



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

22nd April 2022

## Dates for your diary

### Term 5

19/4/2022

Term 5 begins

2/5/2022

Early May Bank Holiday

9-12/5/2022

KS2 Sats week

26/5/2022

Term 5 finishes

27/5/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

### Term 6

6/6/2022

Term 6 Begins

12/7/2022

Sports Day (weather permitting)

18/7/2022

Year 6 Production (PM time to be announced)

19/7/2022

Year 6 Production (early evening)

20/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Festival

21/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Mass (KS2 only)

22/07/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

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

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and peaceful Easter break. It was lovely to see the children come back on Tuesday and start off the term with their Easter Egg Hunt, I'm sure you will all join me in thanking everyone working in the Fundraising Team for the wide range of extra-curricular activities that they organise for our children.

It's hard to believe that we have arrived at the summer term already! However, we are looking forward to being able to do all the fun things that we usually do in the summer term that we haven't been able to do over the last few years due to covid. Between now and the end of the academic year, we will be having our RE week, Sports Day (weather permitting!), our visit from the ice cream van, school trips for different year groups, our Year 6 production, Talent Show, sporting competitions within Medway, our Jubilee celebrations and lots of other fun activities!

We had our English workshops for parents run by Mrs Bickmore at the end of term 4 and, this term, Miss Cole and Mrs Wilson, our Maths co-ordinators, will also be running workshops. The letter with details about dates and content will be emailed out today so make sure you look out for it and sign up to the session that you would like to attend.

### **Access to the school site**

Could all parents please wait at the pedestrian gate on Bleakwood Road in the mornings regardless of whether you are dropping your child off for Breakfast Club, early morning booster groups, boxing, other events or the normal start to the day. The driveway gates need to be open in the mornings so that staff, and any parents with mobility issues who have permission, can access the car park. If you do not have an agreed arrangement with the school you are not permitted to drive onto school premises. We are having lots of families walking through the driveway gates and waiting on the drive or in the staff car park. This poses a risk to the children from the cars and also makes it difficult for staff to safely gain access to the site to be able to be at work, on time, each day.

Mrs Ebdon

### **Parent workshops for Mathematics**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 9:15 – 9:45 am – Using MyMaths to support with learning at home (Years 1-6)**

*This session will focus on how to use MyMaths at home, how to access homework tasks and gives you an opportunity to explore the website.*

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 9:15 – 9:45 am – Written calculations (KS1)**

*This session will demonstrate taught methods in school for the four operations within mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and discuss the importance of manipulatives in KS1. EYFS parents are also welcome to attend in readiness for KS1.*

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 9:15 – 9:45 am – Written calculations (KS2)**

*This session will demonstrate taught methods in school for the four operations within mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) using the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach.*



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## Merit Awards

Jamian A RR

Joel D RS

Rachel T 1J

Jakub N 1D

Willow J 1D

Sophia C 2F

Amelia M 2S

Michaela A 3C

Bentley A-B 3B

Isabelle S 4S

Abigail S 4T

Isla C 5H

Edward M 5M

Ella B 6C

Alfie R 6C

Dilys A 6B

## Beacons Easter Garden Competition

### Raising Money for Demelza House

Thank you for all of the lovely Easter garden's that were designed and brought in. We still have a number of children who have not paid their entry money please could you pop this into the office as all money raised is going to Demelza House.

Thank you

## Parent workshop 'Understanding your child's behaviour'

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 9:15 . Please allow 1 hour 30 mins for the session.

## Parent workshop 'Understanding your child's anxiety.'

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 9:15 start. Please allow 1 hour 30 mins for the session.

Both sessions will be run by our Emotional Wellbeing Support practitioner Emily.

Sessions will be held here at St Thomas More School. Please sign in at the office.

To register your attendance , please email [sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk](mailto:sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk)

## Parent Helpers



If anyone would like to come into school as a parent helper for a few hours, or an afternoon, each week please let the office know.

Teachers would greatly appreciate anyone who would be able to come in to hear some of our children read.

Thank you



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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

Maisie M  
Jasroop S  
Zayn M  
Oluwaferanmi A  
Elora C  
Teniola A  
Sebastian M  
Joanna I  
Emmanuel A  
Joshua O  
Freddie F  
Noah F  
Esther O  
Daniel O  
Keetan J  
Isla M  
Benjamin P  
Charles H  
Elliott R  
Georgia T



## Intra house competition winners

25th April 2022

Children from the following houses may come into school wearing an item (i.e hairband/headband) in red (St George's) blue (St Andrew's) in addition to their school uniform OR exchange an item of their school uniform for an item of red/blue clothing

KS1 St Andrew's (blue team)

KS2 St George's (red team)

## Year 6 Leaver Hoodies

If you have not yet ordered and paid for your Year 6 Leaver Hoodie please could you drop your completed form and payment into the office, clearly marked with child's name, class and Year 6 Leaver Hoodie.

We have received some forms without payment so please could you ensure payment is sent in as soon as possible. We cannot accept cheques, in this instance, only cash as the hoodies are being organised by the Year 6 parents.



Thank you



Club Ausome provides much-needed support to children with additional needs and their families. We support families across Medway and the South East. We provide a safe and secure place for our children to make friends and socialise, building their confidence and self-esteem amongst their peers and with other safe adults in order for them to flourish.

Club AUsome has lots of events and activites coming up please visit their website

<https://club-ausome-106734.square.site/>



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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 .

**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 answerphone.

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



An increasing number of children are bringing in items within their packed lunch box that contain nuts.

We have had to ask children to tell their parents that Nutella chocolate spread is not allowed in school. We have children with severe allergies to nuts. There are many alternative snacks and sandwich fillings that do not contain nuts and we politely ask that you use these instead.

## Attendance & Punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is **93.5%** 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**