

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex. CM15 9BX

Telephone 01277 223606

Fax 01277 232004

Email [admin@stthomasinf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomasinf.essex.sch.uk)

Website [www.stthomasofcanterburyinfantschool.co.uk](http://www.stthomasofcanterburyinfantschool.co.uk)

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



13  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents,

As you all know, in our school every child tries to *Let their little light shine*. This week our Year 1 and Year 2 children were certainly doing this and the lights were very bright as they told the story of '**St Francis and the First Crib**'. I am sure that you will agree that all our children showed us the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to everyone for your support, for coming in such numbers and also for helping the children learn their lines and listening to them singing. Next week it is the turn of Reception and I am sure that they will also all be letting their little lights shine.

**A Miracle in Town** is being performed next week, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, at 10am (pre-school children will be admitted) and on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm (adults only). The Reception children and staff are working incredibly hard and looking forward to seeing you - please do not forget your tickets.

**DVDs of the Christmas Plays** Thank you to Mrs Shanley and Mr Plush who are recording both of our Christmas plays. Mr & Mrs Shanley will be transferring the footage onto DVDs (one for each play) and these will be available at £5 each. Orders can be placed at the office. Please ensure that payment is made in cash, at the same time as placing the order.

**Christmas Post Box** is now open. This is for all the children's school Christmas cards. Please could you ensure that both surnames and class names are on the envelopes - this greatly assists the Postmistresses! This is a special service for everyone within the Infant School family!

**Christmas Parties** for all the children will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. This is a non-uniform day. The children are invited to come to school either in their party clothes or wearing a 'Christmas Jumper' as part of their party outfit. The School Council have selected Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and SHELTER for the Homeless as our charities to support this Christmas. GOSCH is very important to us as a number of children in our school family have received and continue to receive care from GOSCH. We have chosen SHELTER also, to support those in our community who are not looking forward to all the fun of Christmas. All we ask is for a donation of £1 towards these super charities. Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for school as well as their party clothes. We will be having cakes and biscuits at the party in the afternoon so please send your child to school with some cakes or biscuits to share. If your child has a food allergy, please send their cakes and/or biscuits on a named plate covered with cling film. Thank you. Before the party children will be having lunch as normal.

**Open classrooms** will be after school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please come and see what your children have been up to in their classrooms this half term. There will be lots of lovely work on display.

**School Meals** We will be on week 1 of our menu next week, with the all day breakfast on Monday.

**Christmas Film Evening** Everyone should have received an invitation yesterday to a Christmas Film Evening on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. All reply slips and money need to be returned to school by Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December so that we know how much popcorn to buy!

**End of the Year tidying** I am sure that many of you will be undertaking an end of year tidy to make room for both visitors and new gifts! There are a few things that we would love you to look out for and send into school if they are no longer needed:

- small world, tarpaulins, old saucepans, spoons, metal or plastic bowls, musical instruments, plastic tablecloths – Reception would love these for their new mud kitchen coming soon
- children's comics and magazines for wet play
- board / card games
- clean boxes, kitchen roll tubes, bottle lids (all sizes!) for Reception's next topic 'Wonderful World'
- old superheroes costumes for Year 1's next topic 'Superheroes'
- textured / different style balls for Year 2's next topic 'Bounce!' (they do not need to be particularly bouncy!)

Thank you – we hope we can help with your recycling!

### Headteacher's Awards



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

Y2C	Kiran Dhanju
Y21P -Y2	Ciaran Hendry
Y1NT	Victoria Hodgens
ROF	Izaac Callaghan
RG	Mayukha Syamala

Y2N	Tawonga Gausi
Y1	Imogen Ellis
Y1G	Jack Corkett-Hurley
RMN	Elysia Gibson

**Attendance Cup** This week's winners are RG with 99.6%.



**Punctuality Bear** This week's winners are St Mark's with 99.5%.

Unfortunately it has not been a good week for punctuality. We have had an average of at least five lates a day, which equates to over four hours of missed learning this week alone. I am looking forward to a more punctual week next week.

**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' ...



**Christingle at St Thomas' on Christmas Eve** The usual Christingle services will be taking place at St Thomas' Church on Christmas Eve (4.30pm and 6pm). Your children will be bringing home a 'collecting candle' today to raise funds for the Children's Society who support vulnerable children living in poverty in this country. The children can take their candle to one of the Christmas Eve services where they will receive a 'Christingle' in return. If you are away for Christmas, or unable to attend one of the services, but would still like to contribute to The Children's Society, you can return the 'collecting candle' to the School Office and they will then be passed on to St Thomas' Church.

