

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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



28  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents,

It is amazing to think that this is the last newsletter of the Spring Term – today is the last day of term and I am sure that the children are all looking forward to their Easter Holiday. The children have been working very hard all term and deserve a good rest.

We have enjoyed acting out the last days of Jesus' life in our worship over the last two weeks. Children across the school have portrayed these days with thought and reverence. As always, I am very proud of all the children for the manner in which they engage with worship.

**Lenten Eucharist** Well done to Y2N for the way in which they led our Eucharist on Wednesday. As always, I was very proud of the children for their singing and behaviour.

**Easter Egg Raffle** Thank you to everyone who supported this – the lucky winner of the basket of goodies is Taylor Pack (ROH) and Ernie Gibb (ROH) and Mrs Giddings who each won an Easter egg. Thank you I hope that you and your families enjoy your prizes! We have raised the grand total of £144.

**School Meals** We will be on week 1 of the new menus for the first week back after Easter with the all day breakfast on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**St Mark's Feast Day** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April is the Feast of Saint Mark. We invite the children in Saint Mark's house to come to school wearing something in their house colour – red. They can swap one or more items of their school uniform for something red – socks, skirt, trousers, top etc. During the day our Worship will focus on Saint Mark and the children in Saint Mark's will have an extra playtime together finishing with a drink and cake.

**Uniform** Many of you have asked 'Is it summer uniform after Easter?' I am being optimistic! So, I will be delighted to see summer uniform after the Easter holiday – weather permitting. The children will need to return to school for the Summer Term with a cardigan/jumper/sweatshirt and a coat in school. Over the Easter holiday please could everyone check that each item of school uniform is clearly labelled. Also, could you please check that your child returns to school with a **complete** PE kit – shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls that fit – again all clearly labelled. Many thanks in advance.

**Reception Read with me** will be on Tuesday from after the holidays. You (or perhaps a grandparent) are invited to come into class when dropping your child to school on a Tuesday 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 Tuesday. 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. This will start on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April as we will have our Easter Bonnet Parade on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April!

**Reading at home** Today the children in Year 2 have chosen a book from any shelf in our school library. Please support your child in reading the books if they are more difficult to read.

**Birthday Assembly** will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April for birthdays from 5<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April inclusive.

**Prayer Group** Please remember that the school prayer group meets on a Thursday morning just after the bell goes (from 9am for about 15 minutes). As a Christian School, we value the opportunity

to pray for the school, its staff, governors and children and the wider community. It would be great to welcome new parents to our small group, just come round to the school office.

**Forest Schools Club** This is a fantastic new opportunity for a new and exciting after school club. Full information has been sent out on ParentHub today. Please respond directly to Lauren as soon as possible as this club will fill up on a first come, first served basis – there are a few places remaining. Lauren will be looking out for applications during the holidays.

**Be a Book Illustrator Competition** Thank you to everyone for their fantastic entries. I am sure that we will see one of our children becoming a book illustrator in the future. The winners are:

<b>Category 1 The Faraway Kingdom</b>	Overall winner	Henry Bannister (Y1FA)
Year 2	Brody Smith	
Year 1	Charlie Martin	
Reception	Taylor Wootton	
<b>Category 2 The Day the Queen came to St Thomas'</b>	Overall winner	Charlotte Emery (RS)
Year 2	Netanella Mburani	
Year 1	Teddy Callender	
Reception	Olivia Willard	
<b>Category 3 The Magic Shrinking Potion</b>	Overall winner	Minnie Dabbiru (Y2N)
Year 2	Connor Gowers	
Year 1	Joe Porter	
Reception	Darcy Palmer	

**Our Let's Think Question** is: 'What qualities do you like best about yourself? Why? What qualities are important to see in yourself and the people around you?' Thank you for the responses which have already been sent into school. These are some of the responses received this week:

*'I'm a happy person, I like this because it makes me more fun to be around, so I have lots of friends. It is important to be kind because God wants you to be.'* Melody, Y1FA

*'Helping my brother learn his words. Caring. Sharing.'* Harriet, Y1FA

*'Kindness, good listener, love, helpful, hardworking, honesty, teamwork, trustworthy, caring, sharing, respect, considerate.'* Jessica, Y1S

*'That I am getting better at handwriting.'* Dylan, Y1S

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.

**Recycle Used Postage Stamps for the Air Ambulance Services** Please remember to ask family and friends over the holidays to collect for this vital agency – every little helps them continue to provide their amazing service. I look forward to seeing lots of stamps come into school after the holiday.

**School Health Drop in Clinic** There is a drop in clinic available at Larchwood Family Hub (formally Children's Centre) on Mondays from 3pm to 4.30pm on the following dates – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019. They can answer any health questions you may have regarding your child and offer hearing tests.

### Headteacher's Awards

Week ending Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

	Y2N	George Kiely	Y2C	Henri Short
	Y21P -Y2	Connor Furley	Y1	Matthew Perks
	Y1FA	Frankie Chivers	Y1S	Euan Lawrence
	ROH	Ernie Gibb	RS	George Weil
	RMN	Lydia Laing		

**Attendance Cup** This week's winners are RS, with the fantastic  100%.

**Punctuality Bear** This week's winners are St Matthew's with 99.6% 

**Attendance** I was delighted to give out 62 attendance stickers to those children with 100% attendance this term. Well done everyone.

**Worship Team Lenten Challenge** Our final challenge for Lent this year is to 'help people be calm if they are upset or angry.'

I have included the times of the services at St Thomas' Church for your information, I hope that many of you will be able to go to St Thomas' Church for Stations of the Cross for Children on Good Friday. It is very appropriate for our children.

I look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019** for the start of the Summer Term, beginning with our **Easter Bonnet Parade** which will take place in the playground before school. The Reception classes will go in to class as normal at 8.45am and then will come out to join KS1 on the main playground at 8.55am for the parade. We invite all the children to come to school wearing a family designed and made Easter theme bonnet / hat. I look forward to seeing some very egg-citing creations!

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday and a really blessed Easter.

Yours sincerely,

*C B L'Estrange*

Caroline L'Estrange  
Headteacher

<b>SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER</b>	
	
<b>PALM SUNDAY - 14th April</b> 	
8.00am	Mass
10.00am	Blessing of Palms at the High Street Chapel, Procession to Church and Solemn Mass
6.00pm	Solemn Evensong
<b>HOLY MONDAY - 15th April</b>	
12 Noon	Chrism Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral
8.00pm	Mass and Address
<b>HOLY TUESDAY - 16th April</b>	
9.30am	Mass
8.00pm	Mass and Address
<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY - 17th April</b>	
12.15pm	Mass
8.00pm	Mass and Address
9.00pm	Sung Compline
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY - 18th April</b> 	
9.30am	Mass (Book of Common Prayer)
8.00pm	Solemn Mass of the Last Supper (followed by the Watch until midnight)
<b>GOOD FRIDAY - 19th April</b> 	
9.30am	Stations of the Cross for Children
10.30am	Walk of Witness from St Thomas' Church
2.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
<b>HOLY SATURDAY - 20th April</b> 	
9.30am	Morning Prayer
8.00pm	Paschal Vigil, Holy Baptism and First Mass of Easter
<b>EASTER DAY - 21st April</b> 	
8.00am	Mass
10.00am	Solemn Mass & Holy Baptism
6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction