



St Thomas More School Newsletter

9th May 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents & Carers



I hope you had a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend, whether you joined in the VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations with your community or enjoyed quality time with family.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your enthusiastic support of our VE Day celebrations. Your encouragement for the children to dress in red, white, and blue truly brought the day to life, creating a vibrant and memorable atmosphere.

The children had a fantastic time participating in the activities, and it was wonderful to see them engage with this important part of our history. Your involvement made a significant difference, and we are grateful for your contributions. All funds raised will go directly into our fundraising pot, allowing us to continue enhancing our learning environment and providing the best possible experiences for our children. Thank you once again for your support and for helping make VE Day a special occasion for all. Scroll to the end to see the photos or head over to our Facebook page!

A Moment of Hope and Renewal – Welcome Pope Leo XIV

As we reflect on the significance of the election of our new Pope Leo XIV and this momentous occasion, let us remember that this pivotal moment in the life of the Church is also a source of inspiration and guidance for our shared mission in Catholic education. Together, with the support of our families, we can continue to provide an education that nurtures both the mind and the spirit, preparing our children to be compassionate, thoughtful, and active members of our faith and community and the wider world. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.
Amen.





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Marian Mass

We concluded the week with our Marian Mass, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Year 3B children who did an amazing job! Their dedication, reading, leading and reverence truly enhanced the celebration. We would like to thank Geraldine, the pianist for always leading us in song. We are also deeply grateful to Father Pawel for supporting us on our faith journey. His guidance and presence continue to inspire our community.



Honouring Mary in the Month of May – Prayer Opportunities

May is a special time for reflection, prayer, and devotion to Mary, and we will continue to offer be offering opportunities for you and your family to join us in prayer during this blessed month each week on a Thursday, before the start of school at 8.40am. Please join us by Our Lady at the front of the school. It's a lovely opportunity to take a few quiet moments to reflect and pray to Mary together.

Join Us This Sunday for the St. Simon Stock Feast Day Celebration!

We are delighted to invite you to a joyful community gathering this Sunday after Mass, in honour of St Simon Stock, with a sponsored walk starting at 12.30pm. Let's come together to celebrate faith, friendship, and fun!

Highlights of the Day:

- **Tombola:** Try your luck and win exciting prizes!
- **Homemade Cakes:** Indulge in delicious treats baked by our talented community members.
- **Barbecue:** Enjoy sizzling favourites for all ages.
- **Plant Sale:** Take home a green gift or find the perfect plant for your garden.

Bring your families, friends, and neighbours—let's make this a day to remember as we come together in celebration and community spirit. I look forward to seeing you there!



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First Holy Communion

Soon we will be sharing the wonderful news about the **17 children** preparing for their First Holy Communion on the 17th, 24th, and 31st of May at 2:00 pm. This is a significant milestone in their faith journey, and it's heartening to see such a dedicated group taking this step together. First Holy Communion is a pivotal moment in a Catholic's spiritual life, typically occurring around the ages of 7 or 8. It marks the first time a child receives the Eucharist – the body and blood of Christ during Mass. If you're interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and the significance of the Eucharist, please do contact us.

Year 6 SATS

Looking ahead, next week our Year 6 children will be taking part in the end of Key Stage 2 SATs assessments. They have worked incredibly hard and shown resilience and confidence throughout their preparation. We are immensely proud of how far they have come and wish them all the best during this important week. Remember, if your child is in Year 6, they can arrive at school between **8:20am and 8:30 a.m.** to ensure a calm and focused start to the day.

As I mentioned last week, 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.

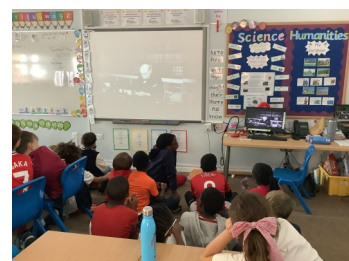
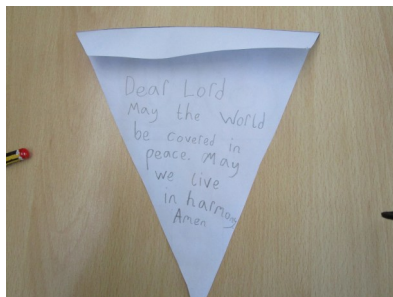
Breakfast and After School Club

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. 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. Thank you to all of those parents who have paid outstanding monies.

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.

Have a fantastic weekend in the sunshine!

Mrs Le Breton





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Merit Award

RC Akein

RR Demiana

1C Ethan

1S Avery

2D

2F Amy

3B Dideola

3L Barney

4L Ronnie

4S Darasimi

5W Jada-Grace

5C Demi

6B Lili

6B Alissa

6F Annie

6F Lyanna

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



Punctuality Peacock

RC, 3L, 3B, 6B



Attendance Anteater

2D, 5W

Whole School Attendance

96.6%

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

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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Term 5

23rd May 2025

End of Term 5

Term 6

17th, 24th & 31st May 2025

First Holy Communion

4th June 2025

Parent Forum 5.45pm

Understanding Assessment at
STM

10th June 2025

Fathers Day Gift Shop

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



Tuck Shop is back

Thursday 15th May

There will be 50p bags
and £1 bags, all sweets
will be prepacked.
Please bring loose
change with you.



**Secondhand Uniform
Sale**

Thursday 15th May

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=ext=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.