



St Thomas More School Newsletter

20th December 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Headteacher's
Award

RC Buddy

RR Gabrielle

1C Aria

1S Arya

2D Elliott

2F Nancy-Lou

3B Vinnie

3L David

4S Effe

4L Elias

5M Ivy

5C Samuel

6C John-Anthony

6F Emmie

Dear Parents,

The end of term has arrived! We have had a wonderful Advent here at St Thomas More, we started the season with a visit from Father Pawel to bless our Advent wreath, our key stage 1 children had a travelling pantomime visit them in school, our key stage 2 children went to the panto in Chatham yesterday which they thoroughly enjoyed, the children had a fantastic time working on their Christmas projects, the Christmas productions were performed beautifully, our school choir took part in the carol service at Rochester Cathedral and the Christmas fayre was a roaring success – raising £1900!

I would like to thank Mrs Robertson who organised both pantomimes as well as Jody and all the parents who helped with the organisation and running of the Christmas Fayre.

Last week our local MP, Tracey Crouch, visited to present us with our OPAL Platinum Award and our IQSM Centre of Excellence Award and I would like to thank all of the staff who work tirelessly to help our children reach their full potential and to have a rich and enjoyable primary school experience.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to say thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts and messages that we have received and for your support over the last two terms.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all on 3rd January.

Mrs Ebdon

A message from our Chair of Governors

"I would like to express how proud I am of the pupils after watching the fabulous 'Sing-a-Song-Of -Christmas' performance and would like to thank all of the staff at St Thomas More.

The whole experience started by the pupils greeting me with chocolates and a programme depicting Nativity scenes designed by the children, which I loved. Secondly, can I thank all the parents and family members who came to watch their loved ones, it was an endearing occasion seeing the children perform.

Now, to the stars of the productions, the pupils!! I would like to say that I thought you all sang beautifully and spoke so well when narrating. You were all amazing and entertaining. It was very clear that a lot of hard work had gone into it from all the staff as well as the children and the St Thomas More choir were outstanding, especially when singing Silent Night. It is easy to forget how old the children are when watching such a super performance and their engagement with the words and music was very impressive! My favourite part was Year 6 singing "O Holy Night" as it is one of my favourite carols and this was the best version I've heard so far!!

Once again, all the pupils put on a great show, reminding everyone of the real meaning of Christmas with extracts from the Bible included, the costumes were fantastic and everyone spoke their lines clearly and sang beautifully. Thanks to you all for giving us so much pleasure, to be able to be there to experience it was very special!

Congratulations once again to the pupils of St Thomas More for a wonderful Christmas Production!

Be safe if you are travelling and God Bless.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Simon D'Souza, Chair of Governors



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Tracey Crouch visit

Tracey Crouch MP visited us on Friday 15th December to present St Thomas More with our Inclusive Schools Award, and the OPAL platinum award.



Daisy Update

Daisy has had a fantastic start on her journey towards being an in-school education dog. She is making excellent progress and is now interacting more regularly with the children who are all showing off their fantastic dog training skills! The children have also really enjoyed seeing her modelling her wardrobe of winter fashions!



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

If your child(ren) would like to take part in the Christmas Eve Nativity (6pm) Mass, please let Mrs Wilson know. (All ages welcome.) This is always a beautiful and prayerful start to Christmas. There will be a practice from approximately 10.15 to 10.45 this Sunday. (Hot drinks can be provided for parents during practices.) Children should arrive on Christmas eve in costume.



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Carol Service

On Monday 4th December, Mrs Davies and Mrs Wilson took the Year 3 choir to the Rochester Cathedral Carol Service. We were so proud of our children for learning all 12 carols - they sang their hearts out. There were ten other schools taking part and our children were the youngest there. We had many compliments about their behaviour, how smart they looked and how beautifully they sang. A special mention is needed for Amen-Grace and Ronnie, who bravely climbed into the pulpit and did a reading to the whole congregation.

MMA's staff team were really impressed that the children were so brilliantly prepared, thank you for putting in the extra effort in school! The children's behaviour was exemplary and musically, this was certainly one of our finest Carol Festivals! Please convey hearty congratulations to all your pupils for their hard work. We hope that your school enjoyed taking part and we are very grateful indeed to you for all the extra effort you put in to make this such an amazingly successful Festival. MMA

Well done Year 3 - you should be very proud of yourselves.



Year 6 Grinched!

Year 6 had a 'surprise' when they came to class on Monday, both classes looked as if they had been 'Grinched!'

This inspired our Year 6 writers to write a set of comprehensive, yet humorous set of instructions detailing how to steal Christmas



Hartbeeps

Reception were lucky enough to have Hartbeeps in for a Christmas sensory session.

The children were able to sing, dance and join in by decorating trees, riding Santa's sleigh, ringing the bells and catching different items. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Cottrell-Singh for running the session.





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Meeting Santa and class presents and Eddington sneaking a peak at class presents



Christmas Tree decorating competition

Well done 4L for your beautifully decorated Amazon Rainforest tree.





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Isla

Logan

Oluwabusola

Isabelle

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

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

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.

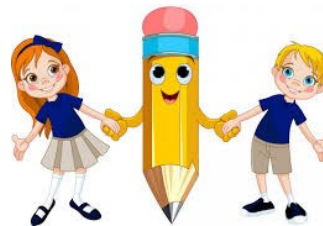
Medway residents can apply from Monday 4th September

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.



Vacancies

Would you, or someone you know, like to join the St Thomas More Team?

If so, we currently have 2 vacancies - 1 full time Learning Support Assistant and 1 Midday Meal Supervisor.

Both adverts can be found on Kent Teach, if you have any further questions please call or email the school office.



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Safeguarding

Safeguarding

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.