



St Thomas More School Newsletter

30th June 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your children enjoyed the long weekend and made the most of the sunshine!

We have had a busy week with 3 of our year groups going on school trips, Year 5 went to Hever Castle, Year 2 went to Bore Place and Year 1 had a 'Pirate Day' at Chatham Dockyard. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we have received lovely feedback about their behaviour from the venues that they visited. I am so proud that all of our children, no matter what year group they are in, are always such excellent ambassadors for our school and the values hold when they are out in the wider community.

Next week we look forward to our Reception children's first ever liturgy and our Sports Day on Friday, fingers crossed for good weather!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Year 5 Hever Castle

On Tuesday, Year 5 had an exciting day at Hever Castle to enhance their learning about Tudor monarchs, Tudor Art and design. They explored the main castle, which was the home to two of Henry VIII's wives, and learned about its historical significance. They also had fun in the Yew Maze and the Water Maze... although they did get quite wet! The children behaved beautifully throughout the day.



Awards Ceremony

Last week, our school was represented by a child from each class at an awards event held at Canterbury Christ Church University. This was a culmination of the Vehicle Project we ran in school during Science Week. St Thomas More did really well, winning three awards: Apprentice Level One (runner up), Apprentice level Two (winner) and Best Communicator – Apprentice Level. Well done to all the children who took part in the project and particularly to our representatives, Zahra (FS), Halle (Yr1), Amen-Grace (Yr2), Simona (Yr3), Sara (Yr4), Wade (Yr5) and Toma (Yr6).





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Term 6 dates

30th June 2023

Medway Test registration closes

3rd July 2023

Year 6 Trip to Chessington

7th July 2023

Sports Day

KS2 (am) 9.15 start

Picnic lunch with the children

11.30-12.15

KS1 (pm) 12.30 start

14th July 2023

KS2 Talent Show

18th July 2023

Year 6 Production 5.30

19th July 2023

Year 6 festival—own clothes

21st July 2023

Year 6 Leavers Mass

21st July 2023

Last day of academic year

2023/2024

1st September 2023

SDD—no children in school

4th September 2023

Children return to school





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WASPs Holiday Club

Dates: 25 July - 31 August

Times: 07:30-17:30 (drop-off and collect at any time between those hours)

Price: £30 per day or £100/£130 full week (dependent on a 4 or 5 day week)

Bookings: <https://aow.schoolactivity.co.uk> (choose option - 'Holiday Camps')

Location: The Academy of Woodlands, ME7 2DU (collect/drop-off via the Arts Centre)

MedwayGO Holiday activities

MedwayGo is a FREE holiday activities programme for school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and receiving benefits-related free school meals. Your child can attend these free activities over the summer holidays. Bookings will go live on Monday 3rd July with lots of activities for children of all ages.

These include sports, performing arts, outdoor activities, snow boarding, theatre skills, swimming, trampolining and so much more...

You will need to create an account and register your child. Use the link on the form to also register other children who you would like to attend MedwayGo Holiday Activities.

<https://go.medway.gov.uk/book>

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Open Athletics Meeting

Please find details attached for Medway & Maidstone's open athletics meeting for anyone from years R-6 who would like to take part this coming Sunday! There are Run, Jump & Throw events to enter at £9 per event.

The flyer does say enter by 8pm today, however we have been informed that entries are open up until 11pm on Friday night. The club apologise for the short notice but would welcome any young athletes who wish to take part.



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A big Happy Birthday to..

Una C
Sofia M
Jensen P
Theo E
Oluwatomilola O
Ryan W
Freya G
Isla C
Amelia M

Year 2 Bore Place

On Wednesday, Year 2 went to Bore Place to explore a working farm. They had great fun exploring habitats and caught some interesting minibeasts to observe in microscopic jars! They also enjoyed visiting the organic dairy farm to find out where milk comes and how vegetables are grown.



Sunscreen

Just a reminder that no one should have sun screen at school in their bags. This is very important due to the ingredients.

Also, anyone who brings in hay fever or insect wipes needs to have a medication form completed and they need to be kept in the first aid room.



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.



Medway Summer of Sport & Medway Mile

Please see the websites for more details on summer sports activities and the Medway Mile.

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

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





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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