



St Thomas More School Newsletter

21st April 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

Lamiya H RC

Greyson M RR

Manette K 1D

Ify N 1D

Belle D 1J

Lily L 2F

Blake D 2F

Ethan T 2S

Demi O 3B

Uzoma N 3T

Scarlett R 4L

Lyanna B 4S

Grace S 4S

Yemisi M 5C

Wade L 5M

Audrey P 6C

Liam T 6F

Golden Welly Award

Macey W



Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely Easter break with your families, it was lovely to see all of the children return to school on Tuesday ready for the start of the summer term.

As we are now in the summer term, children can wear their summer school uniform if they wish. Please double check the uniform section on our website to check that your child has the correct items. Although the weather should hopefully start to improve soon, please remember that school shoes should be black or brown, not slip-on and should provide support for the child's foot – summer/open toed sandals are not appropriate footwear for the activities that they take part in during school.

I would like to thank all of those families who have paid their 'school fund'. The school fund is an essential source of finance as it allows us to provide additional activities, experiences and resourcing for the children, as well as being regularly used to subsidise the cost of school trips. An example of some of the activities we try to provide across the school year are poet visits, ice cream day in the summer term, visits from museums with artefacts to bring learning to life, science dome planetarium shows and food tasting sessions to stimulate ideas for writing.

Due to the economic crisis at the moment, costings for school trips are now extremely high with hugely increased entrance costs to locations and the cost of coach travel has risen by an astronomical amount, usually to around double what it would have cost previously.

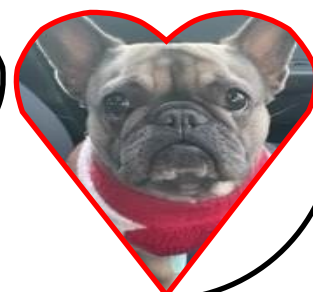
Unfortunately, we have only received a contribution from 97 of our 297 families which equates to £1455 out of a possible £4455. Although £1455 may sound like a significant amount of money, in the context of a 2 form entry primary school it unfortunately isn't. We usually try to subsidise each school trip by a minimum of £1 per child, a school fund total of £1455 equates to the value of £3.45 per child, which, after the minimum subsidy of the school trip only leaves £2.45 per child.

The cost of living crisis unfortunately affects all families, schools and businesses in our country but if any more of our families are able to make the £15 contribution to the school fund, which can be paid through the MCAS app, this would be gratefully received as it allows us to provide a rich variety of interesting and engaging experiences that really do help to make the learning journey at St Thomas More an exciting and memorable experience.

Willow

I would just like to say thank you for all your kind words regarding the loss of our school dog, Willow. The children have made me some beautiful cards and written the most lovely things in them. She was a very lucky dog to be loved so much, by such wonderful children

Mrs Ebdon x



Late children

If your child is late and has to come through the office they need to be signed in. The system asks for the date they were born i.e 14th and not all children remember this so please ensure that you are with them to sign them in or that they know their date of birth. We often have large groups of children arriving at 9am, this means they are late for school and will have missed the register and the lunch register.

If they are not signed in they could potentially miss their morning mark and you could receive a text message saying they have not registered for school, if they are school dinners they will not have been registered which means they may not get their first choice of lunch.



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Term 5 dates

1st May 2023

May bank holiday—School closed

4th May 2023

Year 5 Liturgy (TBC)

4th May 2023

KS1 Disco

8th May 2023

King Charles III Coronation bank holiday—school closed

9th-12th May 2023

SATS

18th May 2023

KS2 Disco

Y3 & 4 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Y5 & 6 5pm—6pm

25th May 2023

Class photo taken

26th May 2023

Last day of Term 5

29th May—2nd June

May half term

Term 6 dates

8th June 2023

KS2 Disco

9-11th June 2023

Year 6 residential

23rd June 2023

SDD—school closed

26th June 2023

SDD—School closed

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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A big Happy Birthday to..

Sebastian M
Joanna I
Emmanuel A
Joshua O
Freddie F
Noah F
Ayo B
Esther O
Daniel O
Moriah A
Aliona A
Isla M
Benjamin P
Elliott R
Georgia T



Disco

Apologies for the confusion over the disco dates

KS1 is Thursday 4th May

KS2 Thursday 18th May

The disco is being run by members of our fundraising team , after-school club is part of the school's wraparound care and therefore will not be running in line with the disco times. If your child is going to afterschool club before or after a disco the times for collection will remain the same 4.30 and 5.30.

Bring your parent to History

This has been postponed and we will notify you of a new date as soon as possible.



Secondhand uniform sale

Thursday 27th April

12.00pm

There will be a secondhand uniform sale held on the playground after school on Thursday 27th April.



Request for donations

Do you have any off cuts of astroturf that you would be willing to donate to the school? If you do please speak to a member of the office staff.

Thank you



We are looking to refresh our collection of puzzles, construction toys and turn taking games .

We would be extremely grateful if you are having a spring clean and can donate any of the following;

Jigsaws suitable for age 5-10

Turn taking games eg. Hungry Hippo, Pop up Pirates

Educational puzzles linked to number/spelling/phonics

Matching pairs games

Construction toys such as lego/k'nex etc

Pokemon toys/puzzles





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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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Safeguarding Survey for Parents & Carers

Please could you spare a few minutes to complete our safeguarding survey. If you would like to find out more about how we safeguard children at St Thomas More, please head to our website and the safeguarding section. You will also find a Safeguarding Information Booklet for Parents and Carers. If you would like to speak to a member of the safeguarding team, please contact the office where Mrs Le Breton, Mrs Ebdon or Jody our Pastoral Manager will be able to answer any questions that you have.

<https://forms.office.com/r/CWv4KXCJ0K>