



St Thomas More School Newsletter

6th December 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents/Carers

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

We started our week with Father Pawel and our Beacons preparing us for Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and getting ourselves ready for the birth of Jesus with the importance of making time to stop, be still and to reflect. I would like to say a special thank you to Father Pawel for blessing our Advent wreath, thank you to Josie from the church for making it, a thank you to our Beacons who led our assembly and to our wonderful children who sang beautifully.

KS1 Panto

Our visiting panto thrilled the children with their performance of Dick Whittington which brought joy, laughter and magic. Not only was it a great memory for the children but it also encouraged the love of theatre, creativity and fun!

Christmas Carols

On Tuesday, some of our Year 3 children took part in a Christmas Carol Service at Rochester Cathedral. It was a special moment being amongst a large number of children from across Medway, bringing so much spirituality in the carols sung whilst connecting us to God in our lives. The children's behaviour was impeccable and again, their singing was delightful. On Wednesday, some of our choir visited a local care home. The residents and staff spoke of how wonderful the children were and how they brought smiles and the festive spirit into their lives at this special time. They have requested the same for next year too as they enjoyed it that much!



Eddington the Elf!

This week (like many households no doubt) we had our 'other visitor' who appears at this time of year and not only did Eddington the Elf arrive, but he also brought two more friends along—Ethan and Evie! The children are certainly enjoying searching for them each day to find out what they've been up to whilst we all sleep! They were most concerned that I was trapped on the very first day!



Reception Children

On Thursday, our Reception children had great fun with some visitors from 'Heartbeeps' immersing themselves in musical story telling and multi-sensory play. If you want to find out more about the company and what they provide for children and parties, click on the link to their website: <https://www.hartbeeps.com>

Christmas Fair

I would like to say a huge thank you to Jody and the fantastic team of parents who organised the Christmas Fair and to Mrs Jones for sorting and preparing gifts for the 'Secret Santa'. I truly am amazed by the commitment, preparation and time that goes into events such as these and a special thank you to staff and families for attending and your support too! Look out for the total in next week's newsletter



Have a wonderful weekend everyone!



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Prayer

Dear God,

Because you love us so much, you sent your only Son into the world to be with us. Help us to wait in hope with joyful hearts for his coming and to share your hope with others.

Amen.



Parish News – St Simon Stock

If your child would like to be involved in the **Nativity during the 6pm children's Mass on Christmas Eve**, we will be starting practices this Sunday (1st December) between the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock Masses. Practices will take place throughout advent. For those of you who have not experienced this beautiful and moving event before, older children narrate the story from the lectern as other children (all ages welcome) act it out in costume.

Please let Mrs Wilson know that your child would like to be involved either by coming along this Sunday or by speaking to her directly. It is not essential to attend all practices but coming to as many as possible is appreciated. We will aim to practise between 10.15 and 10.45 but Mrs Wilson and/ or Mrs Law (another catechist who works at St Benedict's) will be there from 10 and will be happy to serve light refreshments (tea, coffee, squash, biscuits etc.) to anyone who is waiting for practices to start.

More information can be found on the parish newsletter along with items to donate.

<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



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Merit Award

RC Chibuzo

RR Arlya

1C Kurtis

1S Elizah

2D Mariah

2F Aria

3B Henry

3L Blake

4L Paige

4S Nathan

5W Isla

5C Felicity

6B Alex

6B Tobiloba

6F Jaxon

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



**Punctuality
Peacock**

6B



**Attendance
Anteater**

3B

Whole School Attendance

96%

We are aiming for at least 96% whole school attendance.

Christmas Events

Christmas Production allocation is being processed and we will be putting the remaining tickets on MCAS on Monday 9th December, an email will go out beforehand with the time they go live.

Christmas Jumpers can be worn with school uniform on 11th and 12th December.

Meet Father Christmas tickets concluded this week and teachers will be given the list.

Christmas Dinner will be on 17th December.





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Closing date for applications
to **primary school** is
5pm on Wednesday
15th January 2025



Term 2

11th December 2024

Christmas Productions

EYFS & KS1 9.15-10

KS2 10.15-11

£2 per ticket

12th December 2024

Christmas Production

EYFS & KS1 3.30-4.15

KS2 4.30-5.15

£2 per ticket

13th December 2024

Mass—Church 9.30

16th December 2024

KS2 Panto Central Theatre

17th December 2024

Children's Christmas lunch

19th December 2024

End of Term 2

20th December 2024

SDD

Term 3

6th January 2025

All children back in school

27th January 2025

BYPT writing 9.15-9.45am

