



St Thomas More School Newsletter

1st December 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Lilah

RC Elizah

1S Darasimi

1C Aria

2F Iky

2D Sofia

3B Alanei

3L Lewis

4S Jacob

4L Lola-Rose

5C Milyana

5M Tomi

6C Thalia- Rose

6B Annabelle

Dear Parents,

December has arrived! It was lovely to see the children's faces this morning seeing the school decorated for Christmas and watching them hunt around the school to see whether Eddington (our Elf on the Shelf) had returned again from the North Pole and where he was hiding!

We started this week in our Monday assembly with the children learning about the Liturgical year as part of our preparation for Advent, finding out about which colours we use for each liturgical season and why and that the seasons are based on the sacred mysteries of Jesus' birth, life and death.

Our key stage 1 children have had a fantastic day, they have kickstarted the festive fun by coming into school today in their pyjamas to watch their pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, this afternoon! I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Robertson who has organised both the key stage 1 in-school panto and the key stage 2 panto visit to the Central Theatre at the end of the month.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Daisy Update

Hi everyone! I wanted to let you all know how hard I have been working at learning to behave well in school, all the children have been doing an amazing job at ignoring me when I'm working and showing me how to walk and behave when I am walking around the school. I am very excited as, today, I am 6 months old! This week has been a fantastic week for me, over the last few weeks Mrs Ebdon has been taking me into the classrooms so that I can see how to behave when I am in there and then yesterday I sat really still so some of the children were able to stroke me for the first time! I have still got lots more to learn but I think all the teachers and children are very proud of me and I will keep working hard so that I can help all the children in school.

Mrs Ebdon took me shopping last week and bought some Christmas outfits for me, I cannot wait to show you all my new wardrobe!



I've been snuggling up warm and Mrs Ebdon found me a jumper that looks like our school tie!



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Term 2

4th December 2023

Advent Wreath blessing
assembly

5th & 6th December 2023

Secret Santa presents on
sale

11th December 2023

Christmas project week
Tombola Tag Day
Hartbeeps Magic Sprinkles
Yr R

13th December 2023

KS1 Christmas Production
9.30

KS2 Christmas Production
13.45

14th December 2023

Meet Father Christmas
Christmas lunch
All year groups Christmas
production 4pm

15th December 2023

Advent Mass lead by 5M
Christmas Fayre

19th December 2023

KS2 Aladdin

20th December 2023

End of Term 2

Term 3

3rd January 2024

Start of Term 3

9th February 2024

End of Term 3

Term 4

19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

Parish News

Christmas Eve is fast approaching! If your child(ren) would like to take part in the **Nativity play** at 6pm Mass on **Christmas Eve** (24th December) please let **Mrs Wilson** or Mrs Law (at church) know. Any primary school aged child is welcome to join us, even if they have made their first Holy Communion. Older children will have the option to narrate or lead the bidding prayers or they can dress up and support the younger children if they prefer. If your child would like a specific role (Mary, Joseph, shepherd, angel, sheep, donkey etc) please let us know that too and we will do our best to accommodate their request. (Obviously we can only have one Mary and one Joseph!) Please note, we do not have Kings until the Epiphany. Practices will start this week (Sunday 3rd December) and will be between 9am and 11am Masses (to suit as many people as possible). They will start at approximately 10.15 and finish at around 10.45. Times can only be approximate due to Mass. Don't worry if your child can't attend every practice but please come to at least one. It is helpful (but not absolutely essential) if readers come to all three practices (3rd, 10th and 17th). We ask you to provide and bring your child in costume where possible, but will source costumes if needed (as long as we know in advance).

Please pray for the children who are preparing for their first reconciliation as they have classes this Saturday.

On Saturday 2nd December there will be a candlelit Advent carol service at 5.15pm all are welcome.



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Reminder re school start and finish times

We have had an increasing number of students arriving late and also being collected late.

Please remember children come into school from **8.45am** and are **marked late from 9am**. School finishes at **3.15pm**.

If children are persistently collected after 3.30pm we will place them into after school club and you will have a charge of £5 added to your account.

School Fund

School fund is available to pay on MCAS. Out of 312 families we have received 123 payments this is less than half, we realise that this time of year is very expensive but if you haven't paid yet please could you pay in the new year.

Fundraising Team

We are still looking for donations for our Christmas raffle, can you help? If you have links to a business that could make a donation it would be greatly appreciated, it does not necessarily have to be something that they sell/provide, last year we had a couple of business's that purchased a gift voucher and donated that, and of course we do share all the names of the business's that have donated to give them some advertisement.

If you or anyone you know would like a stall please get in touch with us via flo@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk.

Next week we will have our secret santa stall run by our mid-day meal supervisor Mrs Jones and her merry band of helpers. Gifts are £1.50 each and you may purchase more than one gift. Children should come to school with cash in a sealed named envelope which they will take to Mrs Jones to choose their gift/gifts. Please try to give the children the correct money as we are a cashless school so are unable to provide Mrs Jones with a float.



Christmas has arrived—the children were excited to come in and see that the trees are up and the lights are twinkling and of course Edington is back! What adventures will he have this year?





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Andy
Aida
Louie
Farley
Israel
Ethan

Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2024?

(children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013)

Friday 1st March—National offer day

Please visit Medway.gov.uk/admissions for more information

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2024?

You must apply to your home LA i.e if you pay your council tax to Medway you would apply to Medway if you pay it to Maidstone you would apply to Kent.

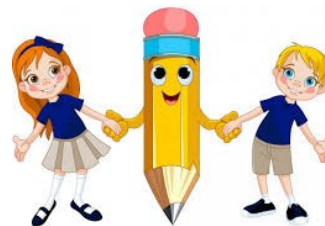
Medway residents can apply from Monday 4th September

Monday 14th January 2024—Primary applications close

You can read about primary admissions at

medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Tuesday 16th April 2024—Primary offers sent out



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. Hair should be tied up.



Can you help the fundraising team with donations of the following please?

Christmas wrapping paper
Christmas decorations
Cardboard boxes
Arts and craft materials/utensils
Small footballs





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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.