



St Thomas More School Newsletter

3rd November 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Leo M

RC George A

RC Isla B

IS Zuhayb K

1C Sammy O

2F Orla F

2D Elliot S

3B Logan W

3B Zoe A

3L Lucas C

4S Maya L

4S Isla B

4L Charlotte C

4L Dollcie-Rae F

5C Sofia B

5M Alex D

5M Scarlett R

6C Eliza C

6C Jenson F

6F Georgie-May B

6F Yemisi M

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! We have had a lovely first week back, despite the weather! Please remember to send your children into school with appropriate outdoor clothing and wellies so that they are able to access all areas of OPAL at lunchtimes – unfortunately, if they do not have the appropriate items, they will not be able to access some of the activities.

As we are in Term 2, all children should be wearing winter uniform as explained in the newsletter at the end of Term 1. Some children are still wearing polo shirts, all children should now be wearing a shirt and tie with either grey trousers, a navy blue skirt or navy blue pinafore.

Our Year 5 and 6 children took place in a 'Harms' assembly yesterday and our Year 6 children then had a workshop which was about how to be safe online, have a look at the section of the newsletter explaining this to find out what they got up to.

In our assembly on Monday we learned about the Fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs and how these connect with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching that we were identifying in scripture during our assemblies in Term 1. Please do talk with your child about how these values are lived out within our families and communities and how we can all make difference to others with the choices we make.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

We would like to ask all families to hold in their prayers all people who are living through war and conflict

Prayer for Peace

Lord God, Father of all,

We, your children, are all members of the same human family, your family.

We implore you to help us to accept your peace,

To be at peace with ourselves and to live in peace with others.

Help us to seek wisdom and justice in all we do.

Help us to be more compassionate and understanding when dealing with others,

To be ready to forgive when wronged,

To be willing to love when hurt and

To strive harmony and peace when threatened

Eternal Father, in your mercy, hear our prayer

And grant us your everlasting peace

Amen



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Term 2

6th November 2023

Flu vaccinations R-Y6

13th November 2023

World Kindness day/Anti bullying week

17th November 2023

Children in Need—tag day

1st December 2023

KS1 Panto (in school)

4th December 2023

Advent Wreath blessing
assembly

5th & 6th December 2023

Secret Santa presents on sale

11th December 2023

Christmas project week

11th December 2023

Tombola Tag Day

11th December 2023

Hartbeeps Magic Sprinkles
Yr R

13th December 2023

KS1 Christmas Production 9.30

KS2 Christmas Production
13.45

14th December 2023

Meet Father Christmas

14th December 2023

Christmas lunch

15th December 2023

Advent Mass lead by 5M

15th December 2023

Christmas Fayre

19th December 2023

KS2 Aladdin

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

The church is now collecting bottles and unwanted gifts for the Christmas fayre which will be on the 25th November from 11am to 3pm.

Parishioner run children's choir on a Friday at 4.30pm (term time only). The children sing at 11 o'clock Mass one Sunday a month.

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

stsimonwalderslade.co.uk



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Online Safety

Year 5 and 6 took part in an engaging and exciting assembly, hosted by Kent Police, informing the children on how to stay safe online! Children were surprised to find out the age restrictions on some apps but were given some helpful tips to create a password that would be nearly impossible to hack!

Some of Year 6 took part in recording their own podcast with sound producers and directors, with a purpose to informing others on how to stay safe online. Others in Year 6 faced the challenge of creating their own Twitter post with a character limit of only 100 characters, educating users of online safety.



An informative morning with lots of fun and creativity! Check out the school website soon to hear some of the children's fantastic podcasts!



Fundraising Team request

Hello,

We are looking for a parent representative for **4L**, **5M** and **5C** to share information and updates from the fundraising team eg.

Tombola tag day is and our class are asked to donate

or it could be a reminder for closing date for money to be paid for a disco or activity.

We thought that this may be a more effective way of communicating reducing people missing out or being late with payments. Most year groups have a parents WhatsApp group so it would simply be that an email or message would be shared to the group of Class reps and then they share it with their class.

If you are able to offer or would like to find out more then please see me or email me on;

familyliaisonofficer-st.thomasmore@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

Child wellbeing workshops

Bonnie, Jenny and I are the children's social prescribers for Medway South Primary Care Network / Imago. We previously piloted a project to support our clients over the summer holidays, and have just been awarded the **People's Choice Award** through the **NHS Kent and Medway and Kent and Medway Primary Care Training Hub, for Improving Children's Mental Health**. After the success of the workshops alongside feedback from the CYP and their parents we have decided to relaunch some bespoke workshops before the Christmas holidays.

The workshops we are offering are **FREE** wellbeing workshops for our children and young people. Eligibility is for those who are registered patients **to the Medway South GP practices (Stonecross & West Drive Surgery, King George Road Surgery, Reach Healthcare, Churchill Clinic and Matrix Medical Practice)**. We will be running separate sessions at Lordswood Healthy Living Centre, ME5 8TJ both primary (aged 8-12) held on 12/12/23 @ 4:30pm - 6:00pm and secondary (aged 12-16) 13/12/23 @ 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

The workshops being delivered will be focusing on understanding mental health, self-help strategies, and lead peer support between the children and young people. These sessions are now **open for bookings** through our Eventbrite page. Tickets will be given on a first come first served basis, with a max of 12 per session ([Medway South Primary Care Network Events | Eventbrite](#)). Please also find attached our advertising poster with more details and information about our wellbeing workshops.



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A big Happy Birthday to..

**Milyana
Ifechukwu
Seon
Noah
Nehemiah
Oluwaylayomi
Austin
Amaziah
Emmanuella**

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.



Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2024?

(children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013)

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.

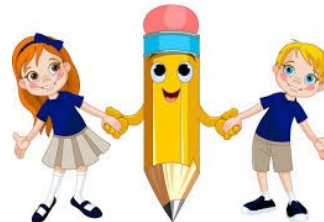
Medway residents can apply from 0am Monday 4th September

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





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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.