



St Thomas More School Newsletter

28th March 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents & Carers



This week, as part of our reflection on the teachings of Jesus, we have been focusing on the Parable of the Fig Tree, found in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 13:6-9). It's a powerful story that offers important lessons about patience, growth, and the opportunity for change. In the parable, Jesus tells of a man who had a fig tree in his vineyard. For three years, the tree had not borne any fruit. The man wanted to cut it down, but the gardener intervened, asking for one more year to tend to the tree and give it another chance to bear fruit.

The lesson of the parable is clear: God is patient with us, offering us chances to repent, learn, and grow, even when we may feel like we are not progressing as we should. It also reminds us of the importance of nurturing and tending to the gifts and talents we've been given, and how with care and patience, growth is possible. During assembly, the children were able to reflect and make links to the gardener being Christ allowing us all time and patience to help us to grow spiritually. We thank you for your continued support as we nurture the faith and growth of our students both inside and outside the classroom.

School Uniform

Please note that from Term 5, children are able to wear summer uniform. I have made some slight amendments to our uniform to support you further when purchasing. For example, navy socks have been added, any colour trainers are permitted, blue or black plain tracksuit or leggings for PE. If children are wearing summer dress/skirts, children are able to wear the cycling style shorts underneath if they wish. Please take a look via the link for further information. Thank you for your continued support.

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/media/ltfch3ch/school-uniform-new-2025.pdf>

What's been happening this week?



We've had a fantastic week at school, and we'd like to share some highlights with you!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our **'Bring Your Parent to Science'** session this afternoon! It was truly wonderful to see such a fantastic sharing of learning across the school. The children had a great time demonstrating their scientific discoveries and experiments to their families, and it was clear how much enthusiasm they have for learning. We appreciate your support in making this event a success and are grateful for the opportunity to showcase the exciting science activities happening in our classrooms.

We were thrilled to welcome **Chika**, our SEND governor, to the school. Chika had the opportunity to join Mrs Austin on a learning walk, where they observed some of the wonderful learning happening across the classrooms. It was a great chance to see how our children are progressing and engaging with their studies. We would like to thank her for her continued support.

Our EYFS, Year 1 & 2 **children** were treated to a fun and educational **'Magic Show'** which focused on staying safe, with a particular emphasis on **road safety**. The children had a wonderful time while learning important lessons in a creative and engaging way.

In sports news, our **girls' football team** competed in a tournament, and what a great time they had! The team showed fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill and won the Fair Play award! A big thank you to **Mrs. Duggan** and **Mrs. Robertson** for organising and supporting the team – we appreciate all your hard work in making this experience possible for the girls.

Our staff participated in their 2nd training session on 'Kagan Structures' (designed to help children engage actively in their learning). This professional development opportunity has been incredibly beneficial, and we are eager to see the new strategies implemented in the classroom.



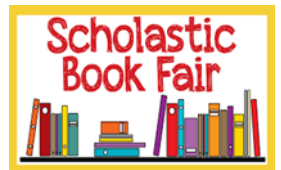
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A special thank you to **Jody**, our Pastoral Manager, who worked hard to organise the **Mother's Day gifts** for our children to purchase. We are sure that you will be delighted with the thoughtful gifts that they have chosen themselves for you. It was such a lovely way for the children to express their appreciation, and we hope it added a little extra joy to your day. Wishing you all a very **Happy Mother's Day!** We hope you enjoy your special day and feel truly appreciated.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt **thanks** to everyone who supported our **Book Fair this week**. Your generosity is truly appreciated. All the funds raised will go directly towards purchasing new books for both our school library and classrooms, ensuring that our children have access to a wide range of exciting and educational reading materials. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making our school a vibrant and engaging place for learning.



What's coming up next week (last week of term)?

A quick reminder that **Parent Evenings** are happening next week! If you haven't done so already, please make sure you've booked your appointment online to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to support your child's continued development.

Easter Egg Hunt is happening next week! We're excited for the children to take part in this fun and festive event. It's always a highlight of the season, and we can't wait to see their excitement as they go on the hunt! Thank you for your continued support as all monies raised will go towards improving our environment and resources for the children.

Remember to 'like' and follow us on our Facebook page to see photos of the wonderful learning taking place too. We are incredibly proud of all of our children!

We would like to extend a warm invitation to all our families to join us at **church this Sunday** for the **4th Sunday of Lent**. This is a special opportunity for us to come together as a community and reflect on the season of Lent. Mass will be at 11am. We would be delighted to see as many of you as possible there as we continue our journey of faith, reflection, and prayer.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful week ahead.

Mrs Le Breton



God of light, you sent your son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to make a change in our world, that all people may live free from poverty and hunger. Amen





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Merit Award

RC Anastazja

RR Raphael

1C Arianna

1S Ezekiel

2D Joel

2F Laroy

3B Thea

3L Grace

4L Jakub

4S Max

5W Shekinah

5C Simona

6B Joanna

6F Joseph

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



Punctuality Peacock

2D, 4S, 6F



Attendance Anteater

3B, 3L, 6B

Whole School Attendance

94.3%

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 24th March until Friday 4th 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.

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/parish-newsletter/>

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.

The times of our Masses and Services can be found by clicking or copying the following link

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/mass-and-services/>



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Term 4

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

Friday 9th May 2025

Marian Mass 9.30am

23rd May 2025

End of Term 5

Term 6

Friday 20th June 2025

St Thomas More Mass 9.30am

23rd & 24th June 2025

SDD—No children in school

Friday 18th July 2025

Leavers Mass 9.30am



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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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

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.

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.

Big Lent Walk – Friday, 4th April!



As a school, we are excited to take part in the Big Lent Walk this year to raise vital funds for CAFOD, a fantastic charity that works tirelessly to support communities in need overseas. Our goal is to raise £420, which will allow us to purchase 100 chickens for families. These chickens will provide a sustainable source of income and nutrition, empowering people to support themselves and improve their quality of life.

We would be incredibly grateful for any support you can offer, whether it's a small or large donation. Every contribution counts, and together we can make a real difference.

Please donate what you can and help us reach our goal. Thank you for your generosity!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-thomas-more-schools-fundraising-page>

A big **Thank You** for all of the donations we have received so far - £198 towards our £420 target.