

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

"Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community"



NEWSLETTER

5th May 2023



Today has been a real treat as the Infant and Junior Schools turned red, white and blue and came together as a school community to mark the historic occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Throughout the day various Coronation-themed activities took place, including our special act of collective worship in the afternoon when prayers were offered for our new King and the National Anthem was sung with gusto!! We also had some delicious Coronation-style cakes prepared by our fantastic catering team and a chance for the children and staff across our two schools to have some time together, mixing up the various years groups to get to know each other. It was a real cause for celebration which I am sure for many of you will continue and extend into the long weekend, particularly on Saturday.

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty Queen Camilla takes place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday. The Service is to be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry. The Coronation Service takes place on the morning of 6th May 2023. Their Majesties The King and Queen Camilla will arrive at Westminster Abbey in procession from Buckingham Palace, known as 'The King's Procession'. After the Service, Their Majesties will return to Buckingham Palace in a larger ceremonial procession, known as 'The Coronation Procession'. Their Majesties will be joined in this procession by other Members of the Royal Family.

At Buckingham Palace, The King and Queen Camilla, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will appear on the balcony to conclude the day's ceremonial events.

Across the Coronation Weekend, there are also further opportunities for people to come together locally in celebration of this historic occasion. On Sunday, 7th May, a special Coronation Concert is being staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle by the BBC and BBC Studios, with several thousand pairs of tickets having been made available via public ballot.

The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, takes place across the country on the same date. On Monday, 8th May 2023, members of the public are being invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which encourages people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Their Majesties The King and Queen Camilla hope the Coronation Weekend will provide an opportunity to spend time and celebrate with friends, families and communities across the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

It also means we get a second long Bank Holiday weekend – so we look forward to seeing you back in school on **Tuesday 9th May 2023**.

Year 6 SATs Week – 9th May 2023

Next week, 9th May 2023, is probably one of the most important weeks of the year for our children in Year 6. Throughout the course of this week the children in Year 6 will be undertaking statutory assessment tests (SATs) in grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS), reading as well as arithmetic and maths reasoning papers to measure their attainment and progress across KS2. It can be quite a daunting and anxious time for everyone involved but I am very confident that the children have been well prepared, through daily high quality teaching and learning, to tackle these assessments with a wealth of skills, knowledge and understanding. I am sure you will all join me in wishing our Year 6 children the best of luck for SATs week and pray that they are able to demonstrate their tireless work ethic and realise their full potential.



As with any week in school it is very important that all Year 6 children arrive in school on time having had an early night and a good breakfast. If children arrive late or are absent it causes major problems for the administration of the tests and in some cases means we have to contact the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) for advice and guidance. I hope we will be able to have a smooth journey through the week. Thank you for your support and encouragement in this matter.

Mobile Phones - Reminder

The staff and I are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of children, particularly in Upper School (Year 5 & Year 6) who appear to be bringing mobile phones in to school. Our school policy, agreed by the Governing Body, is that children are **not permitted to bring mobile phones in to school**. This is clearly communicated in our school literature and correspondence.



A growing number of children are seen before school, outside of the school premises, using a mobile phone. This behaviour is then seen again as the children prepare to leave school at the end of the school day. No child in school should be seen using or carrying a mobile phone whilst on the school premises. If a child is spotted using a mobile phone on the school premises, they will be reminded in the first instance of the school mobile phone policy and protocol. If this behaviour is repeated then the mobile phone will be confiscated and a parent/carer will be asked to collect it from the School Office.

Please can we ask for your continued support in this matter. In doing so, we would also ask parents/carers to refrain from using your mobile phones on the school premises. We would encourage you to talk to your children when you drop them off and/or pick them up about their day ahead and what they have been doing in school. Having that valuable opportunity to have a face to face conversation and share in your child's school experience is really valuable. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Waterbottles

It is very important that children have access to clean drinking water throughout the day particularly at this time of year when we start to experience warmer weather. We encourage your children to bring in a waterbottle to school which encourages them to drink and replace their fluids as the day goes on. Children are also given access to drinking water at school to refill their waterbottles once they are empty. However recently we have had a number of problems with water being spilt in the classroom mainly because some children do not have waterbottles with a sports cap. The school policy is that **all** waterbottles brought into school must have a sports cap to prevent such accidents happening. If your child does not have this type of waterbottle can I please ask you to change it as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.



PTA Inflatables Afternoon – Friday 12th May 2023

Hopefully you have all seen by now the various communications from the PTA with regard to their Inflatables Afternoon on Friday next week.

The PTA invite you to join them for the 2023 inflatables afternoon on the school playing field on Friday 12th May 2023. We have booked the fine weather and the bouncing fun starts from 3:30p.m. and finishes at 5:30p.m. The inflatables are suitable for ages 3-12 years. Parents/carers **MUST** stay on site to supervise their children at all times.

Tickets are priced at £6 if bought in advance, or £7 on the day. Tickets are on sale now via the PTA website: <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/stthomasjr>

The PTA are looking for volunteers to help them monitor the inflatables on the day, so if you can help for any amount of time, then please email them at ptastthomas@yahoo.co.uk The event can only run if they have enough volunteers to supervise – thank you for your support!



National Walk to School Week (15th-19th May 2023)



Being active and getting some exercise in the morning before arriving at school will help set your children up for a positive day; improving focus and concentration, and instilling a sense of physical and mental wellbeing. Walk to School Week (15th – 19th May) is designed to extend beyond the week itself, by encouraging healthy habits for life with a focus on exercise, diet and wellbeing.

As I am sure you are aware, there are many health benefits to walking:

- Exercise helps develop strong bones and increase muscle strength. It also tones the whole body.
- Walking gets the heart pumping, which can help improve cognitive function for lessons throughout the school day.
- Walking helps to improve mood. Getting outdoors and making the most of natural daylight makes for a positive start to the day.
- When walking to school, children can relax and let off steam before they head into the classroom to learn.

Walking to school can help children to feel more independent, confident and in control of themselves too. They will learn the route from home to school, which can boost their navigation skills, and they'll learn more about road safety. Once children are old enough to walk to school by themselves, they will already have the confidence and the knowledge that they need to get there safely (and in time for their first lesson!)

Another great benefit of Walk to School Week is that it reduces the morning traffic, especially in Sawyers Hall Lane! Instead of driving to school in the car and contributing to congestion, carbon emissions, and pollution, you can bypass this route completely by walking. In the long run, we will all have cleaner air if there are fewer cars on the road.

You can do your part by getting involved with Walk to School Week and leaving your car at home. You will help to reduce carbon emissions and enjoy all the benefits of walking at the same time. Walk to School Week also provides a great opportunity to build strong bonds in the community and enjoy increased social interaction. Walk in groups with friends and take a look at your surroundings and what you can see on your route to school.

Even if you are unable to walk all the way to school, see if you can walk part of the way – you could even use your scooter!

Finally....

Well done to the Girls' Football Team! Congratulations to the Girls' Football team, who are enjoying a fantastic season this year, showing hard work and a great attitude in every game. They reached the final of the District Langhelt Cup shortly before Easter, losing a closely competitive match to Brentwood Prep (pictured here receiving their medals from Lucas Fabianski). We wish them continued success, especially as they prepare for the County Under 11s Girls' Cup final later this month.



Whatever you may be up to this weekend I do hope you will be able to reflect upon the significant historic event which is taking place at Westminster Abbey, in a service steeped in centuries of tradition and rich in Christian symbols and values. At some point you may wish to join together as a family in the prayer below:

A Prayer for The King

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 9th May 2023 – don't be late!

Mr D. Moran
Headteacher

