



St Thomas More School Newsletter

28th February 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents & Carers

We hope you had a restful half-term break! We are excited to welcome all our children back to school and to share some wonderful updates with you.

On Monday, we had a meaningful and inspiring assembly! A visitor, Maggie, from CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) came into share their vision this coming Easter. CAFOD does incredible work supporting people in need around the world. Our visitor explained to the children all about Lent and how it is such an important time for reflection, prayer, and action. It's not just about giving something up but also about giving back—helping those who are less fortunate. The message of supporting our worldwide family through charity, fasting, and almsgiving is at the heart of what Lent is about. In addition, our visitor gave CAFOD workshops to some of our year groups, which supported their reflections on those in most need. We would like to thank Maggie and CAFOD for the wonderful work they do.

New Equipment for EYFS & KS1 Playground

Thanks to the generosity of our school community and your ongoing support, we are delighted to announce that we have purchased new equipment for both our Early Years Foundation Stage classrooms and the KS1 playgrounds! The equipment was funded through your kind donations and the success of our fundraising events. The new resources will provide our children with even more opportunities for creative play, physical activity, and learning in the great outdoors. They are already enjoying these exciting additions!

All staff would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued generosity in supporting our fundraising efforts. Your contributions make a real difference and help enrich the learning experiences of all our children and we look forward to your continued involvement in making our school an even better place for our children to thrive!



If you would like to offer some time to organise certain events such as Mother's Day, Easter Egg Hunts, Father's Day, School Disco etc or have any other fundraising ideas, please get in contact with myself or Jody, our Pastoral Manager, as we would love to hear from you.

We have also purchased some new resources to support our maths learning such as digit fans, dice and counting sticks for all classes and we are currently looking at resources to enhance the KS2 playground for our junior children.

What's been happening this week?

Our wonderful Reception children had the opportunity to explore their new additions to the classrooms and also to test their core stability with 'Balanced Bike' sessions with Kerry, a volunteer, who generously offered her time and expertise to run the session. It was a great opportunity for our little ones to develop important physical skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Our Year 1 children have been learning about fossils, dinosaurs and Mary Anning and are excited about their workshop next week.

Our Year 2 children have been busy making some fantastic Tudor homes as part of their topic on The Great Fire of London!

Our Year 3 children have made some amazing volcanoes which are on display in our library for all to see!

Our Year 4 children had a hands-on, fun experience exploring the digestive system and recreating their own!

Our Year 5 children are learning about the Victorians and looked absolutely amazing in their Victorian costumes today! I wonder if they'd prefer a Victorian style schooling or our modern day?

Our Year 6 children have been learning all about the Order of Mass and 'Transubstantiation' which is the change of the whole substance of bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and of the whole substance of wine into the substance of the Blood of Christ. Their knowledge of our faith and their responses when learning, truly amaze us all!

Our teachers also attended some RE training delivered by Father Pawel in the church hall! Thank you Father Pawel, we really enjoyed it and learned so much!



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Scroll down to see some photos but be sure to head over to our Facebook page to see more photos of what's been happening in school this week!

What's coming up next week?

Year 1 have their Fossils and Dinosaur workshop to look forward to.



We will be visiting church on Ash Wednesday, with Father Pawel, as it is the first day of Lent. Lent is an opportunity for us to take stock of our lives, make a new start by giving ourselves to God in prayer, to go without to remind ourselves of what is truly important, and to share with others who are in need.

On Thursday, we celebrate 'World Book Day' which provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits. We look forward to seeing children (and adults) in their costumes!



Some of our families will be celebrating Ramadan and during this time will not eat or drink during the hours of daylight. This is called fasting which allows them to devote themselves to their faith. It is thought to teach self-discipline and reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

I can't believe that it is the end of the first week already and would like to wish you all a wonderful weekend with hopefully lots of sunshine as we begin Spring!

Kind regards
Mrs Le Breton

Loving and Merciful God,

We come before You in prayer, lifting up Your servant, Pope Francis, in his time of need. You are the Source of all healing, and we ask You to surround him with Your loving presence, granting him strength and recovery. May Your divine grace rest upon him, restoring his health and filling him with renewed vigor to continue leading Your Church with compassion and wisdom. We place Pope Francis into Your hands, trusting in Your eternal care. May he be comforted by the love of the Church and the prayers of all the faithful. We ask, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that his recovery be swift, and his spirit be strengthened in Your peace. May Your will be done in his life, O Lord, and may Your healing power be with him always. We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Credit: Caritas Jerusalem





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Merit Award

- RC Huxley
- RR Oliva
- 1C Luke
- 1S Louie
- 2D Alice
- 2D Deborah
- 2F Bogdan
- 3B Simona
- 3L Elliott
- 4L Jake
- 4L Paige
- 4S Israel
- 4S Lily
- 5W Uzoma
- 5C Jaden
- 6B Amelia
- 6F Rosabella



Punctuality Peacock

6B



Attendance Anteater

4L 1S

Whole School Attendance

95.2%

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

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





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Term 4

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.



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

Second hand uniform sale

Wednesday 5th March

KS2 Playground after school

If you have any uniform that you no longer need that is in good condition please consider donating it to the school. Thank you



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.