



St Thomas More School Newsletter

21st July 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Headteacher Award

Samuel O RC

Constance C RR

Spencer W 1J

Macey W 1D

Damilola O 2F

Skyla M 2S

Elliott R 3T

Henry H 3B

Callum G 4L

Rosabella B 4S

Nieva K 5C

Aliona A 5M

Hollie W 6C

Liam T 6F

Dear Parents,

The end of the year is here! We have finished off Term 6 with a busy week, Year 6 had their dress rehearsal on Monday morning with the production for their parents going fantastically well on Tuesday. Year 6 had their end of year festival (which luckily the rain stopped for!) on Wednesday and then their Leavers Mass this morning. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them well as they begin the next part of their educational journey at secondary school in September.

The rest of the children carried on their preparation for the start of the new academic year this week by having transition sessions in their new classroom, with their new teacher, to help them build confidence and connections to allay any 'September nerves'. Our school choir, Year 4 and Year 5 children delivered a brilliant singing, ukulele and drumming performance to their parents on Tuesday following their hard work this year, learning to play these instruments.

I would like to thank all the parents who filled in our parent questionnaire earlier this year, we will be sending out a letter at the start of September responding to the feedback with any alterations or queries addressed. We are continually striving to make sure that St Thomas More provides the best possible educational and pastoral experience for our children and our parents' opinions and experiences are crucial in helping us to meet these goals.

On returning in September, the children are able to wear their summer or winter uniform for Term 1, then in Term 2 it is winter uniform only until Easter. Please ensure that your child's uniform meets the specified requirements, the link below takes you directly to our uniform page:

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/media/1btogji4/stm-school-uniform-23.pdf>

Uniform expectations includes haircuts and colour, jewellery, shoes and bags, if you are unsure if any of your items are correct, please bring them to the office who can confirm this for you – we recommend not removing the tags so that items can be returned if this is not the case. If your child is going to have their ears pierced, please ensure that this is carried out right at the start of the summer holidays so that they are fully healed and can be removed in September as earrings are not permitted for health and safety reasons.

I would like to thank all parents for their support and kind words over the course of this academic year, I would also like to thank all staff who work so dedicatedly, going above and beyond for all of our children to help them enjoy being at school, fulfil their potential and have so many interesting and exciting additional experiences and activities.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all well rested and ready to go for our new academic year in September!

Mrs Ebdon



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2023/2024

1st September 2023

SDD—no children in school

4th September 2023

Children return to school

21st September 2023

Inflatable fun day

13th October 2023

SDD—No children in school

20th October 2023

End of Term 1

30th October 2023

Start of Term 2

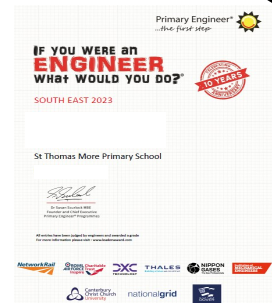
20th December 2023

End of Term 2



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Well done to all our budding engineers!

Earlier in the year, the whole school took part in a national competition 'If you were an engineer what would you do?'

Everyone had to identify a need and invent something to meet the need, writing a letter to explain why their invention should be chosen to be made as a prototype by real engineers.

There were three pass marks – pass, merit and distinction.

The following children passed with distinction:

Year 1 – Lucas D, Daniella G, Elliott S, Austin M

Year 2 – Vinnie Sharkey, Fikayomi O, Isabelle H, Anne S, Amber W, Ben P

Year 3 – Samuel J, Kayson D, Elliott R

Year 4 – Amelia H, Eloise C, JD S, Orlaith C

Year 5 – Lewis B

Year 6 – Toma Y, Sacha N, Priscilla A, Molly Q, Liam T, Joseph S, David M, Faith P,

Elsie-Mae M, David S

The following children passed with distinction and their inventions were short-listed for the making of the prototype:

FS – Ryan E, Demilade O

Year 3 – Sophia G, Nesia S

Year 4 – Chizaram I, Milyana B

Year 5 – Oluwatise G, Evie D, Durotimi O

Year 6 – Toba A, Ryan W

Congratulations to all!



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A big Happy Birthday to..

Anthony H

Thejal J

Indiah Lilly P

Alora A

Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6



No matter what
we choose to do
We will not forget
this place

Within these
walls our dreams
began

Now in our hearts
they're safe



Operation Encompass - Police

As a school, we have signed up to Operation Encompass which is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that schools receive a notification to the Designated Safeguarding Lead prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attending outside of school where there are children related to either the adult parties involved. Children are negatively impacted when experiencing domestic abuse and without early intervention, this can negatively impact a child's life course. Domestic abuse can impact upon social, psychological, physical, emotional and behavioural outcomes with an often negative impact on a child's academic success. Operation Encompass alerts aim to connect police and schools to ensure better outcomes for children, to enable schools to better understand a child's lived experience and to therefore be able to support and nurture each child. If you would like to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead regarding an incident or support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Le Breton, Mrs Ebdon or Mrs Deamer who are the safeguarding team.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/domestic-violence/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/domestic-abuse/>

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

Our Safeguarding team are:

Mrs Le Breton	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Ebdon	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Deamer	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Simon D'Souza	Safeguarding Governor
Sinead Joshi	Safeguarding Governor