



St Thomas More School Newsletter

23rd February 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Aida
RC Sophie
1S Alice
1C Isla
2F Ify
2D Nancy
3B Vinnie
3L Alora
4S William
4L Anthony
5C Annie
5C Danielle
5M Aaron
6C Indie
6C Matthew
6F Finley
6F Lucy

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 4! As we begin Term 4 we are already in the season of Lent, unfortunately, Ash Wednesday fell within the half term break which meant we weren't able to celebrate this as a school however, across the course of the week, the children have been learning more about Ash Wednesday and the purpose of the season of Lent within the Liturgical Year. They brought home their Lenten Collection boxes at the end of last term and we are learning that this allows us to carry out the practice of almsgiving which is one of the three practices in Lent, along with prayer and fasting.

By collecting money in our Lent boxes the children know that they are living out the Catholic Social Teaching Practice of 'Preferential Option for the Poor'. The Gospel of Matthew 25:35-40 tells us ***'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*** Matthew 25:35-40

Jesus taught us that we should do this for others and, when we do, we are looking after Him.

During Lent the children will have special services to help them prepare for Easter, Years 3-6 will have a Reconciliation Service and Years 2- 6 will also have a Stations of the Cross Service.

We will be sending out some dates for our class liturgies across the remainder of the academic year, this is where parents have the opportunity to join their children in a liturgy that they have planned and deliver. The class liturgies have always been a lovely experience where our children are able to lead us in prayer and celebration – we look forward to seeing you all at them soon!

I hope you have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Parent Voice

All parents will shortly be receiving an email with a link to a parent questionnaire. At St Thomas More we strive to have strong, positive relationships with our parents as we work as a team to help our children reach their full potential. It is extremely important to us to know our parents views - about what is going well, what needs a bit more work and any other suggestions. Please do take the time to fill this in, it really does help us to make our school the best it can be for our children.

We will also soon be trialling a new format to gain our parents opinions to ensure that, as a school, we are being as effective as possible. This new format will simply be a list of 5/6 simple questions but will be sent out at frequent intervals. We are hoping that this will enable us to get a clear and specific picture over time as to our parents views and experiences across the course of the year.

Thank you for your support

SEN support

Individual provision and school-based support plans were sent home for children with additional needs who are maintained on the school SEN support register at the end of last term. Should you have any questions regarding the targets set or the support in place for your child, please discuss this with the Class Teacher.

Mrs Austin our SENDCO is also available if required to discuss any questions or queries that you may have. If you would like to arrange a call or meeting please call via the office **01634864701** or email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk



St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Term 4

1st March 2024

National offer day—
Secondary

1st March 2024

First Reconciliation

1st March 2024

BYPT reading for pleasure
2.30pm

7th March 2024

World Book Day
Dress as your favourite book
character

22nd March 2024

Stations of the Cross service
Y3-6

22nd March 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in
2.30pm

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

3rd June 2024

Start of Term 6

17th—18th June

SDD-No children in school

19th June 2024

Children back to school

19th July 2024

End of the academic year



Attendance Anteater

Goes to 5M for 100% attendance
5-9 Feb



Punctuality Peacock

Goes to RC, 2D, 2F, 5M



St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

This year we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters! Children will show off their inventive costumes during the morning assembly and our Year 6 House Captains will choose a winner from each class. Winners will receive a brand new book!



Thank you from Medway Foodbank

On behalf of the team at Medway Foodbank, please find attached a certificate for the donations made between July and December 2023. Your donations have been invaluable in enabling us to help those in need in Medway so thank you for your amazing support.



BYPT Reading for pleasure

Friday 1st March 2024

Years 1 -6

2.30-3.00

Book picnic with biscuits - focus on reading for pleasure



Childrens Mental Health Week

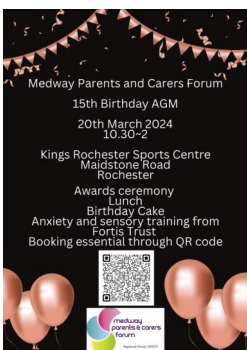
Thank you for your donations we raised

£307.81.

This will be donated to Place 2B who are a children and young people's mental health charity.



Medway have asked us to share the following with our parents/carers
New Life Skills project with Barclays, through Family Action and SENDIAS flyer
Medway Parent Carer Forum AGM flyer



Asthma

Supporting care for children with asthma [Asthma](#) is the most common long-term medical condition in children in the UK, with around one in 11 children and young people living with asthma. To help improve care in Kent and Medway for children and young people with asthma the NHS is asking parents and carers about their experience of:

- annual asthma reviews
- asthma action plans and support to improve inhaler use.

So, if your child has asthma or a recurrent wheeze [have your say by filling in the survey.](#)



St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'



A big Happy Birthday to..

- Sara
- Sofia
- Michaela
- Luke
- Juliet
- Sophia

BOUNCE KINGDOM Stay AND PLAY

Under 5's stay and play sessions
Hook Meadow Community Centre, King George Road ME5 0TZ
Last **THURSDAY** of every month

Sessions 9.30-11am/11.15-12.45

Play park, jungle castle, soft play shapes, ride ons, rockers, hoppers, ball pools, mini disco dome & games

£5 per child limited spaces available
Under 1's free with a paying child

Refreshments available to purchase (cash only)
Call/message Lisa to book -
07816386336



BOUNCE KINGDOM

Ultimate Easter Bounce
Saturday 30th March 2024
MEDWAY PARK SPORTS CENTRE
90 Minutes of Ultimate fun and games.

FREE MEET & GREET WITH THE EASTER BUNNY + SURPRISE GUESTS.....

INDOORS EVENT Includes - Assault course, Slides, Bouncy Castles, Disco domes, Didi car tracks, Castle/Slide combos. Under 5's area with play park, soft play bouncy castle and ball pool. Games Zone with Pitch & shoot, Wakka wall, Nerf shooter, Giant snakes & ladders, Twister & Connect 4 + more

Music, Lights and Dancefloor

Free glitter tattoos/normal tattoos/hair braiding

CALL/TEXT LISA TO BOOK ON - 07816386336

Tickets are limited please book early to avoid disappointment, our last event sold out

£12 a child/£2 an adult

We are supporting The Life Matters children's mental health charity



While we are happy to advertise local events we are not affiliated with them so please ensure you do your own safeguarding checks.

Mothers Day—your help is required

At present the fundraising team have nothing planned for a Mothers Day activity if you have any ideas or can help to organise something please email Jody

flo@st-thomasmore.medway.medway.sch.uk

As Mothers Day is fast approaching please contact Jody as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Thank you.



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. Nail polish should not be worn. Hair should be tied up.





St Thomas More School Newsletter

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.