



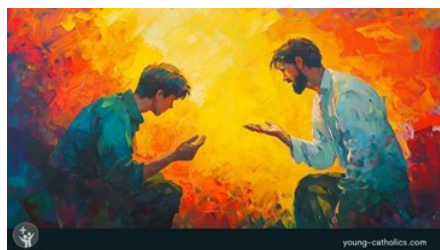
# St Thomas More School Newsletter

4th April 2025

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

Can you believe that we are at the end of Term 4! This week, as we reflected on the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel according to Luke, we were impressed by how well our children engaged with the story. Many of them thoughtfully compared themselves to the two sons in the parable, recognising the importance of both the journey of repentance and the joy of reconciliation.



It was heart-warming to see the children reflect on the themes of forgiveness and self-awareness, with some expressing how they could relate to the feelings of longing, regret, and forgiveness. This discussion not only deepened their understanding of the Gospel but also encouraged them to think about their own actions and relationships with others. We are proud of the thoughtful insights our children shared and hope this reflection continues to guide them throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope.

## What's been happening this week?

### Parent Evenings

I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for taking the time to attend our recent parent evening. Your involvement and support mean so much to us and play a crucial role in the continued success of your child's education. Your engagement and feedback are always appreciated and thank you again for your time and commitment.

### Children's Learning

Head over to our Facebook page to see the fabulous learning that has taken place from our EYFS children immersing themselves in 'Little City' a fantastic role-play experience, Holy Week activities, Year 3's exploding their volcanoes, Year 5's designing and building Truss bridges using wood and saws, our Big Lenten Walk, and much, much more!



### Stations of the Cross

We are pleased to share with you that our children recently had the opportunity to visit our church and take part in readings for The Stations of the Cross. This special Lenten tradition allowed the children to reflect on the journey of Christ's sacrifice, deepening their understanding of the meaning behind this important time in the Church calendar.



The children were respectful and engaged as they followed each station, reflecting on its significance and learning more about the events of Jesus' final journey. It was a meaningful experience that helped enrich their spiritual growth during this season of Lent.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to **Father Pawel** for leading the children through the Stations of the Cross. His guidance and warmth made the experience even more memorable, and we are grateful for his continued support in nurturing the spiritual lives of our children.



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## The Big Lent Walk

We are excited to share that our children recently took part in The Big Lent Walk, an amazing initiative organised by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). It was an incredible opportunity for our children to not only have fun, but also to support a very worthy cause.

Throughout the walk, the children enjoyed time outdoors, staying active and engaged while raising much-needed funds to support CAFOD's work in communities around the world. The event was a perfect way to combine fitness, teamwork, and charity, and we are so proud of all the children who participated. Thanks to your support and the efforts of our young participants, we were able to make a meaningful contribution of over £600 so far to this year's fundraising campaign. The money raised will go directly towards helping those in need, particularly in areas facing poverty, natural disasters, and other challenges.

We hope the children enjoyed the experience and felt proud to be part of such a positive event. It's a reminder that, no matter how small, every effort counts when we come together to make a difference!

## Passion Play



Our talented young actors put on a powerful and moving performance that captivated everyone in attendance. The care, thoughtfulness, and effort they poured into their roles were evident in every scene. It was clear that each child was not only performing but deeply invested in the message and meaning of the Passion Play, bringing it to life in a way that was both impactful and inspiring. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Wilson who has given up her time to support the children, to Mr D'Souza, our Chair of Governors for attending but also to all the families and friends who attended. Your presence made the evening even more meaningful for our performers.

## Union of Catholic Mothers

I had the pleasure of meeting two wonderful ladies from the Union of Catholic Mothers this week, Teresa and Helen. Together, we discussed ways in which the Union can support our school community especially during this special Jubilee Year of Hope. Their efforts are in line with our theme of being "called to bear fruit," and we are excited to see how they will contribute to our collective journey. They will be supporting us with coffee mornings for parents and supporting us with school events, so watch this space to find out more.



The Union of Catholic Mothers is a wonderful organisation that offers love, sympathy, and practical help to families in need. They have a longstanding tradition of providing care and support, and we are grateful for their partnership in our mission to strengthen and nurture the families within our community.

We look forward to the positive impact this collaboration will have on our school and community. If you would like to learn more about the Union of Catholic Mothers or how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out via the church link; <https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/union-of-catholic-mothers/>



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## Headteacher Award

RC Freya

RR Jaxon

1C Aria

1S Axel

2D Iriye

2F Catherine

3B Halle

3L Jude

4L Jake

4S Marley

5W Thejal

5C Morire

6B Faith

6F Bella

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

## What's coming up?

Please take a look at The Easter Triduum Services information below for church.

As Easter approaches, all of us at St Thomas More would like to take a moment to wish each of you a *Happy and Peaceful Easter*. May this special time be filled with love, hope, and joy as you gather with your loved ones and reflect on the true meaning of this season. Thank you for being part of our community. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and wish you all a blessed Easter weekend surrounded by those you hold dear.

We will see you all back on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**.

Warmest Wishes

**Mrs Le Breton**



### Punctuality Peacock

1S, 3B, 3L, 6B



### Attendance Anteater

2D

### Whole School Attendance

94.8%%

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







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## The Easter Triduum Services 2025

*St Simon Stock' Catholic Church*

*Bleakwood Road, Walderslade ME5 0NF*

### Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

8.00 pm - The Mass of the Lord's Supper  
followed by watching until 10 pm



### Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 am - Morning Prayer

10.00 am - Stations of the Cross for Children

3.00 pm - The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

7.15 pm - Stations of the Cross



### Holy Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 am - Morning Prayer

12.00 noon - Easter Blessing of Food in Polish

8.00 pm - The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night



### Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

9.00 am Easter Mass

11.00 am Easter Mass

4.00 pm Easter Mass in Polish



Heavenly Father,

On this blessed Easter day, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and joy. We thank You for the gift of life, for the hope that comes through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate this sacred season, may we be reminded of the true meaning of Easter—the victory of love over darkness, life over death, and hope over despair. Help us to carry the light of Christ in our hearts, sharing His love and kindness with all those around us.

We pray for peace in our homes, communities, and the world. May the resurrection of Jesus inspire us to live with compassion, understanding, and grace. Strengthen our faith and help us to trust in Your plans, knowing that with You, all things are possible.

Bless our families, our loved ones, and all those in need of Your healing touch. May Your presence bring comfort, renewal, and hope to all this Easter season.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray,  
Amen.

### 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.

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

A big thank you to everyone who donated food and everyday essentials to the Medway Foodbank last weekend for our Lenton almsgiving collection. The will really help families and individuals in need in the weeks ahead. Please remember that the collection boxes will remain in the porch and we can keep donating every weekend during the year.

The times of our Masses and Services can be found by clicking or copying the following link

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/mass-and-services/>





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## 'Little City'





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## Term 5

### 24th April 2025

Y4 Multiplication check meeting  
3.30pm

### 25th April 2025

Africa Day own clothes

### Friday 9th May 2025

Marian Mass 9.30am

### 23rd May 2025

End of Term 5

## Term 6

### 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

### **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

Medway's Local Offer website is undergoing extensive improvements.

It is now called the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) information hub**

Take a look at the link below - lots of information for families regarding schools, health, social care, clubs, activities etc

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_send\\_information\\_hub](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_send_information_hub)

## **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.](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.