

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

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



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8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

**Welcome back** I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for the new term. Thank you for all the lovely postcards which the children have sent to school and which have been shared in the children's classes. It looks like you had some wonderful adventures.

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. We are delighted with how all our new children have settled into the school routine.

A warm welcome also to Miss Nunn who has joined our teaching team in Year 2 - I know that everyone will make her feel at home.

It has been extremely busy at school over the summer. Mr Powis and his team have ensured that we have returned to a very smart looking school.

**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.

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

## **A few reminders about school life:**

**Birthday Assembly** is 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 birthday assembly, 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 Thursday except the first and last Thursday in each half term. We look forward to sharing your child's achievements with our school family.

**Parent Helpers** If you would like to help in school please collect a form from the school office. Helping in school 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 Monday 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 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 there.

**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.

### **Learning at home:**

**Curriculum updates** accompany this letter. These give an overview of the topics which your child will be learning about this half term. Please read them carefully so that you can support your child in their learning.

**Continuing our Learning at Home** Many parents ask classteachers how they can support their child in their learning and make links with their child's work in school. At the end of 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. You will generally find this on the reverse of the newsletter (except when I have lots to say!), so please keep a watch for it.

**Our School Family Celebrates** There are many things to celebrate in our school every day - the moments when children achieve something they have been striving for, the first time they master using a skipping rope, the moment when a skill clicks, when a text comes alive with expression,

that kind word to spur a friend along or a joke to make them laugh. The children work so very hard every day in all areas of school life. We celebrate all these things and many more on a weekly basis with the *Headteacher's Awards*. These awards are very important to all of us and that is why the recipients' names are listed here in the newsletter to mark their achievements. I always enjoy giving these awards and I know that the children are excited by seeing their names in print! Winning the Punctuality Bear and the Attendance Cup is also a highlight of the week with the winners also being included in the weekly newsletter. I trust the children are telling you how important it is to be at school every day and to be on time.

### **Headteacher's Awards**

So, the first awards of the new school year go to ...



Week ending Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

Y2C	Araya Jai Joseph	Y2N	Nathan Tilden
Y21P -Y2	Grace Weeden	Y1	Jacob Shaw
Y1NT	George Lawrence	Y1G	Medina Halabi
ROF	Finley Moon	RMN	Harriet Barnes
RG	Bradley Brown		

**Attendance Cup** This week's winners are Y2N, ROF and RG with the fantastic 100%. This is a fantastic start to the year, can we keep it up?



**Punctuality Bear** This week's winners are Saint Mark's, Saint Luke's and Saint John's, all with the fantastic 100%. Again a fantastic start to the year, can we keep this fantastic punctuality up?



**School Meals** We will be on week 2 of the menu next week, with pasta (tomato and basil, three cheese sauce or tuna and sweetcorn) on Monday.

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

There will be an interesting picture in the newsletter every few weeks (please see the website for an enlarged and often coloured copy). The picture will also be on display at school.

The idea is to talk with your children about the picture and think of questions that you could ask about it.

There is a speech bubble at the end of the newsletter for your first question. 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 first 'Think of a Question' ....



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, as we all work together to support our wonderful children as they work very hard 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