



St Thomas More School Newsletter

15th September 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We have had a lovely week welcoming our new Reception children to stay for lunch before they begin full time with us next week.

Thank you to all those parents who attended our Curriculum Evening last night, I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and gain information about the expectations for that year group across the academic year.

All of our children celebrated Roald Dahl day on Wednesday by filling up their own class 'Dream Jars' where they wrote down a dream that they hold for themselves.

This morning our Key Stage 2 children had a visit in assembly from the Medway Emotional Wellbeing Team who introduced them to the concept of how to develop good mental health through noticing and understanding their feelings in different situations and learning some strategies to help regulate their emotions.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Last Sunday was Education Sunday, some of our children who are beginning their journey to make their First Holy Communion joined in with this special Mass by reading some of the bidding prayers along with children from St Benedict's. We wish all of these children the best of luck as they take their next step in their faith journey.

Prayer for education Sunday

God of love and life,

We pray for every member of our community, both close to home and globally, who is returning to school.

We pray for their places of education to be overflowing with creativity, inspiration and opportunity.

We pray for your peace to fill the classrooms and dining halls, the playgrounds and school buses, and the hearts and minds of those who are worried about returning to school.

We pray that you will equip the teachers and teaching assistants with the tools they need to help the children and young people in their care to fulfil their potential.

We commend our children and young people into your care.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.





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Term 1

28th September 2023

Inflatable fun day (3.30-5.30)

29th September 2023

Coffee morning 9-10am
SEN, PTFA, MCAS help

2nd October 2023

Black History month assembly

3rd October 2023

Coffee afternoon 1.30-2.30
SEN, PTFA, MCAS help

6th October 2023

Harvest Mass

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
(booking avail soon)

19th October 2023

Parents Eve 5-8pm
(booking avail soon)

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

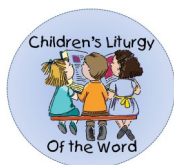
SDD—no children in school





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Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will start back this **Sunday (17th) at 11 o'clock Mass**. This is open to children who are in Year 2 and below (pre-schoolers are welcome with a responsible adult). Older children who have **not** made their First Holy Communion and are **not** on the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programme can also come. This is for children whose parents are attending Mass. Children's Liturgy is fortnightly term time only.

Medway Parent and Carers Forum

have a Zoom meeting on 19th September from 7pm. Guest speakers will be Celia Buxton and Aretha Banton - who will be discussing the EHCP delays.

Head to Medway Parent and Carers Forum Facebook page or website for the joining link.



Celia Buxton and Aretha Banton will be on zoom to discuss EHCP delays with parents and carers

19th September 7-8.30pm

Please see our Facebook page or website for joining link

Every third Monday of the month (starting 18th September 2023) we will be hosting 'Messy Church' in Emmaus Hall (the parish room in St. Simon Stock Church) from 8.45 a.m. to 9.50 a.m.

Please see attached flyer

Barbie Dolls

Do you have any unplayed with 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





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Elliott S

Jude B

Nicholas F

Blake B

Aidan B

David A

Vacancy

Middy meal supervisor

Please apply through Kent Teach

6.25hrs per week



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.



Weekly Maths Challenges

Children will have started/ soon be starting their new times tables or number bonds challenges - class teachers will have given you more information at curriculum evening. Please continue to support your child at home by using the following resources:

MyMaths - Multiplication and division lessons and homework tasks, times it out, beat the clock games

Purple Mash - Monster multiplication and bond bubbles

Daily 10 - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

White Rose Maths app '1 minute maths' - you can download this for free onto phones and tablets to support with number bonds and times tables

Maths at STM:

Please also take a look at the maths curriculum page on our school website to familiarise yourself with the calculation policies and progression overview for your child's new year group. There is also the option to complete a parent questionnaire and request parent workshops for this academic year. We will do our best to accommodate your suggestions!

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/curriculum/maths-curriculum/>

Many thanks,

Miss Cole and Mrs Wilson

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School
Love one another as I have loved you

Maths Curriculum

Maths Curriculum Overview

At St Thomas More Roman Catholic Primary School we aim to create a sense of excitement and curiosity around mathematics. During lessons, children are encouraged to make links between what they are learning, what they already know and the world around them. Mathematics is essential to everyday life and our aim is to teach children to gain a greater understanding through various approaches that empower children to select a way that works for them. Children are introduced to the processes of calculation through a wide range of practical, mental and oral activities.

In lessons, the use of images and practical equipment is central to introduce number concepts and methods of calculation, including both mental and informal methods. Children should be able to verbally explain and reason about their learning before they record calculations. Our aim is to enrich children's understanding by elucidating the vocabulary that is appropriate to each lesson. Mental calculations should be counterpart to written methods.

To have your say about Maths at St Thomas More, please answer our Parent Questionnaire by clicking on the link below:
<https://forms.office.com/e/PfhvZV7EP>

- Mathematics Curriculum: 3Ill Statement
- Calculation Policy: Addition And Subtraction
- Calculation Policy: Multiplication And Division

Curriculum

- Whole School Curriculum Intent
- Our School Curriculum Drivers
- Curriculum Maps
- Assessment
- All Curriculum
- Compiling Curriculum
- DT Curriculum
- Early Years Foundation Stage
- English Curriculum
- Humanities Curriculum
- Maths Curriculum
- MFL Curriculum



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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

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