### Christmas Services at St Thomas' Church

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm - a lovely traditional service to start the Christmas season
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service at 4.30pm - for younger children Christingle Service at 6pm - for older children Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Sung Mass with Carols at 10am

**Prayer Stars** Thank you for all the thoughtful prayer stars which have been sent into school. If the children are happy to do so, these prayers are being shared in worship. All prayers are added to our advent display, with the intentions being remembered at our worship each day. There is a 'prayer star' at the end of the newsletter. I know many of us have particular people and situations in our hearts at this time. Please return any stars with intentions to your child's classteacher.

Sunday will be the second Sunday of Advent and on Monday we will be lighting the second candle on our advent wreath when we come together for worship.

Yours sincerely,

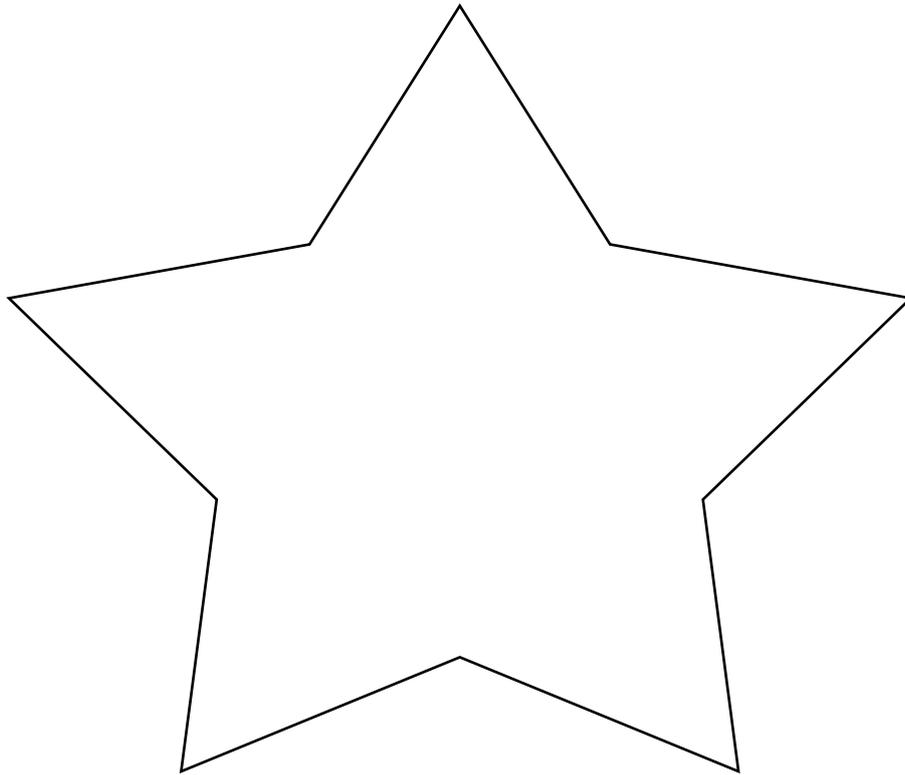
*C B L'Estrange*

Caroline L'Estrange  
Headteacher



# Prayer Star

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## Children's Health Project - Recipe of the week – Veggie Chips

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Prep time: 5 minutes Cooking time: 20 – 30 minutes

### Ingredients:

Choose one of the following veg:

- 1 *carrots*
- 2 *sweet potatoes*
- 3 *courgettes*
- 4 *white potatoes*
- 5 *parsnips*
- 6 *celeriac*



Choose a marinade:

- 1 *Spicy - 2 teaspoons of paprika, 1 teaspoon of mild chilli powder, juice of a lime and 2 teaspoons of garlic powder*
- 2 *Garlic and rosemary - 3 garlic cloves and 4 sprigs of rosemary*
- 3 *Cajun - 2 teaspoons of onion powder, 2 teaspoons of garlic powder, 2 teaspoons of paprika*

### Method:

- 1) Pre heat oven to 180 degrees
- 2) Peel and chop up veg into chip shapes and place in a bowl.
- 3) Add your chosen flavour to the bowl and rub spices and herbs into the veg
- 4) Bake in oven with 2 tablespoons of olive/coconut oil then cook for 20 to 30 minutes.

Notes: Get your children to try them with different dips, sauces or spices, to see how they can taste different. These are far healthier options than shop-bought chips, which have often been covered in a number of preservatives and have many hidden ingredients.