

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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12th January 2018

Dear Parents,

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. Each class was given an Epiphany Blessing 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 doors, you inscribe 20 + C + M + B + 18. 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'.

Dan the Skipping Man We had a wonderful day yesterday. The children learnt some amazing tricks and different ways to skip both on their own and with friends. My thanks go to Mrs Nunn for organising such an energetic day.

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.

Curriculum updates also accompany this letter. 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.

Bag2School As you know, we are taking part in the Recycle for Essex Campaign who are working with Bag2School this year. Accompanying this newsletter is a bag that can be filled with clothing and fabric (a detailed list of what can go in is available at <http://uk.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>). Additional bags are available from our school office. Our collection date is Tuesday 6th February. The school will receive 40p per kilogramme of clothing collected so it is a fantastic way of raising funds for our school, so please get recycling!

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

Headteacher's Awards

Week ending Friday 12th January



Y2C	Beau Doyle	Y2N	Rohan Keith
Y21P -Y2	Florence Drake	Y1	Minnie Dabbiru
Y1NW	Adam Huntingford	Y1G	Chineme Onyechere
ROF	Tessa Connell	RMN	Cameron Donaghy
RG	Florence Dean		

Attendance Cup This week's winners are Y2C with a 99.3%.



Punctuality Bear This week's winners are St John's with a fantastic 100%.

Food Miles Mrs O'Sullivan would love to receive any food packaging indicating the country of origin of the food. Please hand any packaging in to Mrs O'Sullivan.

School Admissions for Reception intake September 2018 Final reminder that the closing date for both the Local Authority Common Application Form and the School Supplementary Information Form (SIF) is **next Monday**, 15th January 2018.

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'* ...



After Reception Collection It was with disappointment that I received comments this week regarding children's behaviour after school whilst they are still on the school premises. I was saddened to learn that our children have not been treating school equipment, both in our school and the Junior School, as we would expect. I would, therefore, appreciate everyone's support in ensuring that children in Reception and our pre-school friends remain with you while waiting to collect siblings and do not disturb those children who are still working or play inappropriately on school equipment. Thank you for your support with this.

We are all aware that Sawyers Hall Lane is incredibly busy, but it is essential that everyone works together to maintain everyone's safety. Mrs Hall, our Road Crossing Patrol, does a fantastic job keeping our pedestrians safe, but she needs everyone to help her in her role by parking legally and safely, so that she maintains full and clear vision on Sawyers Hall Lane. I hope that I can rely on everyone's support in this.

I hope that everyone has a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher

