

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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



5  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents,

**Information evenings** Well done to the Year 2 Team for the last of our year group information evenings on Wednesday evening. I am sure that, yet again, the parents attending will have found the evening interesting and informative.

I am very appreciative of all our teachers who have given their time and effort in preparing and presenting these evenings. Thank you also to all of you who attended - we all enjoyed having the chance to talk with you. We have an exciting year ahead! We did not distribute feedback forms but if any of you have any feedback (especially positive feedback!), or information that you would have liked to have been included, please let us know - either by e mail or by dropping a note to the school office or to your classteacher. Thank you very much as this will help us plan future information evenings.

**Photographs** Lots of fantastic smiles this week! The proofs will be sent home as soon as they arrive in school.

**Friendship Week** has been a great success. The children have taken part in a range of activities looking at how our behaviour affects everyone. The children have looked at various school based scenarios and the choices they can make in those situations and decided what was the right course of action. They have finished the week working in their 'houses' and enjoyed an afternoon activity of their choice, having had a democratic vote earlier in the week as to what they would like to do together.

**'No Pens Day'** was on Wednesday. This is an initiative from the Communication Trust. During the day, our children were involved in a range of activities giving rich opportunities for developing communication skills.

**Christmas preparations** No doubt many of you will already be making plans for Christmas and thinking about your Christmas cards! We have an exciting project which will hopefully assist you with this.

This week the children have made their own Christmas card. The completed artwork will be coming home today for you to see with details of how to order Christmas cards and gift tags. You must use the unique code indicated on your child's sheet when ordering online. This year all orders are to be placed online removing the need for money to be sent in to school. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Giddings, in the School Office.

In order for the art work to be sent to the printers all orders must be made by 8.30am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The children's artwork must also be returned to school by morning registration on this date.

A single pack of 12 cards, displaying your child's artwork and their name on the back, will cost £5.50. Subsequent packs ordered will be £4.50 each. Adhesive gift labels (pack of 16) can only be purchased if at least one pack of cards is ordered and cost £2.50 per pack. The school receives £1 for each pack of cards ordered, and 50p for each set of gift labels ordered, and so this is a good fundraising opportunity for us - this project raised £300 for school funds last year.

Most importantly, this is an exciting opportunity for the children to be able to send cards they have created themselves. It is always really exciting when the finished cards arrive in school – they look so professional.

**Reading at home** Today the children in Year 2 have chosen a book from any shelf in our school library; next week it is the turn of the children in Year 1. 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.

**School Council** The elections to the school council are completely based on the children's votes – I always wait with baited breath to see who my next team will be! I am delighted to announce that the new school council for the coming year is:

Charlie Abbott	Evie Abbott	Ryan Baron	Alexa Dench	Edward Freeman
Drew Hodges	Amelia Keel	Sophia Macklin	Finley Morrell	Zoë Muir

**Class worship** Our next class worship of the school year will be next Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, and will be led by Y2N. Parents and younger siblings of children in Y2N are welcome to join us for this worship at 9am.

**Coats and jumpers** Unfortunately autumnal weather seems to be on the way – or is here already! Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed as we do endeavour to use the outdoor environment as much as possible and ...

**Outdoor Classroom Day** is next Thursday. During the day, the children will be engaged in activities which take their learning outside, giving the children the chance to see how learning can take place beyond the classroom.

**Year 1** will be making a giant Sukkah, weather permitting, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October as part of their RE work. A Sukkah is an outside shelter. We would be very grateful to receive donations of any large pieces of fabric which can be cut up and used in this project. Please give any donations of clothes to Mrs Pugh, Mrs Newman, Mrs Taylor or Miss Gowing as soon as possible.

**Phonics – Letters & Sounds** On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**Harvest Eucharist** is next Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. This is our first Eucharist of the school year and we are very pleased to welcome Bishop Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough, to celebrate this for us.

There will be the usual opportunity to enjoy tea and cake afterwards. Donations of cakes will be gratefully received in the school office from Wednesday. Thank you.

We are supporting the Brentwood Foodbank which provides emergency food for people in crisis. If you could donate something from the shopping list here, they would be very grateful. Please ensure that all donations are non-perishable and in date. We will be accepting donations of food until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October – everything received next week will be blessed as part of our harvest offering at the Harvest Eucharist. Thank you to everyone who has already sent items in – we have the start of a lovely display.

LARGE TINS OF VEGETABLES	
TINNED RICE PUDDING	COFFEE
TINNED HOT MEAT	BISCUITS
JAM/SPREADS	PASTA SAUCES
TINNED SPAGHETTI	SAVOURY RICE
TINNED COLD HAM	SAVOURY PASTA
TINNED TOMATOES	TINNED MEAT PIES
TINNED POTATOES	CUSTARD
WASHING UP LIQUID	RICE
OTHER CLEANING MATERIALS	

**Informal Parents Evenings** are on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October for Y1NT) and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October (for everyone). If you have not yet signed up for an appointment the sheets are still on the classroom doors. Please sign up as soon as possible. These meetings are an opportunity to chat with your child's classteacher about how your child has settled in during this half term.

**Water bottles** Each child may bring one clearly labelled bottle of water to school. Please ensure that the bottles are kept clean and that the water is refreshed every morning. Thank you.

**School Meals** We will be on week 3 of the menu next week, with meatballs on Monday. Accompanying this newsletter, you will receive two copies of the new menus which will start from after half term. Please discuss these menus with your children and complete one copy with their choices and return it to school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Please keep the other copy at home for your reference.

### **Headteacher's Awards**



Week ending Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Y2C            Matthew Brown  
Y21P -Y2      Lewis West  
Y1NT          Florence White  
ROF            Matthew Perks  
RG             Olive Daw

Y2N    Archie Chivers  
Y1      Erin Hayward  
Y1G    Phoebe Riordan  
RMN   Brooke Perkin



**Attendance Cup** This week's winners are ROF with 99.2%.

**Punctuality Bear** This week's winners are Saint Luke's with the fantastic 100%.



**Think of a Question** is our family challenge!

Here is our next interesting picture.

Talk with your children about the picture and think of questions that you could ask about it.

There is a speech bubble below for your questions. Please send any questions that you think of at home into school and they will be added to the whole school display. So, for our next 'Think of a Question' ...



**Contacting parents by email** We are planning to test our email contact details for you all. During the day on Tuesday, we will be sending a test email to each child's first contact email address, as identified by you, when your child started school. If you do not receive a test email from us by Wednesday morning, please let the School Office know.

**Learning at home** Every child has access to a variety of online resources to support and continue their learning at home - Espresso - Purple Mash - Letter Join - Children's Health Project. Details of how to access these valuable learning tools, including passwords, can be found inside your child's reading diary. Please do use these excellent resources.

Yours sincerely,

*C B L'Estrange*

Caroline L'Estrange  
Headteacher