



St Thomas More School Newsletter

20th October 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Seon L
RC Sophia G
1S Sophie K
1C Adora A
2F Manette K
2F Daniella G
2D Ella M
2D Theo E
3L Mila C
3L Paige C
3B Max M
4S Kayson D
4L Elizabeth A
4L Darcy H
5M Eleanor T
5M Andy B
5C Isla B
5C Orlaith C

Dear Parents,

The end of term 1 has arrived! We have had a lovely term seeing the children settle into their new year groups and welcoming our Reception children into our St Thomas More Family.

We have had a busy term with our Curriculum Evening, workshops from Medway's Emotional Wellbeing Team, Deanery Football competition, Medway Hockey Tournament, parents phonics workshop, Macmillan Coffee sessions, Inflatable Afternoon, Harvest Foodbank Collection, Black History month assemblies delivered by Wise Moves, National Poetry Day and Roald Dahl Day to name a few! We have finished off the term with our Parent's Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday and our Year 6 children have braved the weather today for their trip to Chessington!

When we return from the half term break all children will need to be wearing their winter uniform, please follow this link to double check what items you need:

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/parent-information/school-uniform/>

As it has now been 7 weeks since the end of the summer holidays any ear piercings should have had ample time to heal and therefore please ensure your child's earrings are removed before returning for Term 2. All hair should be tied back if longer than collar length, hair should be natural in colour, not sporting extreme styles of fashion and without beads or additional extensions. If you are unsure if any items of uniform are unsuitable please leave the tags in and check with your child's teacher or the office who will be able to help you. If any families are struggling in the current economic crisis, please do let us know as we have lots of nearly new uniform items in a range of sizes.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 30th October

Mrs Ebdon

Faith

This term we have been working with all of our children on understanding the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. In our whole school, Monday assemblies we have been studying the readings from each Sunday's Mass. The children have been learning about the structure of the Bible, noticing connections between the readings within each Mass, thinking about the message within the scripture and how we can apply that to our lives today and what aspect of Catholic Social Teaching that message aligns with.

This term we have found the messages of Solidarity, Option for the Poor, Human Dignity, The Common Good, Distributive Justice and Stewardship in scripture and we have lived some of these principles through our pledges in response to Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' and collecting food for the Medway Food Bank during Harvest.

We are very proud of our children who understand that their thoughts and actions can make a difference and are, already, striving for positive change in the choices they make.

Gracious god,

Help us each day to live simply,
taking small but deliberate steps
to preserve the earth's resources.

Help us to remember that you made enough for all
teach us to share freely with one another,
out of love for you and our neighbour
Inspire generosity in our hearts,
and guide all nations towards a world
where peace is built on justice
and justice is guided by love.

Amen



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Term 2

30th October 2023

Start of Term 2

6th November 2023

Flu vaccinations R-Y6

17th November 2023

Children in Need—tag day

1st December 2023

KS1 Panto (in school)

11th December 2023

Hartbeeps Magic Sprinkles
Yr R

14th December 2023

Christmas lunch

19th December 2023

KS2 Aladdin

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

For communal prayers on zoom and other Parish events,
please see the Parish website:

stsimonwalderslade.co.uk



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Parent Conduct

Unfortunately, we have been informed that there have been altercations between parents during school drop off/collection times that have been witnessed by children.

Can I please ask that all parents conduct themselves respectfully and courteously, we cannot expect our children to behave in this manner if this is not the way the adults around them behave.

If an in-school issue arises, please let the school deal with it. If an issue arises outside of school (either hours or premises) please be polite. If any parent feels they have been the subject of inappropriate or threatening behaviour, our advice is to report this to the police.

As a school we promote tolerance, respect and love – it is very disappointing that this is not being modelled by some adults and that these occurrences are happening on a regular basis.

Poetry Competition Winners

2D—Busola
2F—Austin
3L Amber
4S—Jasroop
4S—Jada-Grace
5C—Ben
5C—Lyanna
5C—Samuel
5M—Grace
5M—Amelia M
6C—Aliona
6F—Annabelle

Library News

This month in the library we are celebrating

National Poetry Day where we held a competition for the children to write us a poem about a subject of their choice.

Black History Month we celebrated with a display of influential people in history including authors. The display has opened up conversations from the children and they have suggested other people we could use for future displays.

We have celebrated the birthdays of R L Stine, author of the Goosebumps series, Michael Morpurgo, author of War Horse and Professor Flitwick, teacher of charms in the Harry Potter series.

Over half term we will be asking the children to draw us pictures of what they have done during the holidays to celebrate October being the Big Draw month. All pictures will be displayed in the library.



Science Dome

The children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 absolutely loved experiencing the Science WonderDome on Tuesday. They were fully immersed in the Milky Way galaxy and learnt so many new facts about space exploration and the properties of the planets. The children asked so many questions and hopefully they will be inspired to follow a career in Space Science.





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Amelia M

Axel D

Arlo D

Effe T

Jamie W

Simona A

Dideola I-O

Samuel D

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.

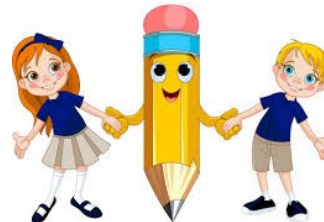
Medway residents can apply from 0am Monday 4th September

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

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.