



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

2nd May 2025

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

Dear Parents & Carers

This week, we began with our *Celebration of the Word* based on the Gospel according to John. The powerful words, "Peace be with you," resonated deeply with all of us, offering a moment of reflection and connection. Our students had the opportunity to join in as these words were read aloud, creating a shared experience of peace and unity.



The Gospel story we reflected on tells the account of when Thomas doubted the disciples' message of Jesus' resurrection. It is a beautiful reminder of faith, trust, and the importance of supporting one another, especially when doubt and uncertainty arise. The children were able to engage with this story, discussing Thomas' journey from doubt to belief, and how we, too, can find comfort and strength in faith.

In addition to this, Year 1 had the wonderful opportunity to lead their own *Celebration of the Word* for their families on Wednesday. The children's singing was joyful and heartfelt, and it was a beautiful occasion to celebrate faith together as a community. Their performance was a perfect reminder of the spirit of peace and joy that we continue to foster in our school. Thank you to everyone who attended.

## Promoting Peace through Catholic Social Teaching

This week, the children have been actively sharing their thoughts on what "peace" means to them and how they are promoting peace in their daily lives. Through their reflections, they have expressed their understanding of peace as kindness, forgiveness, respect, and helping others. Many children have taken steps to show peace through actions, whether it's offering a helping hand, speaking words of encouragement, or showing empathy towards others.



These actions reflect our commitment to embedding the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, such as *Human Dignity* and *Solidarity*, into our school community. It's inspiring to see how the children are not only learning about peace, but also living it out each day.

## Opportunities for Prayer

### Honouring Mary in the Month of May

Yesterday marked the beginning of May, a month dedicated to our Mother, Mary. We began this special time by praying a decade of the Rosary in her honour. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us in prayer this morning. We will continue this tradition every Thursday throughout May at 8:40 a.m. in our prayer garden in front of the office. It's a lovely opportunity to take a few quiet moments to reflect and pray to Mary together.

May is a special time for reflection, prayer, and devotion to Mary, and we are excited to share that we will be offering opportunities for you and your family to join us in prayer during this blessed month each week by Our Lady at the front of the school.

## What's been happening?

Year 3 had a truly wonderful trip to Kent Life this week! The children had an enriching and enjoyable experience as they explored the historic farm, learning about life in the past as Romans and engaging in hands-on activities. It was an excellent opportunity for the children to connect with nature, history, and the local community. Throughout the day, the children had the chance to interact with farm animals and explore the heritage village. It was a fun and educational experience that brought history to life in a way that classroom lessons simply can't. Thank you to all parents who supported the children.



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Year 2 have been focusing on developing control and precision during PE by navigating around cones and completing set courses. They worked hard to stay in control while moving and also strengthened their balance, coordination and focus in a fun and active way.



**Head over to our Facebook page to see lots more!**

On Thursday, our Year 4 & Year 5 parents and children had the opportunity to meet with staff from Holcombe Grammar school who wanted to talk to us about the changes to their provision and becoming a co-educational school from September 2026. Thank you to everyone who attended, I hope you find it useful.

## **Breakfast and After School Club**

This is a friendly reminder that, as previously communicated, all wraparound care bookings must be made through the school app. We will **no longer be accepting bookings over the phone** so please do not ask the office staff to do so. We have removed the need to book 24 hours prior to assist parents with last minute changes. Please remember that **payment is required at the time of booking** to secure a place for your child. There are still parents who are not following our procedures and this is impacting on the workload for our office staff. Additionally, if your child is not booked in for wraparound care, it is essential that you collect them on time at 3:15pm. There are some parents who repeatedly arrive late and this is unacceptable. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff available to supervise children beyond this time. Again, chasing parents for payments who leave their children without booking, also increases pressure on our office staff who have to continually speak to parents and chase debts. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us manage wraparound care effectively.

