



St Thomas More School Newsletter

15th March 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RC Harriet

RR Ethan

1C Sarah

1S Constance

2D Savannah

2F Max

3B Amaziah

3L Logan

4L Emma

4S Lexi

5C Jaxon

5C Ben

5M Joanna

6C Durotimi

6F Sofia

Dear Parents,

This week we have been celebrating Science Week at St Thomas More. Following Mrs Fitzgerald's assembly on Monday morning, all the children have been carrying out investigations to find out if we get faster at things as we get older. The children have been using all their science knowledge and skills to tackle these investigations and to make sure that they are carrying out fair tests. The children have then been moving from the role of scientists into being mathematicians where they have been analysing and presenting their data in different ways to make their conclusion and present the evidence to support this.

Our key stage 1 have been learning and practicing songs over the last few weeks in preparation for their participation in the Infant Music Festival at Chatham Central Theatre on Tuesday, they performed beautifully and were fantastic ambassadors for St Thomas More while they were at the theatre representing our school. The children also then had the opportunity to perform for their parents yesterday, I hope that all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the show!

Year 5 have had a very busy week, they were visited yesterday by the Rochester Bridge Trust to learn about, make and test different bridge types and then today they carried out a traffic survey as part of their work in maths.

Next week we are looking forward to our Stations of the Cross service for all year groups as we continue to reflect on the journey of Christ through the Lenten period and we look forward to seeing as many parents as possible next Friday at our Topic Afternoon where parents can see the work that their children have completed across a range of subjects this term.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Ebdon



We are sad to announce that Miss Campbell will be leaving St Thomas More at the end of this term as Miss Campbell and her family are relocating. I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Campbell for the huge amount of work and time she has put in to helping our Year 6 children fulfil their potential before they leave us to head on to their secondary school adventures. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

KS2 Stations of the Cross Service

On Friday 22nd March at 9.30am parents and Parishoners are welcome to join us for our Stations of the Cross Service. We will be coming together to reflect on the journey that Jesus took to Calvary.

Our smaller children will be meeting with Father in the week to prepare them for Holy Week.





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Term 4

22nd March 2024

Stations of the Cross service
Y3-6

22nd March 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in
2.30pm

26th March 2024

Parents Evening

27th March 2024

Parents Evening

27th March 2024

Easter Egg Hunt



28th March 2024

End of Term 4

Term 5

15th April 2024

Start of Term 5

6th May 2024

Bank holiday

13th May 2024

Year 6 SATS week

24th May 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in
Y1-6

24th May 2024

End of Term 5



Attendance Ant eater

Goes to 2F for 100% attendance
11th to 15th March

Term 6

3rd June 2024

Start of Term 6

17th—18th June

SDD-No children in school

19th June 2024

Children back to school

19th July 2024

End of the academic year



Punctuality Peacock

Goes to 2F and 2D who had no
lates
11th to 15th March

Parish News

Please pray for the children preparing for their first Holy Communion. They have a class this Saturday.

Messy Church is on this Monday (18th March) in the church. The session starts from 8.45 and ends at approximately 9.50. The theme will be Holy Week and all preschoolers are welcome with their adults. Come along to enjoy painting, playdough, stickers, dressing up, sensory activities and lots more. There is **no charge** but donations are welcomed.

Please see attached leaflet for the Easter Triduum Services 2024. Please note, there will be a special Stations of the Cross for children at 10am on Good Friday (29th March)



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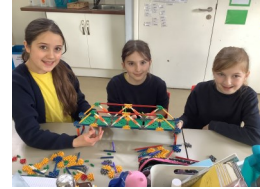
A big Happy Birthday to..

**Harriet
Eleanor
Savannah
Orla
Henry
Keira**

Year 5

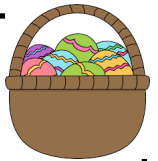
Visit from the Rochester Bridge Trust

Year 5 had a visit from the Rochester Bridge Trust. We learned all about different bridges including beam, arch and truss bridges. We then built a range of different types of bridge and tested how much weight they were able to hold before breaking!



