



St Thomas More School Newsletter

17th January 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy week! This week we marked the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord with a heartfelt assembly, reflection and prayers of intercession led by Year 6. It was a joy to witness their excellent knowledge and thoughtful reflections on how they can live out the Gospel values in their daily lives. From the early years, right through to Year 6, the children demonstrated not only their understanding of the significance of Baptism but also their commitment to embodying knowledge, compassion and spiritual growth.

This week, our Reception children have been busy conducting hands-on experiments to learn about the importance of washing hands to keep the germs away—it involved a lot of glitter as germs!

Year 1 have been busy sequencing pictures in preparation for writing their story linked to their class book *Beegu*, in music they have been investigating pitch and in maths they have been learning about algorithms!

Year 2 have been busy creatively exploring dynamics in music through dance and drawings and they have been looking at using adjectives to create a character description linked to their book, *Toby and the Great Fire of London*.

Year 3 invited their families to their 'Celebration of the Word'. A huge thank you to families for attending—it is always so lovely to see family members joining the children in their activities, especially as they connect to the Gospel and miracle of Jesus turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana. The joy on the children's faces as they spotted their families in the audience was truly heart-warming. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the children for their hard work in planning and leading the celebration. Well done!

Year 4 started their new music topic linked to the Vikings with some fabulous singing and in science, they did an experiment re-enacting tooth decay using eggshells!

Year 5 have been looking at the effect of friction in science this week and planned an investigation to test which surface created the most friction and Year 6 had great fun studying the artist Andy Warhol and creating pop art!

Our Year 1 & 2 children have been busy in art club with their amazing sketches of the eye and our Year 3 & 4 cooking club children made apple crumble this week—I hope some of the parents managed to taste it!

Today, during our Celebration Assembly, children from each class won the Merit Award (see over). Congratulations to all our winners for their hard work and achievements which were also linked to our school values such as resilience. A special shoutout to our Year 5 and Year 6 children who earned their Pen Licences—a well-deserved recognition for their amazing efforts to improve their handwriting. Additionally, some of our children received a certificate as they had the privilege of representing St Thomas More at the swimming gala at Medway Park. They competed with enthusiasm and had great fun showcasing their talents in the pool. Well done to everyone involved and a special thank you to Mrs Robertson who provides all of the fantastic sporting opportunities outside of school for our children.

I wish you and your families a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week. Remember to follow our Facebook page for lots more photos of learning!

Warmest Wishes Mrs Le Breton





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Merit Award

RC Francesca

RR Alex

1C Reyna

1S Ennio

2D Victoria

2F Sarah

3B Austin

3L Jude

4L Elliott

4S Damilola

5W Phoebe

5C Sophia

6B Grace

6F Sara

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



**Punctuality
Peacock**

1S, 6B



**Attendance
Anteater**

3B

Whole School Attendance

95.3%

We are aiming for at least 96% whole school attendance.

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.

The choir is looking for a pianist to accompany them at their Thursday evening rehearsals 8-9pm. It does not have to be a weekly commitment we would be happy to have someone to play once or twice a month. We also need guitarists to help play at our Masses on 4th Sunday every other month. If you would like to help us out or know someone who can please let Josie know on 07915601076.

More information can be found on the parish newsletter.

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

Masses are celebrated as follows:

Weekends: Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am or 11.00am

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am (Wed 2pm – 10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) Friday 8.00pm



Prayer

God of all people,
Jesus, shared in the joy of a wedding, help us to find peace and joy in the events of each day. May we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help spread love and peace throughout the world.
Amen.



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Term 3

15th January 2025

Y3 Liturgy 9.15-9.45am

24th January 2025

Y2 Fluency workshop 2.30pm

27th January 2025

BYPT writing 9.15-9.45am

27th January 2025

Writing expectations parent workshop 9.45-10.30am

7th February 2025

Children's Mental Health Week—TAG day

7th February 2025

Y1 Phonics workshop 2.30pm

12th February 2025

Y2 Liturgy 9.15-9.45am

14th February 2025

Last day of Term 3

Term

24th February 2025

Start of Term 4

6th March 2025

World book day

21st March 2025

World Maths day

28th March 2025

BYPT Science 2.30pm

2nd April 2025

Parents Evening 4-7pm

3rd April 2025

Parents Evening 5-8pm

4th April 2025

End of Term 4

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.



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Friday 7th Feb - Children's Mental Health Week Tag Day

Theme - **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**

Donations of £1 to go to the Anna Freud Children's Mental Health Charity .

Children to wear an outfit that expresses themselves, whether it's their favourite outfit, a splash of colour, a traditional attire that celebrates their culture, or an ensemble that showcases their beloved hobby, we want everyone's creativity to shine.



Do you have any of the following you could donate to us?

Puzzles for ages 1-3

Wooden shape sorters

Board books/explorer books

Activity boards

Plastic size sorter rings

Please drop into the office if you do.

Thank you

