



St Thomas More School Newsletter

14th January 2022

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dates for your diary

Term 3

10/02/2022

**Bring your parent to read
(re arranged from 11/2/2022)**

10/02/2022

Term 3 finishes

11/02/2022

Staff Development Day
(no children in school)

Term 4

21/02/2022

Term 4 begins

1/4/2022

Term 4 finishes

4/4/2022-18/4/2022

Easter break

Term 5

19/4/2022

Term 5 begins

2/5/2022

Early May Bank Holiday

26/5/2022

Term 5 finishes

27/5/2022

Staff Development Day
(No children in school)

Term 6

6/6/2022

Term 6 Begins

22/07/2022

Staff Development Day
(No children in school)

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support this week in remaining vigilant with regards to potential covid symptoms and testing and for sending your children in with extra layers to wear in school so that we can keep the school well ventilated.

Part of keeping children safe in school is helping them to be prepared and trained to know how to respond in the event of an emergency whilst in school as well as helping them to understand how to be safe online and in the wider world. We practice with the children what we need to do if we hear the fire bell and what we need to do if we hear the lockdown bell. Once the children are familiar with the routines, we have fire drills and lockdown drills where the children follow the instructions they have practiced. Following practices in Term 1, we had our first fire drill before Christmas and our first lockdown drill yesterday. During the drills the children are reminded that it is a practice and supported by their teachers to remember what we need to do. Following a drill we talk with the children about how practicing these events helps to keep us safe.

We talk to the children about how we have a very safe school, we discuss how we have tall fences around the school, that visitors have to be buzzed into the office by a staff member and that all visitors have to wear lanyards so everyone knows who people are. The children are able to discuss confidently that our fire drills help us to know how to get outside safely if there was a fire and that our lockdown drills help us to stay safe inside if there is a different kind of emergency in school. When discussing the 'different types of emergencies' that could happen in school we are mindful that children need understand why we need lockdown drills but without giving them information that could worry them unnecessarily. Therefore, we explain that if there is a big traffic jam on Walderslade Road a build-up of exhaust fumes could occur and we shut the windows and doors to make sure we don't breathe in the air pollution. We also explain that if a dog escaped from its owner and was running around our school we would shut the windows and doors and stay quiet so that we didn't scare the dog whilst we waited for the owner to come and collect it.

We will continue to help children practice their safety routines and will have fire and lockdown drills once a term. We are very proud of how well our children listen, follow instructions and know how to keep themselves and others safe.

You will all be receiving our Safeguarding Handbook for Parents and Carers via email. This handbook contains frequently asked questions about safeguarding and the procedures we have at St Thomas More School. Within this, there are also links to websites, family support services and wider safeguarding information.

Mrs Ebdon

Breakfast and After School Club

We have had a large number of children arriving late for breakfast club each day. Breakfast club is an **8am start**, unfortunately due to the staff to child ratio in breakfast club we do not have enough staff for them to be able to leave breakfast club and collect late comers. From **Monday 17th January** if you arrive late with your child we will have to ask you to wait for the normal school drop off time which is 8.45.

After school club have two pick up times 4.30 and 5.30, for the same reason as breakfast club we cannot have children leaving outside of these times so if you arrive early you will be asked to wait until the children are brought over at the time you booked.



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Merit Award

Sofia R RR
Amaka N RS
Ebun B 1D
Roman A-B 1J
Israel M 2F
Blake A-B 2S
Amber R 3C
Sofia B 3B
Abigail A 4S
Annabelle C 4T
Gabrielle C 5H
Anastasia R 5M
Owen A 6C
Keeley H 6B

Well done everyone



Brownie Gold Award



Congratulations to Bonnie M who achieved her Gold Award at Brownie's this week. Bonnie is the first Brownie to achieve this award in her troop. Bonnie will move on to Guides and we wish her every success.



**family
lives**

Building resilience in children and teens (Family Lives)

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do.

Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0800 800 2222.

The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Parent information drop in session

The second coffee and chat save the date will be....

Friday 31st January 2022 @ 1.45pm

We are hoping to have the school nurse in attendance

Restrictions permitting.

Please email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk to register your interest.

Please sign in at the office on the day.





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A big Happy Birthday to..

**Sarah D
Sienna A
Noah H
Blake D**



Remainder of Term Dates

September 2021 to July 2022

Term 3

Start: Tuesday 4 January 2022

Finish: Thursday 10 February 2022

SDD Friday 11th February 2022—no children in school

February break: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022

Term 4

Start: Monday 21 February 2022

Finish: Friday 1 April 2022

Good Friday: 15 April 2022

Easter Monday: 18 April 2022

Easter break: Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022

Term 5

Start: Tuesday 19 April 2022

Finish: Thursday 26 May 2022

Early May bank holiday: Monday 2 May 2022—No children in school

SDD Friday 27th May 2022—No children in school

Spring bank holiday: Thursday 2 June 2022 (within late spring break))

Platinum Jubilee bank holiday: Friday 3 June 2022 (within late spring break)

Late spring break: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Term 6

Start: Monday 6 June 2022

Finish: Thursday 21 July 2022

SDD Friday 22 July 2022 - Additional bank holiday for Queens Jubilee—No children in school





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Reminders

Packed lunches—please could you try to use a wrapping other than cling film. Sandwich bags or foil are preferable. Please also remember to provide cutlery if your child has something in their lunch box that requires it as we do not have spares available in school. Please check your child's carton has a straw attached as we have had a few instances where a child has been disappointed that they have not been able to drink their juice carton and have had to have water instead. The PTFA have a limited amount of environmentally friendly sandwich wrap's, we are selling these in school for £3 each there are a variety of designs.

School dinners: Thank you for settling your dinner balances ready for this term.

Office hours: the office is manned 8-4pm. Please use our absence line to report an absence. Please can any non urgent queries be emailed or if you do need to call please call between 10-12. Between 12-2 is our protected admin time and calls may be forwarded to an answerphone.

Earrings: Please remember that earrings need to be removed for school everyday. We will call parents to come in to school to removed earrings if children have them in when they arrive.

Congratulations to Mrs Shepherd who will be having her first baby in May. We wish her and her husband our best wishes and look forward to meeting baby Shepherd.



Attendance & Punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is **93%** which is below the National target of **97%** please help us improve our attendance by ensuring your child is in school every-day ,on time. We have had an increasing number of late students coming through the office recently. We realise that Covid-19 has a negative effect on a child's attendance and this makes it even more important that they are in school on time at all other times.

SAFEGUARDING

What to do if you are worried about a child:

Members of the public and professionals can use a referral and contact form to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or a young person to Medway's First Response service. Once the form has been submitted, it will be reviewed and assessed and action will be taken. Please use the following link:

[Report a child safeguarding concern](#) | [Concerned about a child](#) | [Medway Council](#)

You can also phone 01634 334466 or use the 24 hour emergency number 03000 419 191. You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, Child Line on 0800 1111 or Medway Police on 01622 690 690.

Please remember to go to our Safeguarding section for parents/carers on our school website to learn more about keeping your child safe online. There is also a section for children too with some useful links.

Parents are encouraged to **T.A.L.K** to their children about the dangers.

Talk to your child about online safety. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

- **Agree ground rules** about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn about the platforms** and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know how to use tools**, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Discuss and agree on privacy settings for the platforms and apps your