



St Thomas More School Newsletter

1st April 2022

Dates for your diary

4/4/2022-18/4/2022

Easter break

Term 5

19/4/2022

Term 5 begins

2/5/2022

Early May Bank Holiday

9-12/5/2022

KS2 Sats week

26/5/2022

Term 5 finishes

27/5/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

Term 6

6/6/2022

Term 6 Begins

12/7/2022

Sports Day (weather permitting)

18/7/2022

Year 6 Production (PM time to be announced)

19/7/2022

Year 6 Production (early evening)

20/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Festival

21/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Mass (KS2 only)

22/07/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of Term 4!

It was lovely to see so many of you attend this morning's 'Bring Your Parent to Science', I hope you enjoyed your time in class and found it useful to see what your child's year group is learning about.

We would like to thank everyone who has entered the 'Easter Garden' competition, we have had some beautiful entries and it is clear how hard the children have worked on these. Please check the winner's box on this newsletter to see pictures of the winning entries!

When we return to school in Term 5, children will be able to wear their summer uniform if they would like. Please read through the uniform requirements underneath to ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform, both for main uniform and for P.E. kit, as we are seeing lots of non-uniform variations being worn. Socks, dress collars and shirt collars should not be frilly. P.E. shorts or tracksuit bottoms should be plain blue, they should not have logos/stripes/glitter/stars etc. on them - plain blue bottoms are widely available in shops such as Primark or Asda. If you have any questions regarding suitability of items, please check with your child's teacher or the school office.

Summer Uniform (can be worn in Terms 1, 5 and 6) - Navy blue and white checked (gingham) dress with white socks or Navy skirt with white socks or grey trousers or shorts with grey socks to be worn with white polo necked t-shirt with the school crest.

Winter Uniform (can be worn all year round) - White blouse or shirt to be worn with a school tie and Navy blue cardigan or jumper with school crest to be worn with Navy blue skirt or pinafore dress with white socks or navy blue tights or Grey trousers and grey socks

P.E. Kit- T-shirt according to house colour and plain Navy blue shorts or tracksuit and black plimsolls or trainers for outdoor P.E.

Shoes should be brown or black and should not be slip-ons or sandals for health and safety reasons.

The school uniform webpage has more information on school uniform, pictures of the items and information about where items with the school crest can be purchased from.

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/media/i2pfx544/stm-uniform.pdf>

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you all after the Easter weekend for the start of Term 5.

Mrs Ebdon



Parking

Could all parents please ensure that they are parking legally, safely and respectfully when dropping off or collecting your children. We have received a large number of complaints from local residents in the last few weeks complaining about inconsiderate and dangerous parking and abusive responses when they ask people not to park in certain places.

We have received information about one particularly concerning incident in Kings Oak Mews. A parent from this school has blocked a residents drive which meant they could not get out of their drive to collect their own child from school, who was therefore left very distressed when their parent did not arrive to collect them. The same family also had a frightening incident when a parent from our school nearly knocked over the residents child as they were walking around the back of their parents car to get in. when the family challenged the parent from this school they did not receive a polite or apologetic response.

Please do not park in Kings Oak Mews and please do not block any residents driveways, pavements should not be blocked by cars, as has happened on many occasions, causing families with prams to have to walk on the main road.

I regularly ask for our parents to park safely and behave respectfully, however, there are a number of people who continue to park and behave in inappropriate ways. This kind of aggressive and abusive behaviour is not setting a good example of how to behave in front of our children and it causes significant problems for the school regarding the local community. I would however like to thank all those families who do park and travel to school in a way that does not cause issues with local residents and who uphold our school values on their way to and from school.



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'Love one another as I have loved you'

Beacons Easter Garden Competition

Raising Money for Demelza House





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'Love one another as I have loved you'



Well done everyone

Nicholas F RS

Belle D RR

Nataniel P 1J

Paige C 1D

Jemima B 2S

Dollcie-Rae F 2F

Lili Y 3C

Joseph P 3B

Indie R 4T

Finley S 4S

Oscar L 5M

Thehan J 5H

Jake C 6B

Eliza B 6C

Beacons Easter Garden Competition

Raising Money for Demelza House



Parent workshop 'Understanding your child's behaviour'

Friday 29th April 9:15 . Please allow 1 hour 30 mins for the session.

