

# St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

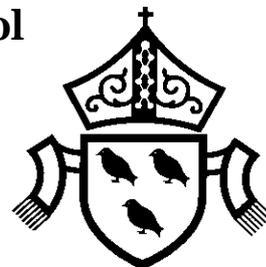
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Headteacher Mrs C B L'Estrange BA Ed (Hons) NPQH

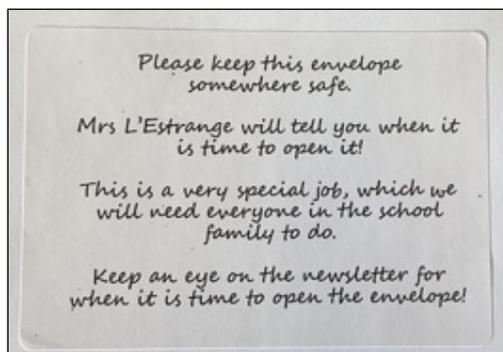


22  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed half term – a week away from remote learning! (... and no, there was no spring clean in my house!). Well, as we know from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, all children will be returning to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are very much looking forward to seeing all of the children back at school.

It is essential that we all remember that we are **still** in lockdown and that all the previous procedures and practices remain in place, including social distancing, wearing of masks on the school run and each class operating as their own bubble etc. I will be writing to you next week with a full reminder of the procedures that we all need to follow to continue to keep everyone safe. Please read this carefully as there may be some small alterations. It is critical that everyone works together to follow these procedures, as I am sure, like Mr L'Estrange and myself, the thought of being able to meet with another household in our own garden from 29<sup>th</sup> March is something we are very much looking forward to. This would be a fabulous way to start our Easter Holidays but, as we know, this will only happen if the data continues to improve and no-one is in isolation.



I hope that all the children received their special postal delivery during half term. It is time to open the envelope! Inside the envelope you will find a piece of paper (the reverse indicates which way up). I would love every child in the school to draw their own self-portrait – head and shoulders – and colour it in beautifully. Please bring this with you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March (you could use the envelope to bring it back nice and safely). All of these fantastic portraits are going to make a 'whole school quilt' to show how we are all back together again. All of the adults in the school are going to be asked to join in too.

**Remote Learning** We have got one week to go! Please ensure that your children are on-line and appropriately ready for **all** their sessions next week. This is a really important part of their preparation for returning to school. The teachers will be talking about the return to school and preparing them for what to expect. Please help us help your children.

**Book Week 2021** is certainly going to be different – but it is still taking place. Book Week is next week, with World Book Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March ... and yes, we are still dressing up! The theme this year is 'Our Favourite Books'. The children (and parents – as you may be spotted on Zoom...) are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book / book character, so get digging in your wardrobes for costume ideas!

Each year group has lots of exciting activities planned, focusing on different well-known authors (Reception – Julia Donaldson, Year 1 – Oliver Jeffers and Year 2 – Roald Dahl). We will be joining in with some of the World Book Day activities, and we will also have a special online performance from The Really Big Pants Theatre Company, with "*The Really Big Love Book Day Play*". It is going to be a wonderful celebration of reading and all things books, so do start talking with your children this weekend about their favourite stories.

**World Book Day Vouchers** are 'digital' this year. Please see the special ParentHub message from Mrs Newman about this.

**Internet Safety Rules and Agreement** Please complete the online form at: <https://tinyurl.com/InternetSafetyAgreement>. We do need the whole school family to commit to this to keep all of our children safe online. Well done to Y2B and Y1FA who have the most completed forms. I wonder which class will be the first class to get 100% completion.

**Headteacher's Awards**



Week ending Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Y2C	Dexter Lynch	Y2B	Isabelle Ware
Y21C - Y2	Cooper Cole	Y21C - Y1	Cameron Polaczek-Mohamed
Y1P	Roseanna Lamb	Y1FA	Grace Bancroft
RS	Grace Connolly	RB	Pippa Smith
RN	Praneet Dhothar		

Your stickers and affirmations will be sent out to you in the post.

**Together at Home** We remain in Saint Mark's Gospel this week for the second Sunday in Lent.



The answer to my mystery visitor ... yes ... it was a pheasant! We did try to get a photograph of the pheasant during the day, but he was somewhat camera shy and kept darting behind the bushes! On your return to school - look out for the peacocks - they are certainly very much around in Sawyers Hall Lane!

**Spring Hope** Thank you for the photos sent into school - they have definitely brightened my post-half term inbox! They make a lovely display in my office. There is room for some more so please do send them in ([admin@stthomasinf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stthomasinf.essex.sch.uk)) and bring some joy to next week's inbox (which will probably have even more government and local authority emails!).

The season of Lent is now upon us. Father Mark's Lenten Worship today was a lovely way to start this important time in the Church year together. How are you getting on with the 'Love yourself through Lent' challenge sheet? How many hearts have you managed to colour in to show that you have completed that challenge?

LENT

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!

With love & prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Caroline L'Estrange'.

Caroline L'Estrange  
Headteacher

**Our prayer for our School Family during this time of being apart**

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Dear Lord,

We pray for our whole school family.

May your peace be with us all.

Let your love be with us all,

Love of one another, love of mankind, love of life itself and love of God.

Let us remember that as many hands build a house,

so many hearts make our school.

Amen.