



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

14th February 2025

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



## Happy Valentine's Day!

Did you know that Saint Valentine is the patron saint of love, people with epilepsy, and beekeepers? During his time, beekeeping was a common practice, and bees were believed to have a special connection with him!

## Celebration of the Word

Our week began with the reading of the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 5, where the story of the fishermen and their boats came to life. It was wonderful to see our younger children actively participate by taking on the roles of Jesus and the fishermen, sharing the story in front of the whole school. They did a fantastic job!

## Year 2 'Celebration of the Word'

Our Year 2 children did an outstanding job planning and delivering a beautiful "Celebration of the Word" for their families. It was truly heart-warming to see the children gain confidence as they spoke and shared the word of our Lord. Their dedication and enthusiasm were evident, and they should be incredibly proud of their efforts. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and families who supported them in preparing for this special event. Your involvement and encouragement made a big difference in their experience.

## Internet Safety Day

Additionally, this week we observed **Internet Safety Day**, where the children learned valuable lessons about staying safe online. It's important to ensure that they are aware of the right practices when using the internet, and we were so pleased with how engaged they were in the discussions. Whilst we have this special day, it is important to remember that internet safety is embedded throughout the curriculum and the children continue to show fantastic knowledge of what to do and how to stay safe online. If you have any worries, or need some support, do let us know or head over to our website for more information.

## Late Pick Ups

I would like to kindly remind parents to collect their children on time at the end of the school day. We have noticed that some children are being collected late on multiple occasions, which is beginning to impact staffing and resources. The school does not have the capacity to care for children outside of regular hours unless they are booked and paid for through the after-school club. In the event of late collection, a charge of £10 will be applied for repeated occurrences.

## What's coming up?

Next week marks the start of half-term, and after all of the children's hard work, they truly deserve a well-earned break.

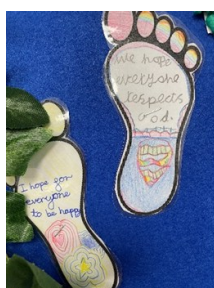
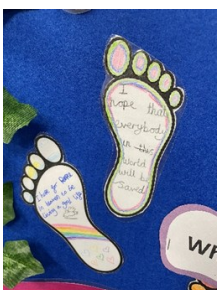
During this time, we'll be busy updating our Early Years Foundation Stage environment, and we're looking forward to seeing the children's faces when they return to discover all the exciting changes! Be sure to keep an eye on our **Facebook page** for some photos of their reactions and the new equipment they'll get to enjoy.

Please remember to read all of the newsletter to keep up to date with key dates such as Parent Evening meetings with teachers happening next term. <https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/parent-information/calendar/>

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term!

Warmest Wishes

Mrs Le Breton





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Merit Award

- RC Judah
- RR Daisy
- 1C Lily
- 1C Lilah
- 1S Avery
- 2D Harriet
- 2F Michelle
- 3B Halle
- 3L Bobby
- 4L Lucas
- 4S Lydia
- 5W Amber
- 5C Demilade
- 6B Lily
- 6B Amelia
- 6F Chizaram

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



**Punctuality Peacock**

6B



**Attendance Anteater**

1C, 2D, 6F

**Whole School Attendance**

95.5%

We are aiming for at least 96% whole school attendance.

### 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

### Prayer

God of all people,  
Jesus, shared in the joy of a wedding, help us to find peace and joy in the events of each day. May we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help spread love and peace throughout the world.  
Amen.





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## Term 4

### 24th February 2025

Start of Term 4

### 28th February 2025

Year 5 Immersive Victorian Day

### 5th March 2025

Ash Wednesday Mass

### 6th March 2025

World book day

### 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

### **February Half Term**

17th Feb—21st Feb

### **Easter Break**

7th April –21st April

### **22 April SDD**

### **May Half Term**

26th May—30th May

### **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.



Anna Freud Charity

Children's Mental Health week

Thank you very much for all of the donations.

We raised £268

Thank you

### **Scooters on the playground**

Please can you make sure that your child/ren do not ride their scooters on site to prevent risk of injury to others particularly toddlers. Thank you.

Prayer of the Month—February

Pope Francis asks us to pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



### **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.