's absence is two unauthorised absences) or arrival at school after 9.15am. I am sure that everyone will support this policy as excellent attendance and punctuality is vital to your child's education. The updated policy is available on the school website or from the school office.

Headteacher's Awards

Week ending Friday 2nd February



Y2C	Poppy Taylor-Smith
Y21P -Y2	Rose Tucker
Y1NW	Yossy Johnny
ROF	Olly West
RG	Emily Miller

Y2N	William Witherstone
Y1	Imogen Ellis
Y1G	Joshua Abdulrauf
RMN	Noah Gorsuch

Attendance Cup This week's winners are Y1NW with the fantastic 100%.



Punctuality Bear This week's winners are St Matthew's with 99.8%.

Think of a Question is our family challenge!

Thank you for all the thoughtful questions sent into school this week. We have received some really interesting questions including:

'What has it been used for?', Matty, Y1G

'Is it in England?', Reuben, Y1NW

'Does anyone actually live in the castle now?', Jack, Y1G
There will be a new picture after half term.



Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher

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Phonics Drop-in Workshop - Thursday 8th February

We hope to call in to the **Phonics Drop-in Workshop** on Thursday 8th February (3pm - 3.45pm).

Child/children's name and class: _____
