



St Thomas More School Newsletter

1st March 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We have had a lovely week here at St Thomas More with many opportunities to think about the importance of Lent, our mission and our values and how we can live our Catholic life and mission both in our own communities and beyond. Our assembly on Monday gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect, as our whole school family, on our school Mission Statement. We explored our values within our mission statement, that these values are given to us by God, through scripture, and identified different Gospels, readings, and psalms where these values were being lived. Our children were able to articulate beautifully how we should not just 'do' each of these values but that they should be lived and, it is through living them, that we share our Catholic mission with all who we meet.

On Tuesday we were very fortunate to have a visitor from Cafod who led an assembly and held workshops for our children. She shared with them the work that Cafod do and explained how the money that the children are collecting in their Lent boxes will be used by Cafod to help those in need. During the workshops, the children worked to further understand the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and identify which principles were being lived in a range of scenarios.

Our Key Stage 2 children attended a reconciliation service with Fr Pawel this morning as part of their Lenten preparation for Easter and we look forward to our Stations of the Cross service during Lent as well.

It was fantastic to see so many parents attend our 'Bring Your Parent to Reading for Pleasure' this afternoon and I hope you enjoyed this opportunity.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Catholic Social Teaching The Principles



Loving God,

Help us to work together

To share what we have

So that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world

Where each of us can become the best person we can be.

Amen

Red Nose Day—Friday 15th March

School Council would like all children to wear red for Red Nose Day—they are not asking for any donations to be brought into school but please bring in a joke that can be shared with the class.



SEN support

Individual provision and school-based support plans were sent home for children with additional needs who are maintained on the school SEN support register at the end of last term. Should you have any questions regarding the targets set or the support in place for your child, please discuss this with the Class Teacher.

Mrs Austin our SENDCO is also available if required to discuss any questions or queries that you may have. If you would like to arrange a call or meeting please call via the office **01634864701** or email sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk



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Term 4

7th March 2024

World Book Day

Dress as your favourite book character

15th March 2024

Wear red for Red Nose Day

22nd March 2024

Stations of the Cross service

Y3-6

22nd March 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in

2.30pm

26th March 2024

Parents Evening

27th March 2024

Parents Evening

28th March 2024

End of Term 4

Term 5

15th April 2024

Start of Term 5

6th May 2024

Bank holiday

24th May 2024

Topic afternoon—parents in

Y1-6

24th May 2024

End of Term 5

Term 6

3rd June 2024

Start of Term 6

17th—18th June

SDD-No children in school

19th June 2024

Children back to school

19th July 2024

End of the academic year



Attendance Anteater

Goes to 2F for 100% attendance
18-23 Feb



Punctuality Peacock

Goes to RC, 2F, 5M



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World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

This year we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters! Children will show off their inventive costumes during the morning assembly and our Year 6 House Captains will choose a winner from each class. Winners will receive a brand new book!



Mothers Day gift shop

Jody is running a Mothers Day gift shop next week. There will be several gifts to choose from. All gifts will cost £3 and are on MCAS under Products (if you do not initially see Products down the left hand side please try refreshing your app)

Children who are purchasing a gift will be taken to the 'shop' in school and will bring the gift home at the of next week.

Please remember that we are a nut free school. We have several children with severe nut allergies. Children should not have nuts or nut based products in their lunch box.

This includes Nutella chocolate spread, small nut based cereal bars etc



Protect your child from measles. Book an appointment at an MMR catch-up clinic this March.

Measles isn't just a harmless childhood disease and can lead to serious illness, but it is preventable through two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. Following a rise in cases in England, the NHS are urging parents and carers to make sure their children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations. Catch-up clinics are available to school-aged children, and teens up to 19, in Chatham on Saturday, 2 and Saturday 23 March. To book an appointment phone the School-aged Immunisation Service on 0300 123 5205 or email via kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net. If you're not sure whether your child is up to date with their MMR jabs, look in your child's red book, or check with your GP, who can also offer MMR catch-up appointments.



Chinese New Year celebration

Year 3 decided to have our own Chinese New Year celebration in school. We used percussion instruments to make loud noises and we used the glockenspiels to play improvised tunes using the 5 notes of the pentatonic scale. Wearing our masks and waving brightly coloured scarves, we danced round the hall pretending to be the dragon. We enjoyed using our music skills to create a loud and colourful parade! Kung hei fat choi!





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A big Happy Birthday to..

- Isla
- Charlotte
- Tirenioluwa
- Samuel
- Ocean-Storm
- Sophia
- Esther
- Blake
- Willow
- Teniola

Reception and Year 1

Reception and Year 1 children took part in a balance bike competition at Medway Park. The children worked on a range of skills including following a path, running with a bike and manoeuvring around obstacles. They did an excellent job! We will find out next week where we placed. Well done to all children involved!



The climbing experience

For the first time children have had the opportunity to take part in a climbing experience event. The children had this to say about their day..

There were lots of challenges and I really liked the one where you had to climb through the hoops.

Evie

It was very fun. We had to climb a wall with boxing gloves and a blindfold.

Maya

At the climbing experience my favourite bit was the speed climbing because it was fun to see your score and how you are progressing each time.

Bentley

It was so much fun. I would love to go there again.

Kiera

We all did amazingly well. I felt proud of everyone.

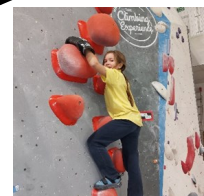
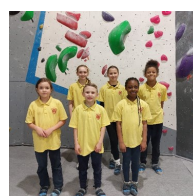
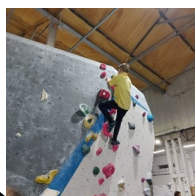
Henry

I found the blue blocks tricky and falling down in the harness was a bit worrying for me but I still enjoyed everything about the rock climbing experience.

Tomi

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. Nail polish should not be worn. Hair should be tied up.





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Beacon's Bible Club

This week the Beacon's have been working really hard to get their Bible club ready for next week. They have been making posters with all the information which will be displayed around the school.

Bible club will be every Monday in 3L, children can come straight after they have eaten lunch and everyone is welcome. They look forward to seeing you all this Monday!



Reconciliation Service

Today our children in Year's 3, 4, 5 and 6 attended a Reconciliation Service at the Church with Father Pawel. Catholic children were able to go to confession and all other children received a blessing from Father. Today's gospel reading was all about the 'Lost Sheep' which we were able to reflect on how it relates to Reconciliation in our quiet reflection time. Thank you to Father Pawel as well as Father Michael, Father Peter and Father Bart who supported our children



PE kit

We have had a lot of children arriving in non uniform PE kit.

As a reminder your child should have the following PE kit

Navy blue/black plain tracksuit with a sweatshirt (not a zipped hoody) and a t-shirt in their house colour.

White or black plain trainers

We do not allow named tracksuits i.e Nike, Adidas, Puma

Many of the supermarkets and Primark sell plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts. Uniform base sell house colour PE t-shirts with our school .

Please ensure you label all items of uniform so that if they are misplaced they can be reunited.



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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.