

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

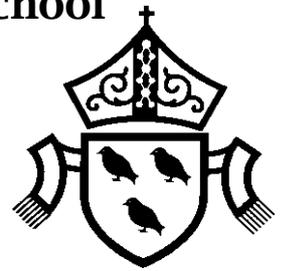
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Headteacher Mrs C B L'Estrange BA Ed (Hons) NPQH



8
2nd November 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a good half term break. We have had a good first week back and we are now moving into the busy November and December period with lots going on. Thank you all for your support with our activities and please keep reading the weekly newsletter (which can also be found on the website and is sent out each week on Parent Hub) to keep updated as to what is happening. Also, don't forget to ask your children what they have been doing and what is happening next. I am sure they will enjoy telling you!

Home-Start Essex Thank you to everyone who has already sent in gifts for Home-Start Essex. We are supporting Home-Start this year as an alternative to the shoe-boxes, giving us a different charity to think about. Please talk to your children about the world in which we live and how we should think not just about ourselves but all people in need – be that through our actions, our prayers or our personal choices. Home-Start Essex is a family support charity which works across Essex. Their work includes a long established volunteer home visiting service, offering emotional and practical help to families. So this year we are asking for donations of Christmas sweets, chocolates and biscuits so that goody boxes can be made up to give to the families that Home-Start support. Please send your donations into school by Friday 16th November.

Curriculum updates will be accompanying this letter. These give an overview of the topics which your child will be learning about this half term.

Poppies for Remembrance will continue to be on sale in school next week. Children can bring in a donation to buy a poppy. We also have a range of other British Legion fundraising items – poppy pencils, rulers, rubbers, sharpeners. Please pop by the School Office if you are interested in supporting this worthwhile charity.

Armistice Day We are delighted that we will be joined by the Mayor of Brentwood, Councillor Sheila Murphy, and once again by Mr Bryer from the Royal British Legion for our Worship next Friday morning. The School Council will be attending the service at the Brentwood Memorial and a two minute silence will be held by the whole school at 11am.

Class Worship Our next Class Worship will be on Wednesday 14th November and will be led by Y21P. Parents of children in Y21P are welcome to join us for this Act of Worship at 9am.

School Meals We will be on week 2 of our new menu next week, with jacket potatoes (cheese and coleslaw, cheese, baked beans, quorn bolognaise) on Monday.

Phonics – Letters & Sounds On Thursday 8th November at 2pm there will be an information session for parents about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child with their phonic development, including when reading with your child at home.

This is an extremely important part of your child's learning in school as it supports both their reading and writing. The session will also look at the Phonics Screening that takes place in June for all children in Year 1 and is re-visited for the children in Year 2 who did not pass it in Year 1. During the session, there will be a demonstration of a Letters & Sounds teaching input with a small group of children. The session will also cover how spelling is taught in Year 2.

Please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter to indicate if you are coming.

Reading Challenge Please do remember to send your half term reading challenge sheets into school. I look forward to seeing what everyone has been up to and which books and stories were chosen for the different challenges. Please send them into school by Wednesday 7th November.

Read with me Just a reminder that the Reception Read with me is on Wednesdays this half term.

Headteacher's Awards



Week ending Friday 2nd November

Y2N	Thomas Swan	Y2C	Medina Halabi
Y21P -Y2	Rayees Ahmed	Y1	Bailey Edhouse-Newton
Y1FA	Brooke Perkin	Y1S	Jessica Muir
ROH	Isla Shand	RS	Saham Ahammod
RMN	Zack Whayling		

Attendance Cup This week's winners are Y21P with 99.1%.



Punctuality Bear This week's winners are Saint Matthew's and Saint John's with 99.7%.



Our Let's Think Question Thank you to the families who have responded to our 'Let's Think' question. The question is to encourage a family discussion. Our first question is:

*'Many children in the world do not get the opportunity to go to school
- what are they missing out on?'*

Some of the ideas so far include:

- 'Making new friends', Tessa and family, Y21P*
- 'Learning to write and read', Taylor W and family, ROH*
- 'Sharing', Charlotte and family, RS*
- 'Lunch with their school friends', Jack C-H and family, Y2C*

There is a thought bubble at the end of the newsletter for your family thoughts. Please send your thoughts and ideas into school and they will be added to the whole school display.

Remembrance During our Worship in the month of November we focus on remembrance. This week we have thought about the Feast of All Saints and how many people have lived and live their lives focussed on following Jesus - we have thought about how there is much we can learn from their examples. Next week we will turn our thoughts to Remembrance Sunday and why people wear a poppy. November is the time in the Church Year when we remember those loved ones who have gone before us. As part of this we will be a creating a cross of Remembrance. I will be outside in the playground most mornings next week for you to come and make a flower to add to our cross. Please come and see me.

Accompanying the newsletter on Parent Hub, there will also be a useful information sheet about firework safety.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe, especially if you are out enjoying fireworks.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher

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I / we will be able to attend the Letters & Sounds Information Session on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 2pm.

Child's name _____

Class _____

Signed _____ Parent

THE IDEAS FROM MY FAMILY ...

