



St Thomas More School Newsletter

10th June 2022

Dates for your diary

14&16/6/2022

Father's Day Activity

14/7/2022

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 had a fantastic first week back. Our grey partridge eggs that we are hatching this year arrived on Tuesday, we were waiting expectantly - as we were told the first egg to hatch might happen on Thursday – however, when we got to school on Wednesday morning several of them had arrived early!

The children have been fascinated, getting to watch the hatching process and then seeing how the hatchlings dry out and how quickly they are up and about looking for food and water. We decided to hatch partridges this year, instead of the usual chickens, to help support a programme that is trying to raise numbers of partridges in the wild. The children will be learning all about why partridge numbers are declining and what we can do to support the habitats of wildlife in our country.

We have a busy term ahead of us with our participation in the NSPCC's 'Big Breaktime' next week, our RE week the following week, with our St Thomas More Feast Day Mass and our other events across the final term such as Sports Day, the Talent Show and our Year 6 production and leavers activities. Remember to check our Facebook page to keep up to date with all the things the children are getting up to!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Pencil Cases and Resources

Now that life is back to normal following the covid pandemic we would like to encourage our children to bring in a named, well-equipped pencil case from home. If possible, please ensure your child has a high quality writing pencil, some colouring pencils, a rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener and glue stick.

As I'm sure you have all seen in the media, school funding continues to be an issue nationwide and, unfortunately for us at St Thomas More, this continues to be the case.

We will have a little section on the newsletter suggesting items that we would welcome receiving if anyone is able to donate these. This will enable us to spend the majority of our budget on high quality education and resourcing for all of our children.

Currently we would welcome:

White board pens

Colouring pencils

Glue sticks (pritt stick type)

A4/A3 plain paper



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to those children who took their first Holy Communion last weekend, we continue to pray for those that will take their first Holy Communion in the coming weekends.

We are thinking of you all as you take this important step of your Faith journey.





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Merit Awards



Well done everyone

Jude B RR

Iky N RS

Daniella G RS

Cian M 1D

Lewis L 1D

Nathan B 1J

Koby S 2F

Moses P 2S

Tomi S 3C

Joseph P 3B

Addy A 4S

Jenson F 4T

Joseph S-L 5H

Lizandra S 5H

Anastasia R 5M

Bonnie M 6C

Lola P 6B

Medway Poet-Tree Competition

Medway Poet-Tree presentation, which happened on Friday 27th of May, for the school newsletter. 175 children from Medway schools entered the competition, where children were to write a poem about the topics of Planting, Climate Change or both Planting and Climate Change. Sophia was a runner-up for the Years 1 & 2 category and Annabelle was a runner-up for the Years 3 & 4 category.



Annabelle read her poem and was presented with her certificate and prize by Councillor Howard Doe. As Sophia wasn't well enough to attend the presentation, Annabelle was asked to read Sophia's poem on her behalf. The poems have been displayed in Medway libraries and Rochester Cathedral.

A photo of Annabelle with poet Sam Rapp (who judged the poems along with Councillor Howard Doe) and a photo of Sophia holding her certificate at home.

Mrs Clayton



Well done Annabelle and Sophia who were both runners up in the Medway Poet-Tree Competition.



Congratulations to our young scientists who have worked really hard to achieve their Superstar Crest awards!

Farewell!

Unfortunately today we say goodbye to Mrs McNaughton who works in our school office. She has been an extremely valuable member of the team and will be missed by staff and children alike. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her every success and happiness for her new adventure.





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Emevioghene U

Lola-Rose B

Lorenzo R

Jenson F

Leon Z

Roman A-B

Grace J



The Big Breaktime

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in a range of activities as part of The Big Breaktime. We will introduce this in assembly on Childhood Day Friday 10th June. Our activities will take place across two BIG playtimes held on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th June.

Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services like Childline, which is always there for children and young people, whatever their worry.

On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds

Our Big Breaktime

During The Big Break time we will be having extra time to introduce new games for children to play and encouraging lots of fun both indoors and outdoors !

We ask that children bring a donation of £1

Fundraising

Please send in a donation to support NSPCC's work in a sealed envelope

Please donate via School Gateway

You can find out more about the NSPCC's work at nspcc.org.uk

To find out about keeping children safe online, visit nspcc.org.uk/online-safety

Snacks at After School Club

Children who are in After School Club until 4.30 are given a piece of fruit and a drink, those who stay until 5.30 are given a light tea. There is no need to provide your child with a snack but if you do please ensure it is a healthy snack i.e cereal bar or fruit. Please do not give your children bars of chocolate or donuts as these will be kept safely and given back to you when you collect. Thank you.





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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.



An increasing number of children are bringing in items within their packed lunch box that contain nuts.

We have had to ask children to tell their parents that Nutella chocolate spread is not allowed in school. We have children with severe allergies to nuts. There are many alternative snacks and sandwich fillings that do not contain nuts and we politely ask that you use these instead.

Attendance & Punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is **94%** 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