



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

17th November 2023

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



## Merit Award

RR Zara

RC Louie

1S Ladiamond

1C Freya

1C Micah

2F Joel

2D Barney

2D Chimnanu

3B Tireni

3B Blake

3L Jake

3L Elliott

4S Elliott

4S Akif

4L Teniola

5C Sara

5C Samuel

5M Blade

6C Didier-Dylan

6C Nancy-Mae

6F Zoe

Dear Parents,

This week is anti-bullying week and we started the week with an assembly about kindness as Monday was World Kindness Day. We learned that showing kindness promotes the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of 'Solidarity', in that showing kindness shows that we care, and 'Peace', in that by demonstrating kindness to others we hope that this will encourage others to do so – creating a culture of kindness in treating others the way we have been treated.

We discussed how it is easy to be kind to others that are kind to us but it can be more difficult to be kind to people who have not treated us in this way but this is what Jesus calls us to do. We also learned about how it is important to be kind to ourselves and, too often, we are helpful and supportive to others but we don't always treat ourselves in the same manner when we make mistakes or are finding something difficult – we talked about how we are all made in God's image and He wants us to show the same kindness and compassion to ourselves as we do to others.

We would like to say a massive thank to Nichole Fitzmaurice and Lily Burbidge, from Street Academy, who ran a Matilda the Musical workshop for children in Years 3, 4 and 5. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing dancing, singing and acting skills, and so did the teachers!

This week we continued supporting our children with learning how to be safe, following on from our older children learning about how to be safe online with their 'Harms' workshop our Year 1 children learned about Road Safety and the other year groups will also be learning about this in the coming weeks.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

A prayer for Children in Need by Amaziah

Dear God

Please take care of the children in need and help them to find the support they need.  
Help people to raise lots of money to help as many children as possible.

Amen

We have raised £315.50 for our dotty/spotty day so far, thank you very much.

Building stronger families  
**Anxiety**  
A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS  
of Primary School Aged Children

Thursday 23rd November 10:00am - 12:00pm  
at The Academy of Woodlands, Woodlands Road,  
Gillingham ME7 2DU  
**Booking Required**

St Simon Stock Parish  
Bleakwood Rd., Walderslade ME5 0NF  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
**Christmas Fayre** **FREE ENTRY**  
11am - 3pm

Some great stalls: gifts, Christmas crafts, bottle tombola, toys, raffle for food hampers, Christmas card, mini xmas gifts from 1.5 £  
The mulled punch & homemade cakes!  
Wouldn't it be great to get some Christmas gifts?



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## Term 2

### 1st December 2023

KS1 Panto (in school)

### 4th December 2023

Advent Wreath blessing  
assembly

### 5th & 6th December 2023

Secret Santa presents on  
sale

### 11th December 2023

Christmas project week  
Tombola Tag Day  
Hartbeeps Magic Sprinkles  
Yr R

### 13th December 2023

KS1 Christmas Production  
9.30  
KS2 Christmas Production  
13.45

### 14th December 2023

Meet Father Christmas  
Christmas lunch  
All year groups Christmas  
production 4pm

### 15th December 2023

Advent Mass lead by 5M  
Christmas Fayre

### 19th December 2023

KS2 Aladdin

### 20th December 2023

End of Term 2

## Term 3

### 3rd January 2024

Start of Term 3

### 9th February 2024

End of Term 3

## Term 4

### 19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

## Parish News

Please pray for the new altar servers who have a training session at 10am this Saturday (18th).

Want to have fun with your pre-schooler but keep your home mess free? Come to Messy Church in the Parish room (in the Church) this Monday! The theme is Noah's Ark. There will be playdough, paint (aprons provided), colouring, stickers, water play, sensory bins, musical instruments and toys to explore. Arrive from 8.45, enjoy quality play (that you don't have to clear up), have a biscuit, listen to a story and sing. The session will be finished by 9.50. (Messy Church is run by Mrs Wilson.)

Please remember the Parish Christmas Fayre next weekend, 25th November from 11am to 3pm. Free entry! Please note, if you would like to volunteer to help at the Christmas Fayre, there is a list in the Church porch where you can sign up.

For prayer groups and other Parish information, please see the Parish website.



