



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

6th October 2023

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

## Congratulations to...

### Sports Captains

Tife  
Tise  
Aidan  
Indie

### Year 5 Digital Leaders

Selvyn  
Callum  
Alex

### Year 6 Digital Leaders

Austin  
Yemisi  
Durotimi  
Christopher

### House captains

#### **St Patrick's**

Captain—Nieva  
Vice—Isla

#### **St David's**

Captain—Georgie-May  
Vice—Emevi

#### **St George's**

Captain—Ciel  
Vice Erin

#### **St Andrew's**

Captain—Munachi  
Vice—Evie

Dear Parents,

We have had another busy week filled with lots of interesting learning experiences for our children here at St Thomas More!

We started the week with all year groups having assemblies linked to Black History Month which were delivered by 'Wise Moves' who are a leading provider of cultural arts based workshops and performances.

We had our second Macmillan coffee afternoon on Tuesday which we combined with information about our Fundraising Team, Special Educational Needs and any queries about MCAS. Thank you to everyone who attended, it was lovely to see some new faces and there have already been some fantastic ideas for the Christmas period ahead.

Yesterday was National Poetry Day and we celebrated this by having a poetry themed assembly, this years theme for poems is 'Refuge'. Our school librarians are also running a poetry competition for the children with the chance to win a library medal and the opportunity to be the Star Reader for 2 weeks! We cant wait to read all the fantastic poem entries – watch this space for when the winners are announced.

We had our annual Harvest Mass this morning, unfortunately Fr Pawel was not able to join us today so Fr Bart, our previous parish priest led our celebrations and we would like to thank him for his time.

If you have not already done so, please make sure you book an appointment at our Parent's Evening which is at the end of this term to find out how your child has settled into their new year group and about the progress they have made.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend  
Mrs Ebdon

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our families who donated food for our annual collection for the Medway Foodbank. This year, demand for this service has been extremely high with many families struggling with the current cost of living crisis. Donating food for those in need supports the Catholic Social Teaching Principles of 'Option for the Poor' and 'Solidarity' which mean that we are showing that we care and putting people in most need first.





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## Term 1

### 10th October 2023

Science Dome KS2

### 12th October 2023

Phonics workshop 2.30  
(FS & Y1 parents)

### 12th October 2023

Individual school photos

### 13th October 2023

SDD—No children in school

### 18th October 2023

Parents Eve 4-7pm

### 19th October 2023

Parents Eve 5-8pm

### 20th October 2023

End of Term 1

## Term 2

### 30th October 2023

Start of Term 2

### 6th November 2023

Flu vaccinations R-Y6

### 20th December 2023

End of Term 2

## Term 3

### 3rd January 2024

Start of Term 3

### 9th February 2024

End of Term 3

## Term 4

### 19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

## Parish News

This Friday, 6th October is Cafod family fast day. If you wish to make a donation, the second collection after all Masses this weekend is for this cause. Envelopes will be available at church.

For any adults who enjoy crafting and learning new skills, the Parish craft group will be meeting on Thursday 12th October at 1.30pm in the Parish hall. All adults welcome.



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## Year R

Reception have been busy exploring the text 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They have loved roleplaying different parts of the story and retelling the story using their senses



## Barbie Dolls

Do you have any unwanted Barbie dolls that need a new home? Our wrap around care facility is in need of Barbie dolls for the children to play with. If you can help with this request please drop them into the office. Thank you



## Macmillan Coffee morning

Thank you to all those that attended our coffee morning and afternoon and for all of the cake donations. We will post a total made in aid of Macmillan soon.



## Black History Month

This week we have celebrated the start of Black History Month by having an amazing visitor from Wise Moves in and deliver sessions to each key stage.

For FS, Year 1 and Year 2 they had a story telling session. The stories were old traditional tales told from Africa and the Caribbean. The children really enjoyed listening to these stories and at the end of the session they danced to carnival music.

Year 3 and 4 learned about the hidden history of the Georgians. They explored individuals in their roles in society, some examples being a sailor and a seamstress. We also experienced some traditional Georgian dancing which was insightful and fun!

