

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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



15
5th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year break - it has been lovely to see all the children back at school and hear all about their Christmas activities. I have heard many stories about the holiday season and many children have spoken to me about special times with their families. On behalf of all the staff, thank you to everyone for your cards and very kind gifts that we received at Christmas. These are very much appreciated. We have also welcomed Mrs Whitaker to our school family - Mrs Whitaker will be covering Mrs Taylor's maternity leave in Year 1 on Thursdays and Fridays. We hope that she enjoys her time with us and I am sure that everyone will make her very welcome.

Great Ormond Street Hospital and Shelter Our grand total for these important charities is £974. Thank you again for your tremendous generosity. Many thanks.

Education Sunday We shall be celebrating Education Sunday in St Thomas' Church at 10am on Sunday 28th January. I am sure it will be a lovely occasion so please join us if you can. I look forward to seeing you and your children there.

Comics, Children's Magazines and old Annuals If you have any used comics, magazines or annuals that you are about to recycle they would be gratefully appreciated in your child's classroom for wet play! Thank you.

PE Kit Please could all PE kits be in school on Monday. Every child needs a complete PE kit - shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls that fit - all clearly labelled with your child's name. Many thanks.

Calendar of events for the Spring Term will be coming home next week. Please look out for a bright piece of paper and please keep it safe as it will have all the important dates for the term ahead.

Continuing our Learning at Home Just a reminder that, together with this newsletter, you will find 'Continuing our Learning at Home' which gives tasks which can be completed at home to develop the learning taking place in school. Your child is very welcome to bring any of this work into school to be displayed on their class 'Sharing/working at home' wall. This provides the opportunity for their efforts to be valued. We hope that you will find this useful and that it will be an enjoyable time for you to share with your child.

School Admissions for Reception intake September 2018 Just a reminder that the closing date for both the Local Authority Common Application Form and the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF) is 15th January 2018.

School Health Drop in Clinic There are 'drop in clinics' at Larchwood Children's Centre on Mondays from 3pm to 4.30pm on the following dates - 8th and 22nd January, 5th and 19th February and 12th and 26th March 2018. Staff will be available to answer any health questions you may have regarding your child and provide hearing tests.

Reception Read with me will be on Wednesdays from next week for this half term. We are changing the day to hopefully give some new parents the opportunity to join us. You (or perhaps a grandparent) are invited to come into class when dropping your child to school on a Wednesday

for 15 minutes reading time. This is a chance for you to read with the children, either a book you bring from home or one from the class library. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for 15 minutes at 8.45am every Wednesday. Sharing a book together is a great way to start your child's day in school and reminds us all of the value of experiencing a wide range of literature.

Dan the Skipping Man Dan the Skipping Man will be here in school on Thursday 11th January teaching the children some amazing skipping tricks. He will have available for sale the brand new SOLAR SKIP, an amazing quality rope which changes colour in the sunlight. The SOLAR SKIP ropes are just £6. They will be on sale on the day and for a few days afterwards from the school office (although numbers will be limited). Ropes are also available from his website www.dantheskippingman.com where other ropes are also available ... including: Adult, Double Dutch and more. Please note it is cheaper to purchase on the day to avoid postage and packing etc. Dan says that 'Solar Skips are in short supply so please be quick to avoid disappointment'. Dan also has a YouTube channel to enable your child to continue to learn. Please take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/dantheskippingman> and, in his words, 'like, subscribe and enjoy'!

School Meals We will be on week 3 of the menu next week, with pasta (cheese, tomato and basil, tomato and pepperoni) on Monday.

Parent Helpers We would very much welcome some more parent (or grandparent) helpers to help in school during the day. If you are able to help, please collect a form from Mrs Infanti or Mrs Giddings in the office. Helping in school is a good way of finding out more about the daily routines within school. Your help is invaluable to us - we really appreciate you giving up your time. If you have any questions about this please speak to a member of staff.

PE and generally - Jewellery It appears that several children have received some lovely gifts for Christmas, however children are not allowed to wear any jewellery for PE. If children wear earrings (only small studs are permitted) they need to be able to take them out and put them back themselves. No other jewellery, except watches, should be worn to school. Long hair If your child has long hair please ensure that they have a 'scrunchie' or other suitable soft hair-bands with them every day as children with long hair must have it tied up for PE. Many thanks.

Headteacher's Awards



Y2C
Y21P -Y2
Y1NT
ROF
RG

Franklin Gilbey
Max Gibson
Theo Scola
Harry Southgate
Gus Speight

Y2N Tawonga Head
Y1 George Kiely
Y1G Alice Snowsill
RMN Alex Wright

Recycling Reception would love clean boxes, kitchen roll tubes, bottle lids (all sizes!) for their topic 'Wonderful World'. They are looking forward to lots of junk modelling.

We are all looking forward to the term ahead of us - many new things to learn and experience - may God bless all that we do.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher