

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

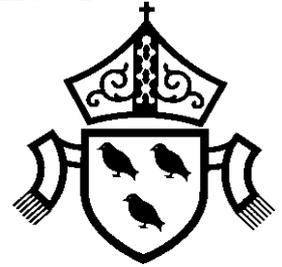
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Headteacher Mrs C B L'Estrange BA Ed (Hons) NPQH



2  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents,

The Autumn term is certainly underway now and we look forward to our Reception children being in school full-time as from Monday. Please don't forget that Reception finish school at 3pm and Year 1 and 2 at 3.15pm. Our Information Evenings start next week, so please put the date or dates for your child or children in your diary. You will find further information about the Reception Evening next week below. Year 1 and Year 2 evenings are in the following two weeks.

We have had a very special visitor to school this week. The Diocese of Chelmsford has a link with the Diocese of Embu, Kenya, as well as some neighbouring Dioceses. As many of you know, through this, we have a link with a school in Embu - St Matthew's Mixed Boarding Primary School, Kianjokoma. Bishop David, Bishop of Embu, is visiting the Diocese of Chelmsford and, as part of this, he visited only two schools in the whole of the Diocese and we were one of them!

**Loving Hearts** Thank you for the lovely 'hearts' which have already been sent into school. Special congratulations must go to Y2B who have returned the highest number of hearts! Well done Y2B! I look forward to seeing everyone's hearts on display in the hall - the hearts which have already come in will hopefully be up on display ready for everyone to see at the forthcoming Information Evenings.

**Houses** All the children in the school are allocated one of our four houses named after the writers of the four Gospels - Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, Saint Luke and Saint John. The houses are used for various events and competitions in the life of the school including the punctuality bear, cross-curricular weeks and sports day. Each house also has a specific colour allocated to it - Saint Matthew - green, Saint Mark - red, Saint Luke - yellow and Saint John - blue. All of the children have a sticker on their their reading diaries reminding you of their house and colour.

**St Matthew's Feast Day** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September is the Feast of Saint Matthew, which we will be celebrating on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. We invite the children in Saint Matthew's house to come to school wearing something in their house colour - green. They can swap one or more items of their school uniform for something green - socks, skirt, trousers, top etc. During the day, our Worship will focus on Saint Matthew and the children in Saint Matthew's will have an extra playtime together, finishing with a drink and cake.

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

**School Meals** We will be on week 3 of the menu next week, with pasta (tomato and pepperoni / tomato and basil / tomato and mozzarella) on Monday.

**Dogs** Thank you to everyone for not bringing your dogs onto the school premises. However, can owners bringing dogs down Sawyers Hall Lane please tie them up away from the school gates as some children are frightened by dogs. Thank you for your co-operation

### ***A few reminders about school life: 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. The English focus this week is writing which is a very important part of your child's learning journey. We focus on writing on a regular basis and hope that you will encourage your child to learn to enjoy writing for a range of different purposes each week.

***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 or 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 13<sup>th</sup> September

Y2C	Alexandra Unipan	Y2B	Charlotte Snow
Y21C -Y2	Jessica Muir	Y1	Ryder Weekes
Y1P	Emily Dobinson-Lay	Y1FA	Violet Freeman
RS	Harriet Hodges	RB	Jude Howard
RN	Millie Carter-Thornton		

***Attendance Cup*** This week's winners are Y2C with 99.4%.



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



***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' ....



***Information Evening*** As you will have noticed from the term dates, we are having an Information Evening for each year group this autumn. Next week we are starting with an evening for parents of our Reception children. It has been a joy to see the children begin their school career with us. They are all working very hard to make new friends and become familiar with the school routines. The

meeting will take place next Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, at 7pm when the Reception Team will share with you what your children have been up to and all about a school day! This evening is for parents only (**children will not be admitted**).

We will look at the importance of play based activities, how your child learns to read, the resources used and how you, as parents, can support your child as they continue to explore the world of literature. We will also look at how your child will be assessed during the year.

It is also an opportunity for you to meet with other parents over a few refreshments. The evening will last no longer than 1½ hours.

We look forward to seeing you. Could you please return the slip attached to this newsletter to your child's classteacher so that we know how many of you to expect.

I hope everyone has a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

*C B L'Estrange*

Caroline L'Estrange  
Headteacher