

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

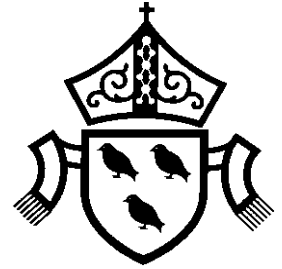
Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex. CM15 9BX

Telephone 01277 223606

Email admin@stthomasinf.essex.sch.uk

Website www.stthomasofcanterburyinfantschool.co.uk

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



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7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and that everyone is ready for the new term. Thank you for all the lovely postcards which the children have sent to school and which will be shared in the children's classes. It looks like you had some wonderful adventures and we look forward to your children telling us all about them.

It has been a delight to welcome all our new children and their families to our school family. I know that we are all looking forward to getting to know you in the coming days, weeks, months and indeed years.

A warm welcome also to Mrs Mandy Anthony, Mrs Eleni Hill and Miss Rebecca Saunders who have joined our teaching team - I know that everyone will make them feel at home.

It has been extremely busy at school over the summer with the installation of a complete new water system. However, Mr Powis and his team ensured that everything was up and running for the first day of term. A big thank you to them all for their hard work which often goes unnoticed.

Calendar of events for the Autumn term will be accompanying this newsletter. Look out for a bright piece of paper! Please keep it safe as it has all the important dates for the term ahead.

Praying Together Worship is integral to each school day. Our theme this year is 'Prayer' and, as a focus for our Worship, we invite every child to contribute to our whole school display. Please see the accompanying sheet 'Praying Together' to complete with your child.

A few reminders about school life:

Birthday and Celebration Assembly is normally on Thursday each week. The children are invited to bring in one small present to talk about during assembly. When the children celebrate their birthday at these special assemblies, afterwards they have a plain chocolate digestive biscuit and some orange squash with the other children who are also celebrating that week - please let your child's classteacher know if they suffer from any related allergies. During these assemblies, we also celebrate **achievements** of our children outside school. So, if your child has achieved an award in gymnastics, karate, swimming or any other physical activity outside school or has joined or received an award in a uniformed organisation in the previous few weeks, they are welcome to bring in their certificate, badge, medal or trophy on a Thursday to share. This happens every week except the first and last week in each half term. We look forward to sharing your child's achievements with our school family.

Helping in School If you would like to help in school please collect a form from the school office. This is a good way of finding out more about our daily routines. Your help is invaluable to us - we really appreciate you giving up your time. Grandparents are also very welcome.

Prayer Group takes places on a Thursday morning just after the bell goes. As a Christian School, we value the opportunity to pray for the school, its staff, governors and children and the wider community. The first meeting of this academic year will be on Thursday 13th September at 9am for about 15 minutes. It would be great to welcome new parents to our small group. I look forward to seeing you.

Comics and Children's Magazines If you have any used comics or magazines that you are about to recycle, they would be gratefully appreciated in your child's classroom for wet-play. I am hoping that we are going to have a dry autumn, but it is good to be prepared! Thank you.

Safety in School:

Scooters must not be used on the school premises. I know that many children like to use scooters on the way to school but for safety reasons they must not be used in the school grounds at any time. This includes the area from the entrance gate on Sawyers Hall Lane and the Junior School premises. Thank you for your support with this. Scooters can be parked in our 'Scooter Park' just inside our pedestrian gate; this is at your own risk. They must not be left anywhere else on the school premises. Please do not leave scooters on the school premises overnight. The school accepts no responsibility for them at any time if they should be lost or stolen.

PE and generally - Jewellery Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery for PE, even with tape over. This is a directive from the Local Authority which must be adhered to. PE is a vital part of our whole school curriculum which children cannot miss, unless injured. 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.

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.

Absence due to diarrhoea and vomiting A reminder that children are not to return to school after diarrhoea or vomiting until completely symptom free for 48 hours.

End of the day arrangements It is vitally important to us to know who is collecting your child at the end of the school day. Thank you to everyone who has already completed and returned the green forms. If there are any alterations to the routine collection arrangements please ensure that you inform either your child's classteacher or the school office. The classteachers also need to be aware of any regular arrangements where a childminder, friend or after-school club (such as FACES) will be collecting your child after school.

Allergies and Intolerances - KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Thank you to everyone who has already completed and returned this form. Please can all outstanding forms be returned at the beginning of next week.

Attendance and Punctuality As you know attendance and punctuality are fundamental to your children's learning. Arriving late or missing a school day will have negative effects on your child's progress. To encourage attendance and punctuality we have awards for the class with the best attendance and the house with the best punctuality. Each child's attendance and punctuality is reviewed on a half termly basis and, where I have concerns, letters will be sent home.

School Meals We will be on week 2 of the menu next week, with pasta (tomato and pepperoni, tomato and basil or smoky tomato and cheddar cheese) on Monday.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you so much once again for all your very kind and generous gifts and words at the end of the Summer Term.

I look forward to working with you all this year in supporting our wonderful children to *Let their little lights shine* in all that they do.

I hope that everyone has a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher