



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

21st March 2025

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



On Monday, we gathered to celebrate the Word and reflect on the powerful message of the 2nd Sunday of Lent. Our focus was on the story of when Jesus went to the top of the mountain to pray. There, something remarkable happened — Jesus was transfigured, his appearance changed, and his divine glory shone through. This moment was significant because it was not only a time of prayer but a moment of transformation for Jesus, and it was also a way for his disciples to glimpse his true nature.

For children, understanding this story can be a beautiful experience as they learn about prayer, change, and the presence of God in their lives. We discussed how, just as Jesus went up the mountain to pray and experienced transformation, we too can experience change and growth through prayer. It was heart-warming to see the children reflect deeply on how prayer can help them become better and closer to God. They also connected with the idea that change doesn't always happen all at once but can be a gradual process.

## What's been happening this week?

I had the opportunity to join in with the children's learning across the school and the children have been diving into some exciting and challenging topics! They've been working hard on ordering and comparing fractions, pie charts, percentages, and much more. We've covered a lot of ground, and the children have shown fantastic resilience and determination as they tackled some tricky problems. Throughout all these activities, the children were faced with some tricky work that really put their skills to the test. However, it has been inspiring to see how they've shown resilience in the face of challenges. When things got tough, they didn't give up. Instead, they worked through the problems with determination, asked great questions, and supported each other as they learned.

Today, is also 'World Maths Day'! It's been a fantastic week of maths, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and growth the children have shown. We encourage you to continue supporting your child with their maths practice at home, whether it's reviewing these concepts or exploring some new challenges together. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. Let's keep up the great work! We will be celebrating a specific Maths Day in May so watch out for further news. I wonder if you could work out which date we have chosen and why?

Our staff participated in an enriching training session on 'Kagan Structures' (designed to help children engage actively in their learning) as well as a 'Planning for Writing' session led by Mrs. Collins. This professional development opportunity has been incredibly beneficial, and we are eager to see the new strategies implemented in the classroom.

## What's coming up?

We are excited to announce our upcoming Book Fair next week (Monday to Thursday). This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to explore and discover new books, cultivate a love of reading, and build their home libraries! A big thank you to our Reading Lead, Miss Caswell, for organising it. Check out Class Dojo for more information from Miss Caswell.

**Remember** to check all forthcoming dates, particularly for Parent Evenings at the end of this term and don't forget to follow us on social media (Facebook) to see photos of children and what they've been up to!

Have a fantastic weekend.  
Mrs Le Breton



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## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

### Rugby Mini's Tour March 2025

A few pictures from the Rugby Mini's tour some of our children attended last weekend.



Medway's Local Offer website is undergoing extensive improvements.

It is now called the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) information hub**

Take a look at the link below - lots of information for families regarding schools, health, social care, clubs, activities etc

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_send\\_information\\_hub](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_send_information_hub)



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## Merit Award

- RC Imani
- RR Niamh
- RR Robin
- 1C Damilola
- 1S Ella
- 2D Fae
- 2F Elijah
- 2F Zeenat
- 3B James
- 3L Amila
- 4L Lila
- 4S Pelumi
- 4S Kian
- 5W William
- 5C Nicole
- 5C Lola-Rose
- 6B Ellie
- 6F Sophie

Please remember to return merit badges to school the following week. Thank you



### Punctuality Peacock

3L, 6B



### Attendance Anteater

5W

### Whole School Attendance

95.0%

We are aiming for at least 97% whole school attendance.

We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025 Challenge! Starting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, join us by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school as part of the UK's biggest inter-school active travel challenge!

Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel aims to inspire families to make active journeys to boost health, improve air quality and discover how these changes make a difference to the world around them. It's free to take part and there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!



### Parish News – St Simon Stock

Our Parish Newsletter is produced every week, which is our traditional way of communicating with all parishioners, especially those who are ill and/or housebound. If you are not able to come and pray with us at any given time or simply prefer to download the Newsletter, click on the link below which will take you to our website.

A big thank you to everyone who donated food and everyday essentials to the Medway Foodbank last weekend for our Lenton almsgiving collection. The will really help families and individuals in need in the weeks ahead. Please remember that the collection boxes will remain in the porch and we can keep donating every weekend during the year.

On Monday, 24th March at 7.30pm there will be a session in the Parish Hall led by Fr Pawel entitled: "What does the Bible say about hope? Part 2"

All are welcome



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## Term 4

### 24th & 27th March 2025

Book Fair

### 27th March 2025

Mothers Day Gift Shop

### 28th March 2025

Mothers Day Gift Shop

### 28th March 2025

BYPT Science 2.30pm

### 2nd April 2025

Parents Evening 4-7pm

### 3rd April 2025

Parents Evening 5-8pm

### 4th April 2025

KS2 Stations of the Cross

### 4th April 2025

End of Term 4

## Term 5

### 24th April 2025

Y4 Multiplication check meeting 3.30pm



## School Holiday Dates

### 24/25

### **Easter Break**

7th April –21st April

### **22 April SDD**

### **May Half Term**

26th May—30th May

### **SDD**

23rd & 24th June

### **Summer Term ends**

22nd July 2025

## OPAL request

Do you have any of the following that you would be willing to donate to our OPAL resources

**Hats** i.e top hats, ladies hats, cowboy/girl hats (not baseball caps or woolly hats)

**Wigs**—any colour, length or style

**Capes**

**Tutu's**

We are also looking for unused outdoor decking planks







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## Jody's Mothers Day Gift Shop

Jody will be running her Mother's Day Gift Shop this year on 27th & 28th March 2025.

Gifts will be priced at £3.50 and children will be taken, class by class, to pick from a selection. Each child will be given a bag that can be personalised by them.

The event will be on MCAS under Products.



## Scouts 14th Medway Towns

14th Medway Beavers

We have space for a few new members from Easter.

Age 6-8.5 boys and girls

Thursday 17.45—19.15 in St Simon St Stock Hall

Contact: [fourteenthmedwaytowns@gmail.com](mailto:fourteenthmedwaytowns@gmail.com)

### **Safeguarding**

If you're worried about a child or would like some family support, please contact us:

#### **Our Safeguarding Team**

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Murphy Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Acting Deputy Head

Mrs Austin Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Assistant Head

Mrs Ronja Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & EYFS Lead

Mrs Deamer Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Pastoral Manager

Mr D'Souza Governor Safeguarding Lead

Miss Joshi Governor Safeguarding Lead

You can also contact Medway's Children's Safeguarding Partnership

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children\\_and\\_families/600/concerned\\_about\\_a\\_child#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20the%20child,hours%20on%2003000%20419%20191.](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20the%20child,hours%20on%2003000%20419%20191.)

Or via telephone - **In an emergency phone 999**. If you think the child is at immediate risk of harm contact Medway Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 01634 334 466 or out of hours on 03000 419 191.