

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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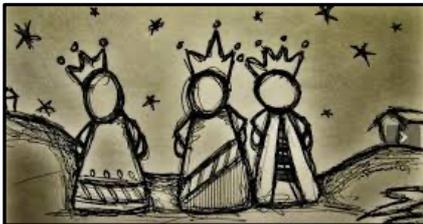
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7th January 2022

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 fun. I know that for some the holiday season may not have been quite what we had hoped for but many of the 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.



Feast of the Epiphany This week we celebrated the arrival of the Kings, reflecting on their journey and the faith they demonstrated by their journey. It was a special and holy way to begin the new term. Next week, Father Matthew will be giving each class an Epiphany Blessing and inscription for their classroom door. The Epiphany blessing of homes is an old tradition in a number of cultures and asks for God's blessing on homes and reminds us to

welcome visitors to our homes. Traditionally, over your doorways, or on your doors, you inscribe 20 + C + M + B + 22. The first and last two numbers give the New Year, while C, M and B are the initials of the three Kings - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. CMB also symbolises the initials of the Latin words '*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*' which means 'May Christ Bless this House'. The Worship Team, together with Father Matthew, will be making this inscription at the front of the school.

Calendar of events for the Spring Term is accompanying this newsletter. Please keep it safe as it has all the important dates for the term ahead. The children will also be bringing home a paper copy on a coloured sheet of paper - keep it somewhere safe!

Curriculum updates will also be coming out on ParentHub, together with a paper copy. These give an overview of the topics which your child will be learning about over the next half term. Please read them carefully so that you can support your child in their learning. This is vital in supporting our children continuing to make steps forward in their learning.

Continuing our Learning at Home Just a reminder that, each week, you will receive a '*Continuing our Learning at Home*' ParentHub 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. Many of these activities and tasks are based on Seesaw, so please ensure you know how to access this fantastic app. I get a weekly update from Seesaw, informing me of the number of posts from each class - I wonder which class will have the most posts this week!! We hope that you will find this useful and that it will be an enjoyable time for you to share with your child.

We remind everyone of the importance of daily reading as this is essential to help your child's ability in both reading and comprehension – we rely on your support in this fundamental area.

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.

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.

School Admissions for Reception intake September 2022 and Year 3 transition to the Junior School 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 2022. All SIFs, both Reception and Year 3 (ie for current Year 2 children), must be with the Infant School office by the end of the day on 15th January 2022.

School Meals We will be on week 3 of the menu next week, with jacket potato (cheese and beans or tuna and sweetcorn) on Monday.

Think of a Question is a family challenge!

It's time for our next challenge so 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' ...



Headteacher's Awards



Week ending Friday 7th January

Y2C	Adwoa Adjei
Y21B -Y2	Bailey Francis
Y1P	Bertie Taylor-Smith
RBixby	Max Hutchinson
RNT	Lillie Ashworth

Y2S	Lucia Gunyon
Y1	Eden Pace
Y1CA	Rex Sanderson
RBeales	Akki Batta



Attendance Cup This week's winners are RNT with 94.6%.



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

Well done to Y2C, Y2S, RBixby and RNT who have all managed 100% punctuality for the start of the term. At the start of a new year can we all make a resolution to improve our punctuality – every minute counts - school starts at 8.45am for Reception and 8.55am for Year 1 and Year 2.

Home-Start Essex Collection of Christmas goodies We have received a lovely thank you letter from Home-Start Essex. It was deeply humbling to read what a difference our collection of Christmas goodies will make and the number of families they support – they gave 15,000 hours of support just last year. So thank you to everyone for supporting this wonderful charity who help children and their parents 'get a better start in life'.

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. All Parent Helpers and visitors to school are required to follow our COVID safety measures including taking an LFD test before entering the school premises.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. L'Estrange'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher