

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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13th October 2017

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe that it is nearly half term already - we have packed so much into the last six weeks. It has been great to see all our new friends in Reception settle into school life - they have become very much part of our school family. The children have worked extremely hard in every area of school life, demonstrating a positive approach to their learning and placing value on relationships with their peers. This, of course, does not just happen and my thanks must go to the whole staff team for their continued dedication and commitment to our children.

Bishop Norman As always it was a joy and a privilege to welcome Bishop Norman to school. I am very proud of the children for both their fantastic singing in the Eucharist and their behaviour. A special well done to our friends in Reception, for their first Eucharist. It was also lovely to see so many of you in school for our first Eucharist of the school year. Thank you also for the delicious cake.

Worship Team At the end of our Eucharist today I announced our new worship team. This group of children will assist Mrs Cumpstey and myself in both preparing for worship and reviewing our practice in school. I am delighted to announce that our new worship team is:

Dhillon De Mots

Tammy Egbeyemi

Araya Jai Joseph

Tanya Kapoor

Joshua Keel

Tamira Prabhakar

Scarlett Stevenson

Charlie Tasker

Nathan Tilden

Henry Weil

Class Worship Well done to Y2N for a super Class Worship on Wednesday. They really helped us to understand the importance of *HONESTY* and how honesty is definitely the best policy. Our next Class Worship of the school year will be on Wednesday, 15th November, and will be led by Y21P. Parents and younger siblings of children in Y21P are welcome to join us for this Worship at 9am.

Outdoor Classroom Day was yesterday and the sun came out for us. It was lovely to see many of the children working together outside.

Year 1 I hope that you have had an opportunity to look at the fantastic Sukkah which Year 1 created in our playground yesterday. If you have children in Year 1, please do talk to them, and ask them, about their creation.

Phonics - Letters & Sounds Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this important session. It was fantastic to see so many faces there. Letters and Sounds is a crucial part of your child's learning and development. I know that the children involved really enjoyed sharing their learning with you. Please watch out in the newsletter for further workshops during the academic year.

St Luke's Feast Day Wednesday 18th October is the Feast of Saint Luke. We invite the children in Saint Luke's House to come to school wearing something in their house colour - yellow. They can swap one or more items of their school uniform for something yellow - socks, skirt, trousers, top etc. There will be a special Worship next week focussing on Saint Luke. The children in Saint Luke's will have an extra playtime together finishing with a drink and cake.

Brentwood Foodbank Thank you for all the donations which have already been sent in to school. We will be accepting donations of food until Wednesday 18th October, when the School Council will be packing it all up, ready for Mr Powis to deliver to the Foodbank.

Reading at home Today the children in Year 1 have chosen a book from any shelf in our school library; next week it is the turn of the children in Reception. Please support your child in reading the books if they are more difficult or help them to develop their comprehension skills if they have selected an easier read.

Christmas cards I hope that you have all enjoyed looking at your child's artwork. Please remember that in order for the art work to be sent to the printers all orders must be made by 8.30am on Wednesday 18th October. The children's artwork must also be returned to school by morning registration on this date.

Informal Parents Evenings are next week - Tuesday 17th October (Monday 16th October for Y1NT) and Thursday 19th October (for everyone). The meetings will take place in your child's classroom, so please wait outside the classroom door. These meetings are for parents only.

School Meals We will be on week 1 of the menu next week, with spaghetti bolognaise on Monday. There are a few menus for after the half term break which are still outstanding - please ensure that they are returned to school on Monday as Mrs Turner needs to place her orders!

Contacting parents by email Just a reminder that if you did not receive our test email on Tuesday, please let the School Office know.

Play Leaders The Year 2 play leaders are to be joined by some play leaders from Year 1. The children were invited to apply for the role. The School Council have reviewed the applications and are delighted to announce our next set of play leaders:

Michael Bradshaw	Moukthika Dabburu	Pollyanna Fetherston	Reuben Howard
George Kiely	Amelia Laing	Isobel Nunn	
Ruby Robinson-Gray	Florence White	Gabby Wright	Hollie Wylie

They will lead the play for their friends and younger children on a two weekly rotation system and will be responsible for leading play, monitoring behaviour and dealing with minor disputes, setting up mini competitions and recording scored activities. We wish Mrs Nunn and her team of play leaders well.

Headteacher's Awards



Week ending Friday 13th October

Y2C	Aaron Smith
Y21P -Y2	Sonny Rogers
Y1NT	Angelina Andonova
ROF	Carl Crawford
RG	Grace Moxley

Y2N	Rohan Keith
Y1	Charlotte Wood
Y1G	Pollyanna Fetherston
RMN	Melody Shanley



Attendance Cup This week's winners are Y21P with 99.3%.

Punctuality Bear This week's winners are Saint Luke's with 99.8%.

Think of a Question is our family challenge!

We have received some great questions in school this week, including:

'Is that an old rusty car - a VW Beetle that's been abandoned?' (Zoë Muir, Y2N)

'Does he live next to the sea?' (Bobby Reynolds, ROF)

'A car and a house - but whose?' (Grace Weeden, Y21P)

'Is it a crashed car? Is it a rusty car?' (Finley Morrell, Y21P)

If you have not yet sent in your question, there is a speech bubble at the end of the newsletter for your question. Please send any questions that you think of at home into school next week and they will be added to the whole school display....



Half term and Non-pupil day The last day of this half term is next Friday, 20th October. Just a reminder that Monday 30th October is a non-pupil day and school re-opens on Tuesday 31st October.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher