



St Thomas More School Newsletter

6th September 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear St Thomas More School Community,

I am writing to you with great excitement and a profound sense of gratitude as I begin my journey as the Executive Head Teacher of St Thomas More. It is a true privilege to become part of such a vibrant and welcoming school family and community.

With 20 years of experience in education, I am deeply passionate about helping children reach their full potential and ensuring they are provided with opportunities that will benefit their educational journey. I firmly believe that education is not just a profession but a vocation and an honor. It is a joy and a privilege to work with children each day and to be part of their growth and development. I continue to serve as the Head Teacher of St Michaels RC Primary, and prior to that, I had the pleasure of leading an international school in Lagos, Nigeria. Each of these experiences has enriched my perspective and deepened my commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment. I look forward to working closely with you all—students, parents, staff, and the wider community—to continue building on the school's proud tradition of excellence. Thank you for welcoming me into this wonderful community. I am eager to meet each of you and to begin our collaborative journey together.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Nicola Collins

Interim Executive Head Teacher

The children have had a great start to the new academic year, and it has been lovely visiting classes this week to see learning in action. Y1 were enjoying their phonics and reading a story about playing superheroes. Y2 were busy trying to solve a mystery with some clues (a bunch of flowers, a picture of bear and bow tie) and were trying to find out what their new story might be about with lots of exciting discussion. Y3 were taking part in Prayer & Liturgy and watched a short clip about 'The Parable of the Seed' with lots of partner talk about the seed starting to grow just as the word of God starts to deepen and grow within us. Y4 amazed me with their maths learning and were able to talk about place value knowledgeably showing what they could remember and were keen to show me their work. Y5 again amazed me with learning about place value and numbers up to 1 million and were also excited to tell me about their new topic of 'Space' and what they already know. Y6 were visualising a text which involved lots of opportunities for drama with their core text 'The Silver Sword' and I definitely saw some actors in the making! I hope you have fabulous weekend and as this Sunday is 'Education Sunday' where we celebrate the importance of Catholic education, our prayer reflects this.

Lord Jesus

God of love and life,

We pray for every member of our community, both close to home and globally, who is returning to school.

We pray for their places of education to be overflowing with creativity, inspiration and opportunity.

We pray for your peace to fill the classrooms and dining halls, the playgrounds and school buses, and the hearts and minds of those who are worried about returning to school.

We pray that you will equip the teachers and teaching assistants with the tools they need to help the children and young people in their care to fulfil their potential.

We commend our children and young people into your care.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Please follow this link to see our Catholic School Inspectorate report which took place in the last academic year: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnbpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/media/wf2hzlmw/published-report-05-09-24.pdf>

Mrs Le Breton

Acting Head of School



Merit Award

1S Axel

1C Juwon

2D Ryan

2D Arya

2F Charlie

3B Lenny

3L Charlie

4L Emmanuella

4S Arabella

5W Charis

5C Zac

6B OG

6B Rosie-Leigh

6F Isla



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Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

[Cashpot for Schools Terms & Conditions](#) [Asda Rewards terms & Conditions](#)

- 1** Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app
Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select a specific primary school or select 'Schools in Need'.
- 2** Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com
Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan.
- 3** Asda does the rest
The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to schools to spend on what they need most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.

Once opted in and selected a school, we will add £1 to your chosen schools Cashpot to help get them started.
Each school will get an additional £50 added to their Cashpot, after at least one customer has shopped and scanned their Rewards app.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

Asthma Medication

There was lots of asthma medication left over at the end of last term. If it is not collected by Friday 13th September we will dispose of it.

OPAL Request

As part of our outdoor play and learning, we would like to restock our loose parts so that the children can create obstacle courses. If you are able to donate the following items for our loose parts play, please contact the office to arrange handover of items.

- Tyres

Unused decking planks (please ensure that there are no nails or screws in them)

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Baxter



Punctuality Peacock

1S 3B 5C 6B



Attendance Anteater

2D

Whole School Attendance

96.1%



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Term 1

9th September 2024

EYFS start 9.15—11.15

13th September 2024

Beginnings Mass 9.30

16th September 2024

EYFS in full time

17th September 2024

Medway Test in school Y6

8.30 start

18th September 2024

Medway Test in School Y6

8.30 start

19th September 2024

Flu vaccines

23rd September 2024

EYFS & Y6 height and weight

25th September 2024

Y6 Chessington Trip

4th October 2024

Harvest Festival Mass
9.30am—Church

9th October 2024

Y6 Liturgy 9.15-9.25—Hall

10th October 2024

Individual School photos

10th October 2024

Y3 Stoneage workshop

11th October 2024

BYPT Reading/Phonics Y1-6
workshop 9.15-9.45

11th October 2024

Reading workshop—Hall
2-2.30 followed by Phonics
workshop 2.30-3

16th October 2024

Parents Evening 4-7

17th October 2024

Parents Evening 5-8

18th October 2024

Last day of Term 1

Term 2

28th October 2024

Term 2 begins

30th October 2024

Y5 Liturgy 9.15-9.45

1st November 2024

All Saints Day & All Souls
Mass in Church 0.30

8th November 2024

BYPT Maths Y1-6 9.15-9.45

8th November 2024

Maths Workshop for par-
ents—Hall 10-10.30

20th November 2024

Y4 Liturgy 9.15-9.45

25th November 2024

Book Fair

2nd December 2024

EYFS PJ Day

2nd December 2024

KS1 Panto

6th December 2024

Christmas Fair KS2 Play-
ground 3.30-4.30

11th December 2024

Christmas Productions

EYFS & KS1 9.15-10

KS2 10.15-11

£2 per ticket

12th December 2024

Christmas Production

EYFS & KS1 3.30-4.15

KS2 4.30-5.15

£2 per ticket

13th December 2024

Mass—Church 9.30

16th December 2024

KS2 Panto Central Theatre

17th December 2024

Children's Christmas lunch

19th December 2024

End of Term 2

20th December 2024

SDD





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SEN support

Individual provision and school-based support plans were sent home for children with additional needs who are maintained on the school SEN support register at the end of last term. Should you have any questions regarding the targets set or the support in place for your child, please discuss this with the Class Teacher.

Mrs Austin our SENDCO is also available if required to discuss any questions or queries that you may have. If you would like to arrange a call or meeting please call via the office **01634864701** or email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

Dear Parents

Please sign up to our fantastic resource The National College where you can find lots of useful information to support young adults, children including those with SEN and yourself. There is a whole host of information about Disney+, Snapchat, Roblox, YouTube, Whatsapp, conversation starters to help parents talk to their children about their mental health, cyberbullying, tips for stronger passwords, artificial intelligence and much, much more.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's online habits, speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance or contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head, Mrs Le Breton if you believe a child is at risk of harm.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-8>

If your child has been a victim of online bullying and has had a nasty message, picture or video posted about them, you can ask the school for support to help find out who might have posted the content. In addition to your child speaking to you, they may wish to talk to someone outside of the family about what has happened to them and how it made them feel. Let them know that they can always call Childline with any worry, big or small on 0800 11 11. Within school, all children have posters available to them with the telephone number and also who to speak to if they're worried. Children also have a safeguarding notice board and have had a safeguarding assembly at the start of this academic year to support them.

If you are worried about a child, please contact Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership to report your concerns or contact the school's safeguarding team for further support in doing so. You can also report through the NSPCC.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child/2

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/>

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead/Acting Head of School

Mrs Deamer (Jody) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Pastoral Manager