



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

21st October 2022

## Dates for your diary

### Half Term

24th—28th October

### Term 2 Begins

31st October 2022

### 4th November 2022

Bring your parents to maths

### 3rd January 2023

Staff development day

(No children in school)

### 4th January 2023

Start of term 3

### 13th January 2023

Bring your parents to writing

### 3rd March 2023

Bring your parents to Geography

### 28th April 2023

Bring your parents to History

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

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of Term 1! It has been a busy week with our Parents Evenings, Bring Your Parent to RE and our Fundraising Team's Coffee Morning. It has been lovely to see so many of our parents in school this week and we hope you enjoyed your experiences. Term 2 will start on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and children will be required to wear winter uniform, please ensure that you have checked the 'Uniform' section on the school website to make sure that all items, shoes, haircuts and bags are correct.

Please remember to let us know if your child's collection arrangements for the end of the day change. We will only release your children to people that are on the list of authorised people that you have provided us with. If your child needs to be collected by somebody else or if they need to be able to walk home please inform the office who will inform your child's class teacher. If we have not received authorisation from a child's parent, we will not be able to release that child until we have been able to gain consent from their parent.

The month of October is 'Black History Month', please read the attached document which shares lots of the learning and activities the children across the school have partaken in this month. Although we celebrate Black History Month across the whole school in October, diversity is an integral part of our curriculum and, as such, in recent years we have adapted and updated our curriculum to be reflective of our children's heritage. We have included books whose authors and/or characters are culturally diverse, we have woven a wide range of inspirational figures across genders, fields, socioeconomic backgrounds, race and religions into our subjects to help children see their own culture and history represented across a range of areas and to help them understand the huge array of future life opportunities that lie ahead for all of them. Our RE Week and our Diversity Week, which come later in the year, also help the children to learn about, and celebrate, different faiths, cultures and physical or emotional challenges.

We strive to ensure that through our curriculum, ethos and interactions, all year round we are teaching our children about cultures, their history and celebrating the wonderful range of diversity that our school, our local community and the wider world provides. Please have a look on our website to see what our diverse curriculum offers and to find out more about what we have taught our children during Black History Month.

## **Parent Conduct**

Unfortunately, we are once again having to include on the newsletter a section about the behaviour of some parents. This week alone we have had 5 separate incidents where parents of St Thomas More have behaved in an abusive and/or aggressive manner. Myself, some staff members and some parents have all been treated in an unacceptable manner. We always encourage parents to come and discuss any questions or queries and we will always do our utmost to help our families, however, being shouted at, being insulted and treated in an aggressive and intimidating manner is completely unacceptable. We will not tolerate this behaviour towards any staff or parents, we should all be able to come to work, or to collect our children, without fear of being treated in this way. Staff have been instructed to terminate any conversation with a parent who is behaving in this manner. Any parent who does behave in this manner will be reported to the Governors and will be asked to refrain from coming on to the school site and we advise anyone who is treated in this manner outside the school premises to report the incident to the police.

Have a restful break.

Mrs Ebdon



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A big Happy Birthday to..

Amelia M

Effe T

Jamie W

Simona A

Dideola I-O

Lionel F

Samuel D



**Parent workshop 9:00 - 10:00 Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Understanding your child's behaviour and anxiety workshop**

(led by our new Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner)

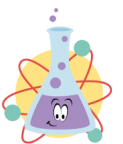
Please email [sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk](mailto:sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk) or call the school office to book a place.

Donations for OPAL

We would be very grateful for donations of the following

Small world play i.e dinosaurs/animals/ people

Wooden pallets (please call the office if you can help with these)



**Science—Whizz Pop Bang**

Children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Jade, at Whizz Pop Bang Science this week. They learnt about friction in a very entertaining way!



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Merit award

Michelle A RC

Micah S RC

Lucrece O RR

Alice W RR

Iky N 1D

Lucas D 1J

Marley P 2F

Lila M 2S

George F 3B

Emmanuel A 3T

Daniel O 4L

Sophie B 4S

Jeremiah D 5C

Liam S 5M

Lizandra S 6C

David S 6F

Well done everyone



In St Thomas More we have created a diverse curriculum, which allows children to learn deeply about Black History. Throughout the year, children learn about key figures such as Mary Seacole, Rosa Parks, Yaa Asantewaa, the Benin Nation, African cultures and traditions and civil rights, please head to our 'curriculum' section and 'classes' section on the school website to see how it is embedded throughout the year and not just October.



For Black History Month this year, each year group have focused on a specific area.

**In Reception**, the children have looked at the African culture, they have listened and danced to African music, looked at African patterns and made African necklaces. We also listened to 'Tata Story time' which is a story time session with famous black actors who read aloud stories written famous black authors. Most importantly, children have learned why it is important to learn about Black History.

**In Year one**, they have learnt about Martin Luther King and how important he was. They also found out that Stevie Wonder wrote his song "Happy Birthday" as part of a campaign to have a day of celebration in honour of Martin Luther King on his birthday every year. They listened to the song and made birthday cards using the words, peace, love, equality, and hope inside.

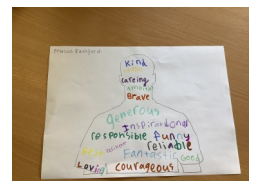
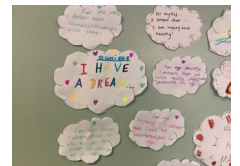
**In Year Two**, they have learnt about Sislin Fay Allen, the first black police officer through a whole class reading session and discussion, alongside this they have watched a number of videos from 'Kids Black History' on Youtube, which have provided children with additional information about Black History.

**In Year Three**, the children have spent time talking about Nelson Mandela, Michelle Obama and Marcus Rashford (using the little people big dreams books) children have written why these three people are influential and how they have had a positive impact on people's lives.

**In Year Four**, they have focussed on Martin Luther King and his 'I have a dream' speech. They have analysed and watched his speech and looked at what they thought each part meant. They have then made their own 'I have a dream' clouds that include dreams for themselves, our school, our country and our world.

**In Year Five**, they have been looking at a range of civil rights activists during their humanities topic. The civil rights activists they have looked are: Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

**Year Six** In Year Six, they have celebrated Simone Biles and learnt about her achievements in gymnastics as well as watching her floor routines that secured her Gold medals at the Olympics, they then used elements of this video to help them in their gymnastics lessons when using flight over apparatus.



When learning about similarities and differences between World War 2 and the Civil War, they discussed and organised facts about each War. They learnt that the abolishment of slavery was the catalyst of the Civil War and discussed why this was and how this impacted the views and opinions between the North and the South.



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## 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

## Tuck shop dates

Support our PTFA and pick yourself up a sweet treat.

**3rd November**

**17th November**

**1st December**

**15th December**

**Junior playground after the end of the school day**

## Applying for a Secondary Placement

The process is now open for parents to apply for a secondary place for their child for September 2023. The deadline for applications is Monday 31st October at 5pm - here is the link to apply: [https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools\\_and\\_learning/1061/apply-ing\\_for\\_a\\_secondary\\_school\\_place](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1061/apply-ing_for_a_secondary_school_place)



## Reception Places

You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019.

Please contact the office if you could like to book a tour of St Thomas More in preparation for securing your child's place.

Here is a link for further information: [https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools\\_and\\_learning/1059/applying\\_for\\_a\\_primary\\_school\\_place](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1059/applying_for_a_primary_school_place)