



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

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

20th January 2023

## Dates for your diary

### 13-17th February 2023

February half term

### 3rd March 2023

Bring your parents to Geography 9.15—9.45

### 3rd—14th April 2023

Easter Holiday

### 17th April 2023

SDD—School closed

### 28th April 2023

Bring your parents to History 9.15 –945

### 1st May 2023

May bank holiday—school closed

### 8th May 2023

King Charles III Coronation bank holiday—school closed

### 9-12 May 2023

SATS

### 29th May—2nd June 2023

May Half Term

### 25th May 2023

Class photo taken

### 9-11th June 2023

Year 6 Residential

### SDD

### School closed to children

Friday 23rd June 2023

Monday 26th June 2023

Dear Parents

We have had a busy week this week with CAFOD coming into school to do social teaching workshops with the children, Year 4 Liturgy and two teams going out to Medway Park for Swimming competitions.

It was lovely to see so many parents at Year 4 Liturgy, the children read and sang beautifully.

We had our termly visit from the AASSA from Medway this week and following this were directed to send out a number of attendance letters. When a child's attendance falls below 95% they are flagged and the AASSA looks into the reasons why they have been absent. Whether the absence is due to illness or is unauthorised a letter has to be sent to inform parents that further absence will be unauthorised unless medical evidence can be provided. Medical evidence can be in the form of a GP appointment card, a prescription, or a pharmacy receipt for medication for the illness. You can keep an eye on your child's attendance figure on MCAS.

Please check the 'dates for your diary' column as these have been updated with the latest staff development days, class photo date and the Year 6 residential.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Ebdon

## MYG Swimming Medway Park—19th January 2023

Mrs Robertson took a team to compete in the MYG Champion Series Swimming, out of 13 teams St Thomas More came 1st, we are so proud of them all, as I am sure you will be. Amelia (Y4) and Finley (Y6) also received certificates for coming 1st overall in the breaststroke races, what an amazing achievement.





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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

**Blake D**

**Jamie B**

**Lucy O**

**Oscar L**

**Oluwademilade O**

**Barney H**

**Sacha N**

## **CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops**

We were visited this week by representatives from CAFOD to deliver 3 workshops for children across all year groups. After their workshops, FS, Year 1 and 2 had to think about how they are going to make the world a better place. There were suggestions about being kind, helping at home, feeding the homeless etc.

Yr 3 and 4 had to read a number of scenarios and discuss which of the principles of social teaching they came under. Yr 5 and 6 had to do a similar activity. They discovered many of the scenarios were applicable to more than one principle.

Our lead visitor sent us an email telling us how much they enjoyed their visit and how knowledgeable the children were. She said "It is obviously a very nurturing school where the children are all aware of so much that is important in terms of the Catholic ethos." We are so proud of what a good impression our children always give to visitors and when on school trips.



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## **Year 4 Liturgy**

Year 4 had their Liturgy on Thursday. The theme was 'Jesus is the chosen one'. They read and sung beautifully and enjoyed partaking in an activity based on a dove. The year 4 teachers would like to thank all of the parents who came, it was lovely to receive such a great turn out.





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## Coffee afternoon

Do you have time to attend our coffee afternoon and share your ideas for fundraising for our children?

**Thursday 9th February 2023**

**1.45pm**

Please come along if you are able. Even if you can spare an hour we would appreciate your input.

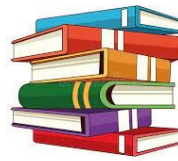
All welcome



© beepart

## Launch of our new library

Children are now allowed to bring library books home. If your child does have a book, please make sure it is returned to school within two weeks. Please could you also talk to your child about how to look after and respect books. Thank you!



## Tuck Shop

New dates coming soon

We have restocked and will be back on the playground soon.



## Wrap around care

Please ensure you are booking your after school club and breakfast club through MCAS. We have an increasing number of students that are arriving for the clubs whose parent/carer has not booked. In some circumstances we are able to add a child to a club but this is not in replacement of the parent/carer making the booking using MCAS.

If you need a reminder of your details we can email these to you or if you have forgotten a password please use the forgotten password link.

Breakfast club 8am to school start £5

After school club 3.15—4.30 collection £5

After school club 3.15—5.30 collection £7.50

All wrap around care balances must be cleared at the end of each term.





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Merit award

RC Vivian F

RR Sienna C-S

1D Oscar L

1D Didier-Dylan D

1J Elliott S

2F Ellie T

2S Arora G

3B Sophia G

3T Shekinah K

4LTobiloba O

4S Jaxon H

4S Una C

5C Georgie-May B

5M Henry C

5M Logan M

6C Lily C

6F Sienna A

6F Toma Y

## Safeguarding

We have had some enquiries recently about opening the back gate of the school which opens onto the alleyway at the start and the end of the day. School staff need to know who is on the school site at any point in time and members of the public should not be able to gain access to the school site. By having one point of entry and exit to the school it allows us to know who is on the premises and prevents people unrelated to school business being able to gain entry. We recently commissioned an external safeguarding review to ensure we were meeting the highest possible standards in safeguarding and the reviewer agreed that creating an additional access point to the school would fall short of these standards. We also liaised with PCSO Rowan about the issue who has given us the following statement to share with parents:

*'I have been liaising with the school about the gate to the rear of the school grounds, where parents/guardians would like this open at the beginning/end of the school day. They have had an outside independent agency involved to conduct a safeguarding review. The result from the report was not to open the gate, as the school has appropriate safeguarding procedures in place at the beginning and end of the day. Please be mindful it was not the school that made this decision, it was the result of the independent review.'* PCSO Rowan Cornwall Medway Community Safety Unit

Please see the PTFA facebook page

Search St Thomas More fundraising team and ask to join.