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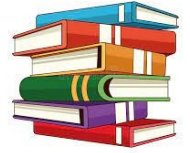
## Fundraising Team



You will see that we have added the Fund raising dates to the calendar, more information about these events/activities will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

We are starting to plan the Christmas Fayre, if you have any ideas then please do either email me (Jody) flo@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk or message the Fundraising Facebook page. As usual we will be having a Christmas Raffle so are looking for donations, if you have links to a business that could make a donation it would be greatly appreciated, it does not necessarily have to be something that they sell/provide, last year we had a couple of business's that purchased a gift voucher and donated that, and of course we do share all the names of the business's that have donated to give them some advertisement.

## The book fair is coming!



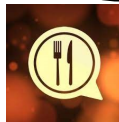
From Monday 27th November- Thursday 30th November, the Scholastic book fair will be open in the hall until 4pm.

Children will have the opportunity to visit with their class to see all the exciting books on offer!

For every book bought, we receive a book for the school!

Payments will be through the Scholastic QR code so please make sure you bring a smartphone and payment card. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept cash.

Don't forget to check Dojo for a digital leaflet showcasing some of the books on offer - for every book bought, we receive a free book for the school!



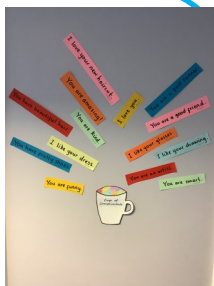
## Year 6 DT lesson

Year 6 have been busy cooking in the kitchen as part of their DT unit. The children have researched and designed their very own 'Come dine with me' 3-course meal menu, and this week the starter pairs have been using their culinary, creative and flair and have prepared some of the following meals: Roasted pepper soap, chicken and pepper skewers, a red pepper salad, quinoa with red pepper, Mexican stuffed peppers and even cheesy stuffed peppers! After, the all important taste testing, the dishes were scored and we all look forward to next week's culinary delights with the hero ingredient being salmon!



## Year 1 Kindness Day

For World Kindness Day Year 1 created 'Keys to Kindness' with lots of ways that we can be kind to one another. We also looked at how kind words make us feel. We practised sharing compliments with each other and filled our 'Cup of Compliments'. I have heard lots of compliments around the classroom this week.



## Bear Hunt

We went on a bear hunt, we had to find bears that had been hidden around school. It was a lot of fun.



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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

**Tobiloba  
Oluwadamilola  
Chiamaka  
Dollcie-Rae  
Anne**

## **Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2024?**

(children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013)

Friday 1st March—National offer day

Please visit [Medway.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/admissions) for more information

## **Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2024?**

You must apply to your home LA i.e if you pay your council tax to Medway you would apply to Medway if you pay it to Maidstone you would apply to Kent.

Medway residents can apply from Monday 4th September

Monday 14th January 2024—Primary applications close

You can read about primary admissions at

[medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Tuesday 16th April 2024—Primary offers sent out



### **Uniform reminder**

Please remember that every child is to be in full school uniform everyday.

If children have earrings these should be removed by their parent/guardian or they should be taped over. Hair should be tied up.



### **Can you help the fundraising team with donations of the following please?**

- Christmas wrapping paper
- Christmas decorations
- Cardboard boxes
- Arts and craft materials/utensils
- Small footballs





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## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding

#### Parental Advice on Contacting Social Media Sites

It is easy for adults and young children to share things online that sometimes they may wish that they hadn't. If a child has posted something that they regret, you should advise them to delete it from their account as quickly as they can. Most websites and social media platforms provide an option for users to report to them to request removal of 'content' such as videos, pictures, comments or profiles that might be upsetting. However, it is important to know that making a report doesn't mean that the content will definitely be removed. Most websites and social media sites have a set of rules (Terms of Use) which they expect people using their site to obey.

**Please click on the following link and scroll down to see the really useful guides of how to report, block or remove content.**

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites/>

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.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/Deputy Head

Mrs Ebdon Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher

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

#### Our Safeguarding team are:

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Ebdon Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Jody Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Simon D'Souza Safeguarding Governor

Sinead Joshi Safeguarding Governor

If you have any questions, or are worried about a child, please speak to us.