



St Thomas More School Newsletter

9th February 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Ire
RR Jack
1S Asia
1C Jacob
2F Mollie
2D James
3B Marley
3L David
4S Sirri-Anna
4L Emma
5C Eloise
5M Amelia
6C Eva
6C Michael
6F Isla
6F Liam

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of Term 3, this term seems to have sped by and has been jam packed with lots of learning and interesting events and activities that the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

We have had teams attend lots of sporting events this term such as athletics, table tennis and swimming where our children competed well but, most importantly, where all of our children were complimented on their excellent behaviour and conduct. We are very proud of our children being such positive ambassadors for our school and our school values. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Robertson who works tirelessly to run clubs for our children to enjoy a range of different sports and for taking them to compete against other schools – we really would be lost without her!

Our Art and DT week was a roaring success and the children were very excited to show off their creations to you all. It was lovely to see so many parents attend our Topic afternoon so that the children could share and celebrate their achievements in their wider curricular subjects. Miss Ronja ran a Phonics workshop for our parents which was well attended and very informative. Our Young Carers Club restarted which gives valuable time and support for our children with additional responsibilities at home and it was lovely to see so many of our Reception parents join their children for the FS Bring Your Parent to Read session this afternoon following on from our reading filled National storytelling week last week!

I would like to thank our School Council who planned and organised a cake sale last week so that we can raise money to buy some more playground equipment that the children in their classes have said that they would like. Keep your eyes open for more cake sales and fundraising events planned by our children in the weeks ahead!

This week has been Mental Health Week along with Internet Safety Day, we started the week with an assembly about how to stay safe on line and all of the children have had 'Mindful Mini' workshops this week, helping them to learn strategies to keep themselves mentally healthy and to build resilience.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and peaceful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 20th February** which is the first day back for the children.

Mrs Ebdon

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday which marks the first day of the season of Lent. The period of Lent gives us time to pray, do kind things for other people, give up things and give to others, making sacrifices as we prepare to celebrate the greatest sacrifice from Jesus when he gave his life for us.

This morning in assembly our Beacons explained to the children about our Lenten boxes. We are very proud of our child groups such as our Beacons, the School Council, Eco Warriors, Reading Leaders and Digital Ambassadors - they are taking their responsibilities very seriously and it is lovely to see their hard work bringing the children's voices and ideas forward in our school life.

Dear God,

Thank You that You are loving and forgiving

Help us to love people in the same way as You have loved us

Help us to do generous things for others because we love You

Amen



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Term 4

19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

20th February 2024

Start of Term 4

1st March 2024

National offer day—
Secondary

22nd March 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in

28th March 2024

End of Term 4

Term 5

15th April 2024

Start of Term 5

6th May 2024

Bank holiday

24th May 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in
Y1-6

24th May 2024

End of Term 5

Term 6

17th—18th June

SDD-No children in school

20th June 2024

Start of Term 6

19th July 2024

End of the academic year



We are in need of the following for OPAL

Pallets

Benches for our poly tunnel

Books suitable for KS1 and
KS2 for our outdoor library

Parish News

The next Messy Church session will be on 19th February. As this is a staff development day, older siblings are welcome. The session will be aimed at pre-schoolers as usual but there will be crafts and activities available for older children to explore. Please note, children must be accompanied as usual and accompanying adults will still be responsible for all the children they bring. Thank you hope to see you there!



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On Tuesday 6th February we took part in Safer internet day.

EYFS- Looked at changes in every day life and related these to technology.

Y1- Explored how different technology has changed over time and thought about what they wanted for their future.

Y2- Read a story and created a story board. The story was about how being online makes us feel and what we can do to stay safe.

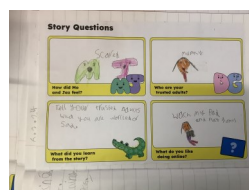
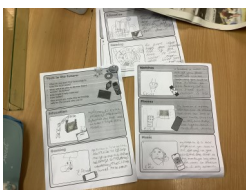
Y3- Looked at how the internet influences us and whether it has a positive or negative impact.

Y4- Looked at 'tech through time'. They discussed the similarities and differences and then design their own technology and thought about how it would advance.

Y5- Looked at how technology design can influence peoples choices and thought of ways that people could use to manage the influence.

Y6- Looked at Artificial intelligence and had a debate to consider how it may change peoples lives now and the in future.

The digital leaders also hosted an online safety games club on the lunch time on the 6th - lots of fun was had by all!



Safer Internet Day 2024



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A big Happy Birthday to..

**Derrion
Nataniel
Simona**

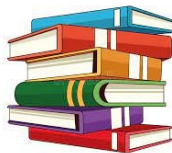
Cooking club

Cooking club have had fun this term they have made fruit kebabs, sweet pizza's, savoury parcels and cookies.



The Library are celebrating...

"National Library Lovers" month this February by encouraging the children to read a wide range of literature. They will also be telling us why they love our school library. There are several libraries around Medway, maybe take a visit to one during half term.



Children's Mental Health Week

The children were lucky enough to have a workshop based around the theme 'My Voice Matters'. The children all did a reflection, some guided yoga and then practised being mindful, thinking about what they were grateful for, as well as things they could make progress in. We discussed having a growth mindset and how keeping on trying is really important.



Goodbye and Good luck

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Attwater one of our Year 3 LSA's. Thank you for all of your hard work we will miss you. Good luck in your new job and enjoy the rest in between.

School vacancies are on Kent Teach we currently have a Teacher & an LSA vacancy.

Beacons

Today the Beacons revealed our Lenten charity mission to the school in our assembly. We are raising money with the Catholic Children's society for those around the world who are less fortunate than us. As Lent is a time where we think of how we can give to other, during the 40 days and nights children will be able to fill up their Lenten boxes with any money to help those in need. For more information on how your donations will be used see their





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Safeguarding

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Parental Advice on Contacting Social Media Sites

It is easy for adults and young children to share things online that sometimes they may wish that they hadn't.

If a child has posted something that they regret, you should advise them to delete it from their account as quickly as they can. Most websites and social media platforms provide an option for users to report to them to request removal of 'content' such as videos, pictures, comments or profiles that might be upsetting. However, it is important to know that making a report doesn't mean that the content will definitely be removed. Most websites and social media sites have a set of rules (Terms of Use) which they expect people using their site to obey.

Please click on the following link and scroll down to see the really useful guides of how to report, block or remove content.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites/>

If your child has been a victim of online bullying and has had a nasty message, picture or video posted about them, you can ask the school for support to help find out who might have posted the content. In addition to your child speaking to you, they may wish to talk to someone outside of the family about what has happened to them and how it made them feel. Let them know that they can always call Childline with any worry, big or small on 0800 11 11. Within school, all children have posters available to them with the telephone number and also who to speak to if they're worried. Children also have a safeguarding notice board and have had a safeguarding assembly at the start of this academic year to support them.

If you are worried about a child, please contact Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership to report your concerns or contact the school's safeguarding team for further support in doing so. You can also report through the NSPCC.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child/2

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/>

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head

Mrs Ebdon Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Headteacher

Mrs Deamer (Jody) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Pastoral Manager

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

If you have any questions, or are worried about a child, please speak to us.