



St Thomas More School Newsletter

25th March 2022

Dates for your diary

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

9-12/5/2022

KS2 Sats week

26/5/2022

Term 5 finishes

27/5/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

Term 6

6/6/2022

Term 6 Begins

12/7/2022

Sports Day (weather permitting)

18/7/2022

Year 6 Production (PM time to be announced)

19/7/2022

Year 6 Production (early evening)

20/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Festival

21/7/2022

Year 6 End of Year Mass (KS2 only)

22/07/2022

Staff Development Day

(No children in school)

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We have had such a busy week! Our OPAL launch day was a fantastic success! The children (and staff!) had a brilliant time and are really enjoying the new structure for their break and lunch times. I am sure you will all join me in saying a huge thank you to Mrs Masters, who has worked tirelessly, to train all our staff, collect equipment and resources and will continue to work with the children as new equipment for loose parts play is introduced for them. If you haven't had a chance to look at the OPAL video link and the pictures of our launch day, make sure you take the time to have a peek!

It was lovely to see so many parents at Parents Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday, I hope you enjoyed looking at your children's work and speaking to their teacher about their progress.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who came in to run the Mother's Day activity for our children, we really appreciate all the hard work and time that went into organising and running this. The children are looking forward to giving their gifts to their Mum's on Sunday.

The Fundraising Team have kindly agreed to fund the development of a new school library which will be located in our current 'quiet area'. The library will be in the centre of the school for all our children to be able to access and enjoy!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and all you Mum's are utterly spoiled on Sunday!

Mrs Ebdon

The Beacons would like to announce an Easter Garden Competition

£1 to enter

All proceeds go to Demelza House

Bring in your Easter Garden from Monday 28th March

Judging will be on Thursday 31st March

Bring in your entry fee with your Easter Garden





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Merit Award

Favour A RR

Jamie W RS

Arora G 1D

Ellie T 1J

Hope P 2F

Effe T 2S

Faith O-A 3C

Sofia N-H 3B

Nancy-Mae W 4S

Mendel M 4T

Emily B 5M

Rudi C 5H

Sofia F 6C

Jessica B 6B

Well done everyone



Parent Helpers

If anyone would like to come into school as a parent helper for a few hours, or an afternoon, each week please let the office know.

Teachers would greatly appreciate anyone who would be able to come in to hear some of our children read.

Thank you



Club AUsome provides much-needed support to children with additional needs and their families. We support families across Medway and the South East. We provide a safe and secure place for our children to make friends and socialise, building their confidence and self-esteem amongst their peers and with other safe adults in order for them to flourish.

Club AUsome has lots of events and activities coming up please visit their website

<https://club-ausome-106734.square.site/>

Year 4 Bring Stories To Life

On Thursday, Year 4 took part in a story telling workshop run by Theatre 31. They explored the stories of Alice in Wonderland and the Three Little Pigs through drama and role play. They thoroughly enjoyed being active in their Literacy!



Welcome to Emily our Education Mental Health Practitioner



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School welcomes the Emotional Support Team (EST) to your child's school. The Education Mental Health Practitioners, who are part of the EST, are hoping to get to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months, offering support when needed and finding out your ideas about how we can all work together to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.



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'Love one another as I have loved you'



A big Happy Birthday to..

Brianna-Adlina BB

Benjamin-Isaac F

Asees A

Frederick G

Nieva K

Jonathan S

Georgie-May B



March-April '22 Shopping List

We currently need the following items - your help in meeting the needs of others is appreciated.

- Milk - UHT/long-life
- Cook-in or Pasta Sauce
- Fruit Juice - UHT/long-life only
- Squash/soft drinks
- Tinned meat e.g. ham, corned beef
- Ready-made Custard (e.g. tinned)
- Tinned Potatoes
- Instant Mash
- Tinned Fish
- Packet Soup (e.g. Cup-a-Soup)
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Instant Coffee - small jars/packs
- Sponge Puddings
- Rice pudding (tinned)
- Desserts e.g. 'Angel Delight', Jelly
- Sugar - 500gm packs please
- Dried/powder Milk
- Evaporated milk
- Table sauces e.g. ketchup/brown
- Gravy granules/stock cubes
- Easter treats - bars of chocolate preferred to eggs please
- Nappies - sizes 4 and above
- Toiletries for baby and baby wipes
- Washing-up liquid
- Liquid Soap/hand-wash (not bars)
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Deodorant for men and women
- Cleaning/anti-bac spray
- Cat food

We CURRENTLY PREFER NOT TO RECEIVE more:

baked beans, pasta, and tinned soup.

THANK YOU for joining us to help stop UK hunger! Your support makes a difference.

Medway Foodbank
info@medway.foodbank.org.uk
01634 757057
Registered Charity No: 1166505



Beacons Lenten Appeal

The Beacons are collecting for Medway food bank please bring any donations in week beginning 28th March.

Medway foodbank are not asking for baked beans, pasta and tinned soup at this time.

They are also asking for Easter treats but preferably not eggs.

Please ensure food is usable by checking it is in date

Thank you for your support.



An increasing number of children are bringing in items within their packed lunch box that contain nuts.

This week we have had to remove

A snickers bar

A Bueno bar

And we have had to ask children to tell their parents that Nutella chocolate spread is not allowed in school. We have children with severe allergies to nuts. There are many alternative snacks and sandwich fillings that do not contain nuts and we politely ask that you use these instead.

Please ensure your child has a pair of wellie boots in school for OPAL—these will need to stay in school and will be kept in a boot shed. Thank you



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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 .

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 answerphone.

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

Cars on site



Please can we remind you that no parent cars should be on site without prior permission, **this includes dropping off and collecting for breakfast and after school club**. We would politely request that you consider parking outside of Bleakwood Road and walking into school.

Attendance & Punctuality

Our current whole school attendance is **93.5%** which is below the National target of **97%** please help us improve our attendance by ensuring your child is in school every-day ,on time. We have had an increasing number of late students coming through the office recently. We realise that Covid-19 has a negative effect on a child's attendance and this makes it even more important that they are in school on time at all other times.

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