Year 5 and 6 children participated in a workshop showcasing hidden black figures throughout history. We learnt about people like Francis Barber, who contributed to the making of the dictionary and was eventually recognized for his work. The children were transported back to the Georgian era and performed a dance written to music by Ignatius Sancho, the first black composer.



12th October 2023



**Individual school photos**  
**(No boxing club this morning)**



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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

**Oscar H**

**Gabriella I**

**Elizabeth C**

**Sirri-Anna M**

**Joel A**

**Amelia B**

**Osinachi C**

**Belle D**

## **Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2024?**

(children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013)

Please go to [Medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions)

Monday 4th Sept—Secondary school applications open

Tuesday 3rd Oct—Medway Test results

Tuesday 31st Oct—Secondary school applications close

Friday 1st March—National offer day

Please visit [Medway.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/admissions) for more information

## **Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2024?**

You must apply to your home LA i.e if you pay your council tax to Medway you would apply to Medway if you pay it to Maidstone you would apply to Kent.

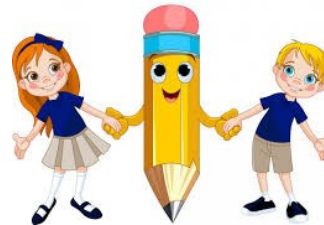
Medway residents can apply from 0am Monday 4th September

Monday 14th January 2024—Primary applications close

You can read about primary admissions at

[medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Tuesday 16th April 2024—Primary offers sent out



### **Uniform reminder**

Please remember that every child is to be in full school uniform everyday.

If children have earrings these should be removed by their parent/guardian or they should be taped over. Hair should be tied up.





# St Thomas More School Newsletter

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding – Identifying Online Risks

Online safety is embedded within the curriculum and children are regularly taught how to stay safe online and how to identify online risks. To help at home, you can help children to identify and manage risks by discussing:

- the ways in which someone may put themselves at risk online
- risks posed by another person's online behaviour
- when risk taking can be positive and negative
- online reputation and the positive and negative aspects of an online digital footprint
- sharing information online and how to make a judgement about when and how to share and who to share with
- the risks of cyber crime, online fraud and identity theft

To support your child at home with this, you can sign up for free to our 'National Online Safety' platform by using the link below:

[Browse E-safety Training and Resources For Schools | National Online Safety](#)

You can also help your child by:

explaining how to identify trusted adults, access support from the school, the [National Crime Agency's Click CEOP reporting service](#) for children and 3rd sector organisations such as [Childline](#) and [Internet Watch Foundation](#)

reporting cyber crime, fraud and suspicious online activity, through organisations such as [Action Fraud](#) and the [Advertising Standards Authority](#)

reporting inappropriate contact or content for various platforms and apps

A list of media literacy resources for teachers and parents is available via the following link too:

[Online media literacy resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## For Parents - A Guide to Using AI with Kids

Until we receive guidance from the DfE (hopefully early next year, we thought that parents would benefit from understanding what it is and the shortfalls. Internet Matters have put some guidance for parents together which includes the terminology, a guide to some of the more popular software tools and also an interactive guide. You can access these resources [HERE](#). SWGfL have also created a new AI hub for schools with useful information which you can access [HERE](#). AI can be amazing but as with everything else there are negatives too. Already, the world is seeing some significant and concerning negatives from image-based abuse to voice scams where a person's voice is cloned using AI. Some research suggests that you only need 3 seconds of a person's voice to clone it. Imagine a child who posts videos on YouTube and the data that this holds. Legislation and technical tools to combat these issues will take a long time and therefore education is always the best form of prevention. To support your child at home, please sign up to our completely free resource for parents via the following link. There is a wealth of useful information in manageable chunks, webinars etc for you to access, to help your child stay safe at home.

### **Our Safeguarding team are:**

Mrs Le Breton	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Ebdon	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Jody	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Simon D'Souza	Safeguarding Governor
Sinead Joshi	Safeguarding Governor