Parent workshop 'Understanding your child's anxiety.'

Friday 6th May 9:15 start. Please allow 1 hour 30 mins for the session.

Both sessions will be run by our Emotional Wellbeing Support practitioner Emily.

Sessions will be held here at St Thomas More School. Please sign in at the office.

To register your attendance , please email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk



Bring your parent to science

Thank you for coming today please see our Facebook page for photos from this morning.

Parent Helpers



If anyone would like to come into school as a parent helper for a few hours, or an afternoon, each week please let the office know.

Teachers would greatly appreciate anyone who would be able to come in to hear some of our children read.

Thank you



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A big Happy Birthday to..

Leo C
Fikayomi O
Zoe O
Max G
Sofia B
Isla A
Annie G-F
Thomas C
Cody D
Jamian A
Tyger D
Mendel M
Victoria O
Oluwatife G
Oluwatise G
Omotara S
Israel M
Faith P



Community Events & Mass—St Simon Stock Church

Sunday 3rd April	Second collection —Help to Ukraine
Monday 4th April	Holy Rosary on Zoom 7pm
Tuesday 5th April	Evening Prayer on Zoom 6pm
Wednesday 6th April	Eucharistic Adoration 2pm—10pm
Friday 8th April	Stations of the Cross 7.15pm Liturgy of the Word 8pm
Sunday 10th April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass
Maundy Thursday, 14th April	Mass of the Last Supper at 8pm followed by watching until 10pm
Good Friday, 15th April	Stations of the Cross for First Communion Children 10am Good Friday Liturgy & Veneration of the Cross 3pm Stations of the Cross 7.15pm
Holy Saturday, 16th April	Easter Vigil Mass 8.30pm
Easter Sunday, 17th April	Mass 9am Mass 11am





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Reminders

Packed lunches—please could you try to use a wrapping other than cling film. Sandwich bags or foil are preferable. Please also remember to provide cutlery if your child has something in their lunch box that requires it as we do not have spares available in school. Please check your child's carton has a straw attached as we have had a few instances where a child has been disappointed that they have not been able to drink their juice carton and have had to have water instead. The PTFA have a limited amount of environmentally friendly sandwich wrap's, we are selling these in school for £3 each there are a variety of designs.

School dinners: Thank you for settling your dinner balances .

Office hours: the office is manned 8-4pm. Please use our absence line to report an absence. Please can any non urgent queries be emailed or if you do need to call please call between 10-12. Between 12-2 is our protected admin time and calls may be forwarded to answerphone.

Earrings: Please remember that earrings need to be removed for school everyday. We will call parents to come in to school to remove earrings if children have them in when they arrive.

Cars on site



Please can we remind you that no parent cars should be on site without prior permission, **this includes dropping off and collecting for breakfast and after school club**. We would politely request that you consider parking outside of Bleakwood Road and walking into school.

Attendance & Punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is **93.5%** which is below the National target of **97%** please help us improve our attendance by ensuring your child is in school every-day ,on time. We have had an increasing number of late students coming through the office recently. We realise that Covid-19 has a negative effect on a child's attendance and this makes it even more important that they are in school on time at all other times.

SAFEGUARDING

What to do if you are worried about a child:

Members of the public and professionals can use a referral and contact form to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or a young person to Medway's First Response service. Once the form has been submitted, it will be reviewed and assessed and action will be taken. Please use the following link:

[Report a child safeguarding concern](#) | [Concerned about a child](#) | [Medway Council](#)

You can also phone 01634 334466 or use the 24 hour emergency number 03000 419 191. You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, Child Line on 0800 1111 or Medway Police on 01622 690 690.

Please remember to go to our Safeguarding section for parents/carers on our school website to learn more about keeping your child safe online. There is also a section for children too with some useful links.

Parents are encouraged to T.A.L.K to their children about the dangers.

Talk to your child about online safety. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

- **Agree ground rules** about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn about the platforms** and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know how to use tools**, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Discuss and agree on privacy settings for the platforms and apps your