



St Thomas More School Newsletter

21st January 2022

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dates for your diary

Term 3

10/02/2022

**Bring your parent to read
(re arranged from 11/2/2022)**

10/02/2022

Term 3 finishes

11/02/2022

Staff Development Day
(no children in school)

Term 4

21/02/2022

Term 4 begins

1/4/2022

Term 4 finishes

4/4/2022-18/4/2022

Easter break

Term 5

19/4/2022

Term 5 begins

2/5/2022

Early May Bank Holiday

26/5/2022

Term 5 finishes

27/5/2022

Staff Development Day
(No children in school)

Term 6

6/6/2022

Term 6 Begins

22/07/2022

Staff Development Day
(No children in school)

Dear Parents,

Next week we will be sending out some important information via email.

We will be sending out the dates of Parent Workshops that will be running in Term 4 for reading, writing, and maths which are the areas that many parents requested more information on through the parent questionnaire that we sent out earlier in the academic year.

We will also be sending out a consultation document regarding the teaching of RHE (relationships and health education). Although RHE, and most of its content, is statutory there are 4 aspects within it that are optional and therefore schools need to decide if and when to teach these elements.

These decisions need to be made jointly by parents, governors and schools and, by using the consultation tool and accompanying information, parents will be able to help us make a fully informed choice about the curriculum content that we deliver to our children.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Ebdon

**A big shout out to all of our children
who have taken this week's changes,
with regards to going back into bubbles,
in their stride. They have been amazing
and we are very proud of them.**

Well done



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Merit Award

Nileyah A RR

Ify N RS

Amelia B 1D

Nataniel P 1J

Nesia S 2F

Samuel J 2S

JD S 3C

Scarlett R 3C

Selvyn A 3B

Finley S 4S

Keira P 4T

Maria S 5M

Isla C 5H

Ella B 6C

Layla M 6C

Ella N 6B

Well done everyone



Tuck shop is back.....

Thursday 27th January 2022

on the

KS2 playground after school



**family
lives**

Building resilience in children and teens (Family Lives)

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do.

Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0800 800 2222.

The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Parent information drop in session

The second coffee and chat save the date will be....

Friday 31st January 2022 @ 1.45pm

We are hoping to have the school nurse in attendance

Restrictions permitting.

Please email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk to register your interest.

Please sign in at the office on the day.





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Aidan B

Jamie B

Ella N

Lucy O

Oscar L

Barney H

Christine M

Sacha N

Jake C

Joshua K



Meet Jody our Pastoral Manager.....

Hello my name is Jody Deamer, I am the Pastoral Support Manager/Family Liaison Officer here at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School and I have been at the school since March 2013. My role has evolved a lot over the last few years but the main reason I was employed remains the same and that is to support all children, their families and staff at St Thomas More with anything that may be affecting their wellbeing/school life. I have lived and worked in Medway all my life so feel that I have a good knowledge of the area, I am married and have 2 grown up children as well as many nieces and nephews who I am regularly called upon to look after in school holidays so, like most of you, I am still always on the lookout for free or affordable activities to keep children entertained! If you want to know a bit more about me you should consider joining one of my courses as I can often be found sharing embarrassing stories!

So what do I do each day? That is the million pound question, I try to be around the school site each morning to welcome the children in and be available for general catch ups but after that no two days are the same. My role is varied as I support and work closely with Mrs Austin (SENCO), I am also the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and therefore work with Mrs Le Breton and Mrs Ebdon as part of the Safeguarding Team. Ultimately, my role is to offer support to parents/carers with any issues relating to supporting children - the issues could be at home or school. I work closely with other agencies so will draw on this knowledge or sign post to the relevant agency to provide a more specific level of support if appropriate. Types of things I have experience of helping with, but not limited to are;

General low level behaviour, boundaries/choices/consequences

Change in family such as a new sibling or step parent

Parental separation

Bereavement

Financial difficulties/worklessness /DWP Support

Friendship worries, accessing new activities within the community

Special Educational Needs

My intention is to help where I can so will always do my best to help, be it myself or by finding the right service/agency that can, or even just to be a listening ear in that moment when its needed.

Another part of my role is that I deliver a course called "The Nurturing Program". It's a 10 week course that I run at least once a year and is one of the best parts of my job; it's a course that helps us to understand children's behaviour and our reactions as well as promoting emotionally healthy relationships. Each time we have a group, we all learn something new and I usually say at least once a week, I wish I'd thought of/known that when my children were young. As well as running this course, myself and Mrs Austin offer coffee mornings or information events to give parents and carers the opportunity to meet in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you have any questions or would like to join us, please do not hesitate to contact me -

flo@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk



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Reminders

Packed lunches—please could you try to use a wrapping other than cling film. Sandwich bags or foil are preferable. Please also remember to provide cutlery if your child has something in their lunch box that requires it as we do not have spares available in school. Please check your child's carton has a straw attached as we have had a few instances where a child has been disappointed that they have not been able to drink their juice carton and have had to have water instead. The PTFA have a limited amount of environmentally friendly sandwich wrap's, we are selling these in school for £3 each there are a variety of designs.

School dinners: Thank you for settling your dinner balances ready for this term.

Office hours: the office is manned 8-4pm. Please use our absence line to report an absence. Please can any non urgent queries be emailed or if you do need to call please call between 10-12. Between 12-2 is our protected admin time and calls may be forwarded to an answerphone.

Earrings: Please remember that earrings need to be removed for school everyday. We will call parents to come in to school to removed earrings if children have them in when they arrive.

Safer Internet Day 2022

Safer Internet Day 2022 will be celebrated on **8th February** with the theme '**All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online**'.

National Online Safety are here to support you, not just for one day, but all year round. With a wealth of **free resources** available for parents and children, they continue to provide you with up-to-date advice and guidance on the latest platforms, devices, games and apps.

As a school, we have paid for a subscription to this package and there is a wealth of webinars, guides and information that you can access as a parent. Click on the link below to access free resources or sign up by putting in the school's name, clicking forgotten password and then wait for an email to get you started. If you have any difficulty, please contact us for help.

There is also a free online safety course presented by Myleen Klass which engages parents and carers in online safety, helps to understand different risks that children might experience at different ages and enables you to stay up to date, feel confident and supportive in order to keep your child safe online.

[National Online Safety - Free Resources for Safer Internet Day](#)



SAFEGUARDING

What to do if you are worried about a child:

Members of the public and professionals can use a referral and contact form to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or a young person to Medway's First Response service. Once the form has been submitted, it will be reviewed and assessed and action will be taken. Please use the following link:

[Report a child safeguarding concern](#) | [Concerned about a child](#) | [Medway Council](#)

You can also phone 01634 334466 or use the 24 hour emergency number 03000 419 191. You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, Child Line on 0800 1111 or Medway Police on 01622 690 690.

Please remember to go to our Safeguarding section for parents/carers on our school website to learn more about keeping your child safe online. There is also a section for children too with some useful links.

Parents are encouraged to **T.A.L.K** to their children about the dangers.

Talk to your child about online safety. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.

- **Agree ground rules** about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn about the platforms** and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know how to use tools**, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Discuss and agree on privacy settings for the platforms and apps your