



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

2nd December 2022

## Dates for your diary

### 5th December 2022

Tombola tag day

### 6th & 7th December

Secret Santa gifts on sale

### 8th December 2022

Meet Father Christmas

Wear Christmas jumpers

### 9th December 2022

Christmas Fayre

### 14th December 2022

KS1 Christmas performance 9.30

KS2 Christmas performance 1.45

### 15th December 2022

Evening performance 4pm

### 15th December 2022

Christmas dinner day

### 3rd January 2023

Staff development day

(No children in school)

### 4th January 2023

Start of term 3

### 13th January 2023

Bring your parents to writing

### 3rd March 2023

Bring your parents to Geography

### 28th April 2023

Bring your parents to History

*'Love one another as I have loved you'*

Dear Parents,

Advent has arrived! The children were delighted on Thursday morning to return to school to find that Eddington the Elf has returned to visit us from the North Pole and to see the Christmas decorations up around the school.

We started the week with an Advent service led by Father Pawel and our school Beacons to celebrate the start of Advent and to bless our Advent wreath.

Our Year 6 children had a lovely day out at Kent Life on Monday, participating in a 'World War II' themed day, to complement their in school History learning. It was lovely to see so many parents attend our Key Stage 1 Phonics workshop yesterday and we hope you found it informative – please do complete the questionnaire after attending sessions as this helps us to tailor our future workshops to enable them to be as beneficial as possible for our families.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair this week, your purchases enable us to receive extra books for use in school – we hope the children all enjoy the new books you bought them!

**Could all parents please try not to park in Bleakwood Road next week, the church are having building works carried out and therefore the driveway and car park are not able to be used. This unfortunately does include families who are usually permitted to drive onto school property due to extenuating circumstances.** Some of our families do have mobility issues and as they are unable to come into the car park it would be helpful if there are spaces available for them to park in Bleakwood road. Please do not block the road or the automatic gates at any point as constant access is required.

Don't forget our 'Tombola Tag Day' on Monday and Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday, thank you to all those who visited our tuck shop last night - the takings are being donated to Save The Children for our jumper day.

If you are not already following our school Facebook page, please go online and like and follow us. The children have been delighted by Willow's Christmas wardrobe so far this week and we will be posting pictures on our page of her 'high fashion' moments as per the children's requests!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

## **Secret Santa gifts**

Once again the dinner ladies will be selling Secret Santa gifts.

Gifts are all £1.50 each and they will be available to buy in school on Tuesday 6th December and Wednesday 7th December.

Please send your children in with cash in an envelope clearly named with their name and class. We will have gifts for male and female members of the family.





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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

**Aida O**  
**Thehan J**  
**Farley E**  
**Israel O**  
**Daniella G**

## **Christmas Eve Nativity**

If your child is interested in taking part in the Christmas Eve Nativity (6pm Mass) at St Simon Stock Church please let Mrs Wilson or Catherine (from church) know. There will be two meetings/practices to assign roles on Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th at 10.30am to accommodate people attending both 9am and 11am Masses. Teas and coffees will be provided after 9am Mass for the duration of the practices on those two Sundays.



## **Christmas Gonks**

The fundraising team are selling these Christmas gonk decorations. They can be personalised with your child's name. Each gonk can be made with plaits or a beard.

They are £2 each or 3 for £5

If you would like a Christmas Gonk please get in touch with the fundraising team via their Facebook page.



## **Christmas dinner**

Christmas dinner will be Thursday 15th December. More details will follow.



Please see the PTFA facebook page

Search St Thomas More fundraising team and ask to join.





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Merit award

Lamiya H RC

Iriye D RR

Ninoula S RR

Nicholas F 1D

Sofia R 1J

Sophia D 2F

Ezekiel A 2S

Israel M 3B

Elliott R 3T

Aaron G 3T

Faith O-A 4L

Isla B 4S

Didier D 5C

Eliza C 5M

Wade L 5M

Sienna A 6C

Mofetoluwa O 6F

## Christmas Fayre Stalls

Stalls at the Christmas Fayre; Tombola's, Craft stall ( items made by parents and children), nearly new gift/ Bric a brac, 100 lucky square, Chocolate Tuck shop, lucky dip and a selection of games.

This year we also have 5 independent stalls they are;

- **Gabriela** selling handmade, cards, gifts, Xmas decoration, genuine gemstone jewellery.
  - **Sues** beauty hub brings you skincare, haircare, bath and body, fragrance and make-up all from The Body Shop at Home.
    - **Floral North Gifts** sell hand painted gifts, including slate, embroidery etc. items range from £2 to £25.
  - **Sandra's** Handmade cards, I'll forward you her email so you can see photos.
- Lisa** will be selling a large selection of embroidery bits and Christmas sleighs

And Finally.....

Our Christmas Cafe will be in the beautifully decorated Pavilion, it is being run by our cook and she will be selling hot sausage rolls, mince pies, Cake, tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Weather permitting the fayre will be on the big playground so please wrap up warm and come and get into the festive spirit!

## Raffle prizes so far...

Body Shop gift set, Flip Out vouchers

£50 Aldi voucher

2 x Eagle Heights voucher

£50 shopping voucher

Family entry to Godstone Farm

Childs Haircut voucher

Sunbed Voucher for Glow Tanning

£20 voucher for Kim's Beauty and Massage

Brunch @ The Swan West Malling

City Wall drinks voucher

5 x photo shoot experiences with a free print of 1 image

2 x 2 month memberships for 2 people for Lordswood Gym

2 x 3-month memberships for 2 people for Lordswood Gym

2 x 3-month memberships for 2 people for Lordswood Gym

Family swim at Larkfield Swimming Pool

8 Games of Laser Tag

£10 beauty voucher

Family entry to Chatham Historic Dockyard

Family entry to Rare Breeds Centre

1 x wristband for adventure island and 1 x sea life centre entry at Southend-on-Sea

Pedicure Voucher

This Morning goody bag

Waddesdon Rothschild W collection





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## Tuck shop dates

Support our PTFA and pick yourself up a sweet treat.

**More dates for the new year coming soon.**

**Thank you very much for your support in 2022**

## Fundraising team request

Do you have any of the following you could donate to our Christmas fundraising events?

White sheets

Good condition teddys for our teddy bear raffle

Do you have time to spare on **Wednesday 7th December** afterschool until 6pm to help set up the grotto?



We have had some enquiries recently about opening the back gate of the school which opens onto the alleyway at the start and the end of the day. School staff need to know who is on the school site at any point in time and members of the public should not be able to gain access to the school site. By having one point of entry and exit to the school it allows us to know who is on the premises and prevents people unrelated to school business being able to gain entry. We recently commissioned an external safeguarding review to ensure we were meeting the highest possible standards in safeguarding and the reviewer agreed that creating an additional access point to the school would fall short of these standards. We also liaised with PCSO Rowan about the issue who has given us the following statement to share with parents:

*'I have been liaising with the school about the gate to the rear of the school grounds, where parents/guardians would like this open at the beginning/end of the school day. They have had an outside independent agency involved to conduct a safeguarding review. The result from the report was not to open the gate, as the school has appropriate safeguarding procedures in place at the beginning and end of the day. Please be mindful it was not the school that made this decision, it was the result of the independent review.'* PCSO Rowan Cornwall Medway Community Safety Unit

## Reception Places

You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019.

Please contact the office if you could like to book a tour of St Thomas More in preparation for securing your child's place.

Here is a link for further information:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools-and-learning/1059/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>

