



St Thomas More School Newsletter

7th March 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents & Carers



We began our week with our Celebration of Word and the Gospel according to Luke. We wondered how a person could have good treasure in their heart and looked at the Fruits of the Holy Spirit being love, joy, peace, trustfulness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Therefore, our mission this week was to choose a Fruit and try to find ways to live out that Fruit during the week. When you live out the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, people can really notice.

As we journey into the Holy season of Lent, we are delighted to share with you the special ways our school community observed Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, is a time of preparation before the solemn season of Lent begins. Traditionally, it is a day of feasting before the fasting and reflection of Lent. To celebrate, our children learned about the significance of this day. We are sure that many of you took the opportunity to discuss the meaning of Lent at home and probably shared a pancake treat together!



Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, a sacred time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. On this day, children took part in a special Ash Wednesday liturgy where they received ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance and commitment to growing closer to God. We would like to thank you for your continued support nurturing the faith journey of our children and may this Lenten season bring your family peace, reflection, and spiritual growth. We are so proud of our Year 4 children for leading Ash Wednesday Mass this week. Their reverence, participation, and heartfelt prayers truly made it a special and meaningful service for our school community. The children sang beautifully, with joy, and reflected deeply on the significance of this holy season. It was a wonderful way to begin our Lenten journey together, reminding us all of the importance of prayer, sacrifice, and kindness as we prepare for Easter. We would like to say a special thank you to Father Pawel for leading us in this meaningful celebration. His guidance, wisdom, and support are deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for his presence in our school's faith life. We would also like to thank Geraldine for giving up her time to play the piano for us all.

This week we had productive committee meetings with our governors, focusing on the key areas to move our school forward. Their insights are invaluable, and we're excited about the positive steps ahead.

This week we've had lots of exciting things happening from our Reception children taking part in 'Balance Bike' activities and making pancakes out of play doh, Year 1 with their dinosaur workshop, Year 2 have been learning about Samuel Pepys and even made their own quills only to discover how difficult it was to write! Year 3 have been gathering and sharing their amazing volcanoes and are preparing for them to erupt very soon! Year 4 have been looking at maths and art by creating repeated printed patterns, Year 5 have been enjoying some challenging maths lessons by comparing decimals, and our Year 6 children were learning all about angles in a fun and engaging way (it even involved writing on desks!) and we had an amazing day with our children dressed up as book characters for World Book Day! Check out our Facebook posts to see their learning in action!

What's coming up next week?

We have Science workshops for some Year 5 and Year 6 children with St John Fisher, our Year 1 children will be visiting the Central Theatre in Chatham to take part in the Music Festival, Year 1 will perform to parents on Wednesday in the school hall and we have our 'Bring Your Parent to Religious Education' on Thursday 2.30pm -3pm for our **FS parents (Yr R)** but do remember to check out all the dates overleaf.



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St Simon Stock Parish News

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT in Church

During Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7.15pm and Mondays after morning Mass.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING FOR THE MEDWAY FOODBANK

This Lent we would welcome families to donate **any of the 5 different** items listed below that are urgently needed by people in their food parcels. If you would like to donate, please drop your donations to the front office and we will pass them on to Father Pawel.

Packets of instant mashed potato

Tins of fruit

Meal tins e.g. beef stew, chicken curry, chilli con carne etc

Peanut butter (medium jars not large)

Washing up liquid

We wish you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Le Breton

World Book Day





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Merit Award

- RC Ariadne
- RR Andrea
- 1C Tiara
- 1S Nadia
- 2D Zahra
- 2D Greyson
- 2F Vivian
- 3B Iky
- 3L Evan
- 4L Cian
- 4S Freddie
- 5W Thejal
- 5W Ollie
- 5C Emma
- 5C Dollcie-Rae
- 6B Lorenzo
- 6B JD
- 6F Samuel

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



**Punctuality
Peacock**

6B



**Attendance
Anteater**

4S

Whole School Attendance

96.9%

Well done this is fantastic.

Parish News – St Simon Stock

Our Parish Newsletter is produced every week, which is our traditional way of communicating with all parishioners, especially those who are ill and/or housebound. If you are not able to come and pray with us at any given time or simply prefer to download the Newsletter, click on the link below which will take you to our website.

The choir is looking for a pianist to accompany them at their Thursday evening rehearsals 8-9pm. It does not have to be a weekly commitment we would be happy to have someone to play once or twice a month. We also need guitarists to help play at our Masses on 4th Sunday every other month. If you would like to help us out or know someone who can please let Josie know on 07915601076.

More information can be found on the parish newsletter.

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/parish-newsletter/>

Masses are celebrated as follows:

Weekends: Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am or 11.00am

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am (Wed 2pm – 10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) Friday 8.00pm



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Term 4

13th March 2025

BYPT RE Foundation Stage

21st March 2025

World Maths day

28th March 2025

BYPT Science 2.30pm

2nd April 2025

Parents Evening 4-7pm

3rd April 2025

Parents Evening 5-8pm

4th April 2025

KS2 Stations of the Cross

4th April 2025

End of Term 4

School Holiday Dates

24/25

Easter Break

7th April –21st April

22 April SDD

May Half Term

26th May—30th May

SDD

23rd & 24th June

Summer Term ends

22nd July 2025

OPAL request

Do you have any of the following that you would be willing to donate to our OPAL resources

Hats i.e top hats, ladies hats, cowboy/girl hats (not baseball caps or woolly hats)

Wigs—any colour, length or style

Capes

Tutu's

We are also looking for unused outdoor decking planks





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Jody's Mothers Day Gift Shop

Jody will be running her Mother's Day Gift Shop this year on 27th & 28th March 2025.

Gifts will be priced at £3.50 and children will be taken, class by class, to pick from a selection. Each child will be given a bag that can be personalised by them.

The event will be on MCAS under Products.



Scouts 14th Medway Towns

14th Medway Beavers

We have space for a few new members from Easter.

Age 6-8.5 boys and girls

Thursday 17.45—19.15 in St Simon St Stock Hall

Contact: fourteenthmedwaytowns@gmail.com

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#:~:text=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.