Easter Egg Hunt

27th March 2024



During the school day on March 27th we will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt. Entry to the hunt is £1 and can be paid via MCAS>Clubs>Easter Egg Hunt.

All children taking part will receive a small chocolate egg.



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We are taking part in this, to encourage more children to be active in their journey to school.

This week data has been collected and on average 46% of the school are active on their journey to school. We will be continuing to collect data next week and it would be good to see if we can improve on this score.

Currently 4L are leading the active journey count!

With the current level of roadworks and Medway's School Streets initiative it may help you to park further away and walk, scoot or ride to school.

Protect your child from measles. Book an appointment at an MMR catch-up clinic this March.

Measles isn't just a harmless childhood disease and can lead to serious illness, but it is preventable through two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. Following a rise in cases in England, the NHS are urging parents and carers to make sure their children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations. Catch-up clinics are available to school-aged children, and teens up to 19, in Chatham on Saturday, 2 and Saturday 23 March. To book an appointment phone the School-aged Immunisation Service on 0300 123 5205 or email via kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net. If you're not sure whether your child is up to date with their MMR jabs, look in your child's red book, or check with your GP, who can also offer MMR catch-up appointments .



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Year 1 Music

What a musical week Year 1 have had! On Tuesday 12th March we took part in the KS1 Choral Festival at the Central Theatre Chatham. Our little Year 1 choir sang their hearts out on the stage (which was quite a big thing for them to do!) Then we joined in singing with all the other schools that were there. On Thursday morning we did it all over again, but this time in school with the whole of Year 1 and invited all the parents to come and watch. Well done Year 1, you have worked hard and performed beautifully!



Dropping off/Collecting

We have had a report that a parent is leaving a toddler on the front seat of the car unrestrained whilst the engine is running. This is a safeguarding concern and we strongly recommend that this stops as it is putting a child at risk of harm. Adults witnessing this have informed the school that they will be reporting this, along with the car and registration details to the police. The school will continue to have an adult outside of the school grounds in the morning but we strongly urge anyone witnessing unsafe behaviours or adults putting a child at risk of harm to contact the school, Children's Services or NSPCC whereby a referral can be made anonymously. Thank you for your support in this matter.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/nspcc-helpline/?gclid=aw.ds&qad_source=1&qclid=EAlaIqobChMI3orn04_0hAMVvJJQBh1bfAiCEAAYASAAEqIPtPD_BwE&qclid=aw.ds

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child

SEND update

National ADHD medication shortage and support/advice for parents and carers (below).

[Patient information for ADHD supply disruption :: NHS Kent and Medway \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

Please be aware that the Medway SEND team and Medway Children's Health continue to experience high volumes of referrals which is adding further pressure to pre existing back logs. This does mean that many pupils are being held on waiting lists for long periods of time.

This is a nationwide issue and out of schools control.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please do speak to Mrs Austin our SENDCO

sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

SENDIAS can also offer impartial support and advice - please see below.

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/send/medway-sendias/>



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SEN support

Individual provision and school-based support plans were sent home for children with additional needs who are maintained on the school SEN support register at the end of last term. Should you have any questions regarding the targets set or the support in place for your child, please discuss this with the Class Teacher.

Mrs Austin our SENDCO is also available if required to discuss any questions or queries that you may have. If you would like to arrange a call or meeting please call via the office **01634864701** or email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

Dear Parents

Please sign up to our fantastic resource The National College where you can find lots of useful information to support young adults, children including those with SEN and yourself. There is a whole host of information about Disney+, Snapchat, Roblox, YouTube, Whatsapp, conversation starters to help parents talk to their children about their mental health, cyberbullying, tips for stronger passwords, artificial intelligence and much, much more.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's online habits, speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance or contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head, Mrs Le Breton if you believe a child is at risk of harm.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-8>

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.