



St Thomas More School Newsletter

2nd February 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

- RR Scarlett
- RC Elizabeth
- 1S RJ
- 1C Michelle
- 2F Austin
- 2D Busola
- 3B Freddie
- 3B Darasimi
- 3L Layo
- 3L Ebum
- 4S Amelia
- 4S Jemima
- 4L Morireoluwa
- 5C Una
- 5C Joseph
- 5M Jasmine
- 5M Destiny
- 6C Didier
- 6C Teni
- 6F Ocean-Storm

Dear Parents,

This week we have taken part in the National Literacy Trust's National Storytelling Week. This annual event is a celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach our children about the world, allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy, they help us to relax, escape, imagine and develop a love of reading which is essential in developing good literacy skills. The children have had stories read to them by a range of staff across a range of genres over the week. Please ask your child about the new stories they have heard, which they liked best and share some your favourite books at home with them over the weekend that they can tell us about on Monday.

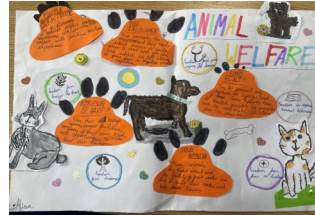
In assembly this morning I announced the winners of our Daisy Dog competition! All the entries were of a fantastic standard and the children clearly took a great deal of care and effort with their pictures, posters, poems, leaflets and stories. We will collate all the entries into a 'Daisy Dog Competition' book which the children will be able to buy. So, the winners of the competition are



Olivia Y2



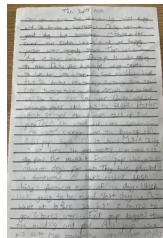
Zuhayb Y1



Alisa Y5



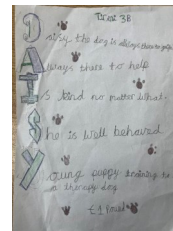
Andy Y5



Jacob Y4



Isla YR



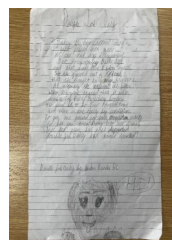
Tireni Y3



Dollcie-Rae Y4



Charis Y4



Lanika Y5



Nicole Y4



Mila Y3



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Our winners with their competition entries and Daisy bookmarks



and doggy keyrings!!

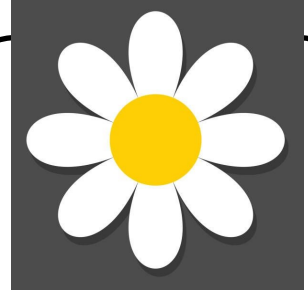


I hope that all of you who were able to attend our Topic Open Afternoon today enjoyed your time with your child. They were all very excited about showing you their learning in History, Geography, Science, RE, Art, DT and more from this term!

Thank you for to everyone who donated (and ate!) the cakes in the School Council's Bake Sale, the money raised from this will be put towards buying some more equipment for OPAL that the children would like.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon



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Term 3

9th February 2024

Tag day in aid of children's mental health

9th February 2024

End of Term 3

Term 4

19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

20th February 2024

Start of Term 4

1st March 2024

Bring your parent to...

Y1-6

1st March 2024

National offer day—
Secondary

22nd March 2024

Topic afternoon

Y1-6

Term 5

15th April 2024

Start of Term 5

6th May 2024

Bank holiday

24th May 2024

Bring your parent to...

Y1-6

24th May 2024

End of Term 5

Term 6

17th—18th June SDD

No children in school



Parish News

The next Messy Church session will be on 19th February. As this is a staff development day, older siblings are welcome. The session will be aimed at pre-schoolers as usual but there will be crafts and activities available for older children to explore. Please note, children must be accompanied as usual and accompanying adults will still be responsible for all the children they bring. Thank you—hope to see you there!

Children's Liturgy is this week



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Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday 6th February we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2024.

Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet. |

This year the campaign will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, for the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents. Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher/myself or Mrs Le Breton, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Kind regards,

Miss Savage and Mrs Murphy

Computing lead and Assistant headteacher





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A big Happy Birthday to..

- Penelope**
- Sienna**
- Caleb**
- Yemisi**
- Michelle**
- Oluwatomilola**
- Eyiloreoluwa**
- Nathaniel**

Friday 9th February

In aid of Children's Mental Health Week

We are holding an "Express Yourself" tag day

Children are welcome to come into school in their own clothes to express their individuality.

Please ensure children can play safely and move comfortably in their chosen outfit.



Smartphones

Are you wondering when to give your child a smartphone? In most families, the question of introducing a smartphone has become less about 'if' but more about 'when' and 'how' so to support you in your decisions and to know about how to assess child readiness, including children with neurodiversity. It talks about how to check whether your child is ready in terms of their emotional responses and whether you feel that they are ready for the social media world.

[Smartphones: Assessing Readiness - Children and Screens](#)



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. Nail polish should not be worn. Hair should be tied up.



Attendance Matters

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Level of concern
0 days	100%	Perfection
2 days	99%	Excellent
5 days	97%	Good
10 days	95%	Slight concern
20 days	90%	Concern
30 days	85%	Significant concern



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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.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.