



St Thomas More School Newsletter

29th September 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

- RR Lucy A
- RC Nadia L
- 1S Maisie R
- 1C Esther M
- 2F Simona A
- 2F Belle D
- 2D Cian L
- 3L Anne S
- 3L Ronnie R
- 3B Arabella W
- 3B Sophia D
- 4S Jada-Grace D
- 4L Tyger D
- 5M Rosie-Leigh M
- 5C Selvin A
- 6F Erin G
- 6C Jamie B

Dear Parents,

The children all look rather tired today! I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who supported yesterday's Inflatable Afternoon so that our children could enjoy such a fantastic event.

I would like to thank Jody and Mrs McNaughton for running our first Macmillan/ Parent Information coffee morning today, thank you to all of our families for the cake donations to help raise money for such an important cause. We are running our second coffee/information session on Tuesday at 1:30, please do come along to find out about our Fundraising Team and if you have any question about MCAS or special educational needs. There will be cake!

I would like to say a special thank you to Michaela, Thomas, Gbemi, Joanna, Amelia and Daniel in Year 5 who approached me at the start of term as they wanted to compile a book of their own poems and sell them to raise money for the school. They have worked very hard designing their front cover and blurb and we have made an excellent publishing team, working together to get them ready to sell at the coffee morning today. These cost 50p and will be available to buy at Tuesday's coffee afternoon as well as from tuck shop. We are very proud of our children's passion for writing and budding entrepreneurs!



I hope you all have a lovely weekend
Mrs Ebdon

Parking

Another parking incident has unfortunately been reported to me this week which could easily have resulted in a child being seriously injured if it had not been for the swift intervention of their parent. The child was on the pavement when a car that was parking mounted the kerb, did not look properly and nearly hit them. Please do not park in Bleakwood Road unless ABSOLUTELY necessary. If you have no option but to park in Bleakwood Road because you have limited mobility or a disability, please ensure that you are driving very slowly and when parking or reversing that you are extremely observant for children near or around your car. Please do not park with any part of your car on the pavement.

Fratelli Tutti

In last week's newsletter I shared the children's learning around Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti'. The children have made some lovely pledges about how we can help our neighbours and live in one united, global community.





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Term 1

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

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

The Ladies of Walderslade UCM (union of Catholic mothers) will be celebrating their 31st anniversary at 11am Mass this Sunday (1st October). Everyone is welcome to celebrate Mass with them and also to join them at the reception in Emmaus Hall afterwards. (There will be the usual tea, coffee and biscuits plus additional refreshments.)

Children's Liturgy is on this week for younger children. Please note that once a child has made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion or is on the programme to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, they should stay in the Church and not come out for Children's Liturgy. Preschool children should be accompanied by an adult.

This weekend is the Parish Harvest Collections for Medway Foodbank. There will be a box in the church lobby for donations. From now on, this box will be available for donations all year round.



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Little Trekkers



To support October's International Walk to School month we will be taking part in Little Trekkers. The Medway Council run competition counts all forms of Active Travel to school. Active travel is:

- walking
- wheeling
- cycling
- scootering

park and stride (walking the last 10 minutes of the journey).

All the children need to do is tell their class eco monitor how they travelled to school each day between the 2nd and 13th October. There are excellent prizes to be won including £500 in vouchers for school.

Here is the link to the Medway website and I have also attached the poster in case that helps:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/WalkToSchool>

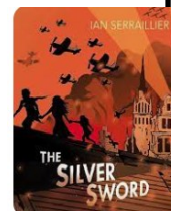
Year 2

Year 2 went on a walk this week. They used their observation skills to find features of the local area. Afterwards, they learnt to draw a sketch map using symbols and a key. Well done Year 2, your behaviour was excellent!



Year 6

Year 6 began exploring a new text called The Silver Sword, which drew upon their knowledge in Humanities and of World War II. Children have worked to emphasize with the characters' experiences



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Macmillan Coffee morning

Thank you for the cake donations and to those people that attended our coffee morning today. We didn't have as many people attend as we would have liked but there will be another opportunity on Tuesday 3rd October from 1.30 until 3.15 please do drop in before collecting your children from school. Mrs Austin will be available to answer any SEN questions and Mrs McNaughton from the office to help you with any MCAS questions and Jody will be available to talk about fundraising ideas and class reps.



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..

Willow C

Orlagh W

Charis B

Lily L

Alex S

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.

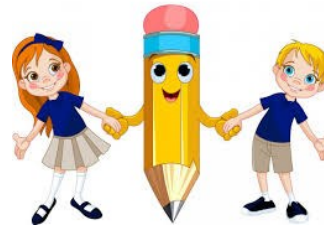
Medway residents can apply from 0am Monday 4th September

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.





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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 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