



St Thomas More School Newsletter

14th March 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

This week, we have begun our Lenten journey by thinking deeply about the First Sunday of Lent and the time Jesus spent in the desert. The children explored the challenges He faced, the temptations He overcame, and how He remained faithful to what God wanted for Him. Through discussion, sharing of the Gospel of Luke, they considered how Jesus' experience related to their own lives. They thought about the difficulties they may have encountered in their personal journeys and how, like Jesus, they can find strength in their faith to make good choices. As we continue through Lent, we encourage you to speak with your child about their reflections and how they can embrace this season as a time of growth, prayer, and trust in God's guidance too.



Our Reception children had a very special visitor on Tuesday – our Early Years Governor April, and they were so excited to welcome her into their classrooms again and proudly sharing their learning with her. It was wonderful to see them engaging so enthusiastically, talking about their activities, and showcasing their growing skills. I would also like to thank the families for joining the children in their 'Bring Your Parent to Religious Education' session yesterday.

Our Year 1 children had the exciting opportunity to perform beautifully and proudly in front of their parents in the school hall, bringing joy and excitement to everyone. It was truly heart-warming to witness their confidence and enthusiasm as they performed. Some of our children also represented us wonderfully at a Music Festival in the Central Theatre, Chatham! Again, they showcased their talents and were first up on stage performing in front of a packed theatre! We would like to thank Mrs Davies and Mrs Wilson for taking them and teaching them the songs.

Our Year 2 children would like to express a heartfelt **thank you** to Father Pawel for his warm welcome into the church. He guided them in learning about the importance of Mass and introduced them to the special vessels used during the service. The children were eager to ask the questions they had prepared in their religion lesson, and Father Pawel answered each one with patience and care. It was a wonderful experience that deepened their understanding of our faith, and we truly appreciate his time and kindness!



Our Year 3 children also visited Father Pawel at the church as part of their Religious Education topic on the Mass. Father Pawel explained the significance of each part of the Mass and the role we play in it. They also had the opportunity to ask him questions, particularly about the Bible - how it was written and why it's so important for us to listen to the Word of God. It was a valuable experience that deepened our understanding of the Mass and our faith.

Our Year 4 Children have been deeply engaged in learning about **Holy Week**, reflecting on its significance and meaning. As part of this, they have been writing *palm leaf prayers*, which have been heartfelt and thoughtful. It has been wonderful to see how the children have embraced the themes of faith, reflection, and hope that are central to Holy Week.

Our Year 5 have been out and about in the local area, completing a traffic study as part of their Humanities topic on the local environment. They have been exploring the infrastructure of Walderslade and comparing it to that of Rochester, examining the differences between the two areas. It has been a fantastic hands-on learning experience, giving the children a real-world understanding of geography, urban planning and the environment.



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Our Year 6 Children have been learning about animals' adaptations to their environments and to celebrate British Science Week's theme of 'Change and Adapt', they thoroughly enjoyed creating their own 'hybrid' animal and deciding on which adaptations it needed to survive its environment. From a Polagori to a Pennit (and many more creative designs), Year 6 combined great scientific knowledge with fantastic creativity!

British Science Week

To celebrate British Science week, all classes explored the theme "**Change and Adapt**" through exciting scientific investigations! Pupils got creative by **designing hybrid animals**, imagining how different species might evolve to survive in new environments. They also worked on **adapting games for disabled children**, considering how small changes can make activities more inclusive for everyone. Another fascinating investigation focused on **testing which items change and break down easily in water**, helping to understand what can (and can't!) be safely flushed away. It's been a fantastic week of curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving and we would like to thank all the teachers and in particular, Mrs Fitzgerald for all of her hard work in organising the week.

Farewell

We would like to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to Mr Link, our student teacher from Canterbury Christchurch University, who has been with us over the past few weeks as part of his placement. It is always a privilege to support students making their first steps into the teaching profession. Throughout his time with us, he has shown dedication, passion, and a strong commitment to helping our children grow and learn. We have no doubt that his future in education will be bright, and we wish him all the very best as he embarks on his teaching career.

Remember to check all forthcoming dates, particularly for Parent Evenings at the end of this term and don't forget to follow us on social media (Facebook) to see photos of children and what they've been up to!

Have a fantastic weekend.

Mrs Le Breton



God of light, you sent your son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to make a change in our world, that all people may live free from poverty and hunger. Amen

Medway's Local Offer website is undergoing extensive improvements.

It is now called the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) information hub**

Take a look at the link below - lots of information for families regarding schools, health, social care, clubs, activities etc

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_send_information_hub



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Merit Award

- RC Nina
- RR Eden
- 1C Leo
- 1S Sophie
- 2D Joel
- 2D Ninuola
- 2F Joshua
- 3B Nicholas
- 3L Nileyah
- 4L Logan
- 4L Brianna
- 4S Demilade
- 4L Chigozie
- 5W Maya
- 5C Nesia
- 5C Elizabeth
- 6B Grace
- 6B Sabrina
- 6F Sofia

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



Punctuality Peacock

3B



Attendance Anteater

4S, 5W

Whole School Attendance

96.4%

Well done this is fantastic.

We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025 Challenge!

Starting on Monday 24th March until Friday 4th April, join us by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school as part of the UK's biggest inter-school active travel challenge!

Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel aims to inspire families to make active journeys to boost health, improve air quality and discover how these changes make a difference to the world around them. It's free to take part and there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!



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



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Term 4

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

KS2 Stations of the Cross

4th April 2025

End of Term 4

Term 5

24th April 2025

Y4 Multiplication check meeting 3.30pm



School Holiday Dates

24/25

Easter Break

7th April –21st April

22 April SDD

May Half Term

26th May—30th May

SDD

23rd & 24th June

Summer Term ends

22nd July 2025

OPAL request

Do you have any of the following that you would be willing to donate to our OPAL resources

Hats i.e top hats, ladies hats, cowboy/girl hats (not baseball caps or woolly hats)

Wigs—any colour, length or style

Capes

Tutu's

We are also looking for unused outdoor decking planks





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Jody's Mothers Day Gift Shop

Jody will be running her Mother's Day Gift Shop this year on 27th & 28th March 2025.

Gifts will be priced at £3.50 and children will be taken, class by class, to pick from a selection. Each child will be given a bag that can be personalised by them.

The event will be on MCAS under Products.



Scouts 14th Medway Towns

14th Medway Beavers

We have space for a few new members from Easter.

Age 6-8.5 boys and girls

Thursday 17.45—19.15 in St Simon St Stock Hall

Contact: fourteenthmedwaytowns@gmail.com

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.