



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

25th November 2022

## Dates for your diary

### 29th November 2022

Maths calculations workshop

### 28th Nov-1st Dec 2022

Book Fair

### 1st December 2022

KS1 Phonic workshop

### 5th December 2022

Tombola tag day

### 6th & 7th December 2022

Secret Santa gifts on sale

### 8th December 2022

Meet Father Christmas

### 9th December 2022

Christmas Fayre

### 20th December 2022

Last day of Term 2

### 3rd January 2023

Staff development day

(No children in school)

### 4th January 2023

Start of term 3

### 13th January 2023

Bring your parents to writing

### 3rd March 2023

Bring your parents to Geography

### 28th April 2023

Bring your parents to History

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

Dear Parents,

This week Years 1, 4 and 6 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a 'Bringing Books to Life' dance workshop. Year 1 learned and performed a dance themed on the story of 'The Gingerbread Man', Year 4 on the story of 'The Iron Man' and Year 6 on the story of 'The Arrival'. These are books that the children use in their literacy lessons so it was amazing for them to be able to re-enact these stories in a different way.

We will start next week with our Advent assembly with Fr Pawel to mark the beginning of our preparations for Christmas. Please make sure you take a look at the dates section in this week's newsletter to make a note of the days and times of the festive activities we will have going on in school in December.

The planning for our Christmas Fair is nearly complete but we are still in need of more helpers for this to go ahead – even if you can only offer a limited amount of time to run a stall, we can rota the helpers so that everyone still gets an opportunity to visit all the stalls as well as helping to run them.

Our Book Fair is arriving next week and will be open Monday-Thursday after school so please do come along and take a look. The school receives an amount of money from the Book Fair to be spent on books for the children, dependent on the number of sales that we make, which allows us to add new and interesting books to our in-class selections. There are often several different activity type books in the Book Fair, as well as other little bits and pieces, that make lovely stocking fillers!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

### Message from the Church

We are writing to let you know that for 2 weeks from 29<sup>th</sup> November there will be building works being carried out to replace the cladding to the church.

### Y6 Mobile phones

Some Y6 children appear to be forgetting (on several occasions) to hand their mobile phones in at the office. Please remind your children to do this as we cannot be held responsible for phones going missing. If children continue to forget, we will have to think about banning mobile phones from coming in to school.

### Equipment for school

Please could all children come to school with a fully equipped pencil case. Ideally, this should include a writing pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring pencils, glue stick (pritt stick style, white/clear – not coloured or glitter) and a blue pen if they have received their pen license. Could all children also bring in a packet of individual tissues that they can use, if anyone would like to donate large boxes of tissues or any of the above items they would be gratefully received. Thank you.



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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

**Halle H**

**Orlaith C**

**Finley K**

**Lucrece O**

**Nancy-Mae W**

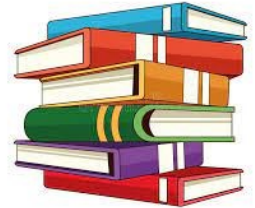
**Jasmine I**

**Shekinah K**

**Andy B**

**Book Fair—Next week**

**28th November— 1st December**



### **Christmas Panto**

Thank you to all those that have made payment for the Christmas pantos. If you have not yet paid please make payment via MCAS—you will find the panto under Products along with Father Christmas visits.



### **Christmas Gonks**

The fundraising team are selling these Christmas gonk decorations. They can be personalised with your child's name. Each gonk can be made with plaits or a beard.

They are £2 each or 3 for £5

If you would like a Christmas Gonk please get in touch with the fundraising team via their Facebook page.



**Please see the PTFA facebook page**

**Search St Thomas More fundraising team and ask to join.**





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Merit award

Aria C RC

Orlagh W RC

Moriah A RR

Deborah O RR

Nancy-Lou B 1D

Jamian A 1J

Deborah-Janet I 1J

Arabella W 2F

Max M 2F

Elliott M 2S

Hope P 3B

Charis B 3T

Callum G 4L

Temitayo D 4S

Nancy-Mae W 5C

Eva A 5C

Ciel M 5M

Carson O 6C

Sophia S 6F



Golden Welly Award

Amelia M—3T



## Fundraising team request

Do you have any of the following you could donate to our Christmas fundraising events?

White sheets

Good condition teddys for our teddy bear raffle

Do you have time to spare on **Wednesday 7th December** after-school until 6pm to help set up the grotto?



## Christmas Fayre Stalls

As you know our Christmas Fayre is on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, some parents have come forward with some really good ideas for the Fayre, so we are trying to implement what we can but we are going to need some help!

Staff usually run all the stalls but we won't have enough staff for everything so I was wondering if some parents would like to help run some of the game's and the refreshments or as I like to call it " The Christmas Cafe" Ideally I think we need a group of 4 adults in the Cafe and then a few others to help on the game's, If we have enough volunteers we could do time slots so that everybody gets the chance to help but also enjoy the fayre. If you are able to help out or have questions, then please come to see me or send an email to [familyliaisonofficer-st.thomasmore@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk](mailto:familyliaisonofficer-st.thomasmore@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk) and I will get back to you.

Jody





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## Tuck shop dates

Support our PTFA and pick yourself up a sweet treat.

**1st December**

**15th December**

**Junior playground after the end of the school day**

## Office

The office will be short staffed until January. Please can we ask that you only call if absolutely necessary. The majority of calls to the office are to book after school/ breakfast club spaces (these place must be booked 24 hours in advance via MCAS unless there is a last minute change) or to tell us someone different is collecting a child— you can inform your child's teacher about this by leaving a note in their reading diary. The most effective form of communication is via the parent email, parents@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk, these emails are checked daily. Some emails need further consideration and will be forwarded to the relevant person, we aim to respond to these within 3 working days.

We have had some enquiries recently about opening the back gate of the school which opens onto the alleyway at the start and the end of the day. School staff need to know who is on the school site at any point in time and members of the public should not be able to gain access to the school site. By having one point of entry and exit to the school it allows us to know who is on the premises and prevents people unrelated to school business being able to gain entry. We recently commissioned an external safeguarding review to ensure we were meeting the highest possible standards in safeguarding and the reviewer agreed that creating an additional access point to the school would fall short of these standards. We also liaised with PCSO Rowan about the issue who has given us the following statement to share with parents:

*'I have been liaising with the school about the gate to the rear of the school grounds, where parents/guardians would like this open at the beginning/end of the school day. They have had an outside independent agency involved to conduct a safeguarding review. The result from the report was not to open the gate, as the school has appropriate safeguarding procedures in place at the beginning and end of the day. Please be mindful it was not the school that made this decision, it was the result of the independent review.'* PCSO Rowan Cornwall Medway Community Safety Unit

## Reception Places

You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019.

Please contact the office if you could like to book a tour of St Thomas More in preparation for securing your child's place.

Here is a link for further information:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools-and-learning/1059/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>