## **What's coming up?**

### **Year 6 SATs**

As the KS2 SATs assessments approach, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and perseverance that both the children and their families have shown throughout this journey. Year 6 has been a year of growth, learning, and overcoming challenges, and everyone has given their best effort every step of the way. To the children: You've put in countless hours of effort, and your hard work will shine through. You've grown not just in knowledge, but in character, resilience, and confidence. This is your time to show what you are capable of, and I believe in every one of you.

To the parents: Thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement. Your love, care, and belief in your child's abilities have made all the difference. Together, you've created an environment of growth and positivity that has helped them reach this important milestone.

As you approach the assessments, remember that this is just one part of a much bigger journey. Success is not only about the results but about the growth you've experienced along the way. I wish you all the best of luck – you truly deserve to succeed, and I am confident that you will! You will all be an asset to your new secondary school!

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mrs Le Breton



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Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,  
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,  
whom you made successor of Peter  
and shepherd of your Church,  
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven  
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,  
which he faithfully ministered on earth.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace.  
Amen.

## St Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade

Our Parish is primarily a place of worship. The very centre of our prayer is Jesus Christ whose Eucharist we celebrate nearly every day. Listed below are the times of our weekly Masses and Services. For more details you can look at our [Parish Diary](#) Masses are celebrated as follows:

Weekends:

Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9.00 am  
11.00 am

Weekdays:

Monday 10.00 am Mass  
Tuesday 10.00 am Mass  
Wednesday 10.00 am Mass  
2pm – 10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Thursday 10.00 am Mass  
Friday 8.00 pm Mass

Holy Days of Obligation:

8.00 pm Vigil Mass  
10.00 am Morning Mass  
8.00 pm Evening Mass



During holiday periods, please consult the weekly newsletters for the times of all the Services.  
If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a special intention, please [contact](#) the Parish Office.

The Archdiocese of Southwark guideline for a Mass intention stipend is £10.00. Reconciliation (Confession) is available on Friday from 7.15 pm - 7.45 pm and Saturday from 5.15 pm – 5.45 pm also by appointment, please call: 07305 831925. Thank you



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Merit Award

RC Oliva  
RR Oliva  
1C Nathaniel  
1S Tyler  
2D Kieran  
2F Daisy  
3B Edward  
3L Jamian  
3L Shae  
4L Lucas  
4L Kara  
4S Georgia  
4S Arabella  
5W Jemima  
5W Anuki  
5C Sophia  
6B Ivy  
6F Milyana

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



**Punctuality  
Peacock**

3B, 6B



**Attendance  
Anteater**

2D

**Whole School Attendance**

96.3%

We are aiming for at least 97% whole school attendance.

## VE Day Celebrations – Thursday 8th May

We're excited to let you know that we will be marking **VE Day** on **Thursday 8th May** with a day of celebration and remembrance.

To honour this important occasion, we're inviting all children to come to school dressed in **red, white, and blue**.

Throughout the day, children will take part in a range of classroom activities to help them learn about the significance of VE Day and why it is remembered.

We are also kindly asking for a **£1 donation**, which will go towards raising funds for **new playground equipment**. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for helping us make this a special day of learning and reflection.



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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## Term 5

### Thursday 8th May 2025

VE Day Celebration

### Friday 9th May 2025

Marian Mass 9.30am

### 23rd May 2025

End of Term 5

## Term 6

### 4th June 2025

Parent Forum 5.45pm

Understanding Assessment at  
STM

### Friday 20th June 2025

St Thomas More Mass 9.30am

### 23rd & 24th June 2025

SDD—No children in school

### Friday 18th July 2025

Leavers Mass 9.30am

## School Holiday Dates

### 24/25

### **May Half Term**

26th May—30th May

### **SDD**

23rd & 24th June

### **Summer Term ends**

22nd July 2025



## **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#:~:t=If%20you%20think%20the%20child,hours%20on%2003000%20419%20191](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child#:~:t=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.