



St Thomas More School Newsletter

9th September 2022

Dates for your diary

13th & 14th September

Medway Test

15th September

2nd hand uniform sale

15th September

Curriculum Evening

5pm-5.30pm

5.30pm-6pm

End of Term 1

21st October 2022

Half Term

24th—28th October

Term 2 Begins

31st October 2022

3rd January 2023

Staff development day

(No children in school)

4th January 2023

Start of term 3

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see all the children return to school following the summer holiday and I hope you all had a fantastic break.

Next Thursday, 15th September, we will be holding our Curriculum Evening. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher and find out all the necessary information about the year ahead including things such as PE days and homework expectations. Each year group run their session twice (one from 5:00-5:30 and the other from 5:30-6:00) so that if you have more than one child in the school you are able to attend both year groups' sessions.

School uniform

If you have school uniform that is still in good condition, but that your child has grown out of, we would appreciate it if it could be donated to school. This will enable other families to buy uniform at a reduced cost at our uniform sale and will also allow us to provide families that are unable to afford uniform with items that they need.

Kind regards

Her Majesty The Queen

I am sure you will all join me in keeping the Royal Family in our prayers following the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II after her many years of dedicated service to our country.

Gracious God,

we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,

for her faith and her dedication to duty.

Bless our nation as we mourn her death

and may her example continue to inspire us:

through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



Children from Miss Cole and Miss Bunyans's Year 3 classes (now 4S and 4L) sent letters to the Queen during her Platinum Jubilee week during the last academic year. This week, they received a reply on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen from Balmoral.

This is particularly poignant following yesterday's news and something that will always be treasured.



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A big Happy Birthday to..

Callum G

Arla C

Alice M

Oluwadurotimi O

Alexander S

Lucas C

Vincent S

Elliott S

And for all of those children who celebrate their birthday in the holiday please see the separate sheet



Emotional Support Team Course

The Emotional Support Team are offering the following parent/carer course next term to all our Medway primary schools:

Helping with your child's fears and worries.

If you are interested in joining the course, please request a support form and return it by **Friday 23rd September 2022**.

Once the Emotional Support Team have received the request for support form, we will contact the parent/carer to arrange a brief telephone call to gather more information and to ensure the child's suitability to the course.

The course will start on **Wednesday 5th October** for 6 sessions over the course of 10 weeks. Please see attached document for more information and breakdown of the sessions.

The location of the group will be at New Road Primary School.
Address: New Road Primary School, Bryant Street, Chatham, ME4 5QN.

my  **child** at school.com 

Please remember that we are no longer using School Gateway for payments or wrap around care. There have been some teething problems, as with all new systems, we are dealing with them as they appear please bear with us.

The wrap around care clubs are up and running and parents have been booking and paying without issue this week. Please email the office if you require any assistance



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Merit award

- 1D Aida O
- 1J Jamian A
- 2F Logan C
- 2S Lucas C
- 3B Elias W
- 3T Jacob I
- 4L Grace J
- 4S Rosabella B
- 5C Aidan B
- 5M Vinnie L
- 6C Freddie E
- 6C Shiloh A
- 6F Sienna A

Well done everyone



Online Parent Workshops

Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears 9.30-11am
30th Sep

Understanding Autism in Children 6-7.30pm
3rd Oct

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour 1-2.30pm
13th Oct

Understanding ADHD in Children 6-7.30pm
19th

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Our online workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

If you would like to join, please raise your interest with your child's school so that they can send you the link. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school.

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet.

We look forward to meeting you.

All of the above information and links have been emailed today, from the school office



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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.

Pencil Cases and Resources

Now that life is back to normal following the covid pandemic we would like to encourage our children to bring in a named, well-equipped pencil case from home. If possible, please ensure your child has a high quality writing pencil, some colouring pencils, a rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener and glue stick.

As I'm sure you have all seen in the media, school funding continues to be an issue nationwide and, unfortunately for us at St Thomas More, this continues to be the case.

We will have a little section on the newsletter suggesting items that we would welcome receiving if anyone is able to donate these. This will enable us to spend the majority of our budget on high quality education and resourcing for all of our children.

Currently we would welcome:

White board pens

Colouring pencils

Glue sticks (pritt stick type)

A4/A3 plain paper



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