

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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20th October 2017

Dear Parents,

We made it! It has been a long half term but a fruitful one and I thank you all for your support over the past seven weeks. The staff have worked incredibly hard and I thank them on your behalf for their dedication to your children's education. A big thanks also to the children for their hard work this half term. I hope that they enjoy the break and come back refreshed ready for the lead up to Christmas (did I really say that?). Please encourage your children to keep reading over the break but also to have a good holiday.

St Luke's Feast Day On Wednesday we had a lovely celebration of the Feast of St Luke and the St Luke's House special time together was very enjoyable. St John's feast day falls during the Christmas holiday so we will be deferring the celebration to later in the school year. After Christmas, we will also be celebrating the feast of St Mark. Keep looking in the newsletter for all the necessary information.

Photographs Proofs arrived in school this week and were sent home on Wednesday - if you have not seen it yet, please check your child's book bag! Orders need to be returned to school by Thursday 2nd November.

Parent / Teacher Meetings We hope that you found the Parent / Teacher Meetings this week both informative and helpful. The teachers were very pleased to discuss with you how your child has settled into school for Reception and the new school year for everyone else. We see education as a partnership between school and home so please keep an eye on your child's reading diaries and let us know of anything that will help us in teaching and looking after your child. I am sure we are going to have a very successful year.

Reading at home Today the children in Reception have chosen a book from any shelf in our school library. 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.

Winter Uniform Don't forget that it will be winter uniform from after half term:
Girls: grey tunic or skirt, polo shirt with school logo, sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.
Boys: long grey trousers, polo shirt with school logo, sweatshirt or jumper with school logo.

School uniform Over the half term break, please could everyone check that every item of school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. This does include their book bag. There is no need for the children to have a rucksack in school, especially as we do not have the space in the classrooms. Please check that your child returns to school with a complete PE kit - shorts, t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, socks and plimsolls that fit - again all clearly labelled with your child's name. Many thanks in advance.

Book bags I know that the children love to have keyrings on their book bags to help them identify which is their book bag - they are many and varied and always interesting. Over half term please could you chat with your children about having just a couple of small key rings on their book bag - some children have so many that their book bag will not fit in their tray! Many thanks for your help with this. I really appreciate everyone's support in this, both in ensuring that the children only bring a book bag to school and that they only have a couple of small key rings. Thank you.

Link to Hope This year we are going to be supporting 'Link to Hope'. It operates in a similar way to Operation Christmas Child. The focus of the giving is both for families and elderly people in

need, focussing on the poor, vulnerable and exploited in Eastern Europe. Boxes can be for a family or for an elderly person. This focus fits beautifully with our worship theme this year of 'Fellowship and Pilgrimage' looking to see how we can be thoughtful for all people in need. Do take a look at <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2017> for further information. Leaflets will be sent home after half term - please start collecting gathering your items for your shoeboxes together, ready for after half term. The boxes will be collected around 10th November.

Poppies for Remembrance will be on sale in school after half term. Children can bring in a donation to buy a poppy. We also have a range of other British Legion fundraising items - poppy reflectors, colouring pencils, rulers, wrist bands and bracelets. Please pop by the School Office if you are interested in supporting this worthwhile charity.

School Meals We will be on week 1 of the new menu after half term, with lemon crumbed chicken, homemade cheese and tomato quiche or jacket potatoes on Tuesday 31st October.

Read with me will be on Tuesdays next half term starting on the first day back. We are changing the day to hopefully give some new parents the opportunity to join us. You (or perhaps a grandparent) are invited to come into class when dropping your child to school on a Tuesday for 15 minutes reading time. This is a chance for you to read with the children, either a book you bring from home or one from the class library. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for 15 minutes at 8.45am every Tuesday. Sharing a book together is a great way to start your child's day in school and reminds us all of the value of experiencing a wide range of literature.

Scooters I was very saddened to learn that a couple of members of our school family have had the experience of going to collect their scooter on their way out of school and it not being there - one of these scooters had only been on the premises a matter of minutes. This is obviously distressing for any child. Please can everyone be vigilant and check that you are taking the correct scooter home. If the wrong scooter is taken by accident, please ensure that it is returned to the 'Scooter Park' the next day. As I said in a newsletter last month, scooters can be parked in our 'Scooter Park', just inside our pedestrian gate, 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.

Headteacher's Awards



Week ending Friday 20th October

Y2C	Henry Weil
Y21P -Y2	Florence Drake
Y1NT	Taylan Djemal
ROF	Diamond Iwuagwu
RG	Euan Lawrence

Y2N	Emily Cornhill
Y1	Agni Mandal
Y1G	Connor Furley
RMN	Samuel Olubade

Attendance Cup This week's winners are Y2C with a fantastic 100%.



Punctuality Bear There is a three-way tie this week, with Saint Matthew's, Saint Luke's and Saint John's all having 99.5%

Christmas Fair As I mentioned above it is nearly that time of the year again - Christmas is fast approaching ... Our annual Christmas Fair will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd November. At the Fair we like to have a mixture of stalls with some stalls run by parents in order to raise much needed funds for our school. Parent Stalls in the past have included 'Teddy Tombola' (so any donations of soft toys will be gratefully received via the School Office), 'Filled Jars' (you should have received information about this earlier in the week), 'Pocket Money Tombola' and 'Guess how many sweets' as well as our popular coffee & cake shop. Any further ideas for stalls will be gladly received. Also, if you are able to help at the Christmas Fair, please let us know. Many hands make light work! Finally if you or anyone you know would like to be a stall holder selling items at our Christmas Fair please do get in touch with Mrs Giddings in the School Office. There will be a raffle at the Fair, so any kind donations for raffle prizes will be much appreciated, again to the School Office.

Think of a Question is our family challenge!

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

'Why is the car broken down? Why is the sky dark?'

(Tessa Connell, ROF)

'Is there going to be a hurricane?'

(Reuben Howard, Y1NT)

'Did the car go too fast when it was parking at the house?'

(Mason Demetriou, Y1NT)

This is the last week for this picture. There will be a new one after half term. 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 after half term and they will be added to the whole school display....



Brentwood Foodbank Thank you to everyone for your very kind donations. The School Council have packed up the goods and Mr Powis will be delivering them to the Foodbank.

Half term and Non-pupil day School will be closed next week and please remember that Monday 30th October is a non-pupil day. School re-opens on Tuesday 31st October.

Don't forget the clocks change at the end of half term. It's one hour back which means an extra hour in bed ready for the new half term!

I hope you all have a lovely holiday.

Yours sincerely,

C B L'Estrange

Caroline L'Estrange
Headteacher