



St Thomas More School Newsletter

23rd November 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

RR Damilola

RC Chloe

1S Henry

1C Ophelia

2F Nancy-Lou

2D Farley

3B Derrion

3B Kian

3L Ekene

4S Freddie

4S Phoebe

4L Felicity

5C Lanika

5M Daniel

5M Callum

6C John-Anthony

6F Victoria

Dear Parents

This week more of our children have had the opportunity to learn about Road Safety, either with a Road Safety Walk or Road Safety Sequencing activities, delivered by the Road Safety team at Medway. It is especially important for our children to know how to keep themselves safe in winter as the weather is darker and therefore the children are less visible, also there are more electric cars on the road that are not as easy to hear as petrol based vehicles. Please take the opportunity to talk to your child about what they have learned and to practice these skills when you are out and about as a family.

Christmas Production and Tickets

Production times

Please read the following carefully as booking tickets for the productions will be slightly different this year.

The dates and times of the productions are as follows:

13th December - 09:30, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 production (key stage 1)

13th December – 13:45, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 production (key stage 2)

14th December – 16:00 all year groups production

In the evening performance on the 14th December there will be a brief interval between the key stage 1 and the key stage 2 production. This is to allow any families who do not have children in key stage 2 to leave and take their children home rather than our younger children having to stay right until the end. If you only have children in key stage 2 and wish to come to the evening performance you are invited to attend at the start of the interval to be ready for the key stage 2 production (time to be confirmed nearer the date but will probably be around 16:30/16:45). If you have children in both key stages you are able to attend at 16:00 and stay for the duration.

Tickets

All families will be able to book a ticket for the Christmas production via MCAS

If you would like to attend a daytime performance - If you have children in key stage 1 only you will be able to book 1 ticket for the 09:30 performance on the 13th December. If you have children in key stage 2 only you will be able to book 1 ticket for the 13:45 performance on the 13th December. If you have children in key stage 1 **and** key stage 2 you will be able to book 1 ticket for the 09:30 performance and 1 ticket for the 13:45 performance.

If you would like to attend the evening performance – you will be able to book 1 ticket for the evening performance. As explained above:

- if you only have ks1 children you will be able to **leave** at the interval
- If you only have ks2 children you will be able to **arrive** at the interval
- If you have children in both key stages you stay for the whole performance.

Each ticket is for 1 person, not 1 family - whilst we understand that wider family members would like to attend we do not have unlimited capacity and therefore to ensure all families have the opportunity to see their children perform we are operating the 1 ticket per performance system.

All tickets must be bought on MCAS, each ticket will cost £1 and you will receive a programme and a sweet on arrival

If there are any spaces left after booking for the performances on MCAS closes there **may** be the option to request additional tickets however we cannot guarantee this. Paper tickets will not be issued as MCAS generates a list of the booked names, we will only be able to allow those individuals that have booked into the performance. Please do not attend with additional guests as they will not be admitted into the hall.

MCAS booking will open on Friday 24th November and will close on Monday 11th December.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon



St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Term 2

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
Tombola Tag Day
Hartbeeps Magic Sprinkles
Yr R

13th December 2023

KS1 Christmas Production
9.30

KS2 Christmas Production
13.45

14th December 2023

Meet Father Christmas
Christmas lunch
All year groups Christmas
production 4pm

15th December 2023

Advent Mass lead by 5M
Christmas Fayre

19th December 2023

KS2 Aladdin

20th December 2023

End of Term 2

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

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Parish Christmas fayre on Saturday between 11am and 3pm.

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King. Children's Liturgy will be on during 11 o'clock Mass. All children who have not yet started the First Reconciliation programme are welcome. (Pre-schoolers should be accompanied by a responsible adult.)

Christmas Eve is fast approaching! If your child(ren) would like to take part in the **Nativity play** at 6pm Mass on **Christmas Eve** (24th December) please let **Mrs Wilson** or Mrs Law (at church) know. Any primary school aged child is welcome to join us, even if they have made their first Holy Communion. Older children will have the option to narrate or lead the bidding prayers or they can dress up and support the younger children if they prefer. If your child would like a specific role (Mary, Joseph, shepherd, angel, sheep, donkey etc) please let us know that too and we will do our best to accommodate their request. (Obviously we can only have one Mary and one Joseph!) Please note, we do not have Kings until the Epiphany. Practices will start next week (Sunday 3rd December) and will be between 9am and 11am Masses (to suit as many people as possible). They will start at approximately 10.15 and finish at around 10.45. Times can only be approximate due to Mass. Don't worry if your child can't attend every practice but please come to at least one. It is helpful (but not absolutely essential) if readers come to all three practices (3rd, 10th and 17th). We ask you to provide and bring your child in costume where possible, but will source costumes if needed (as long as we know in advance).



St Thomas More School Newsletter

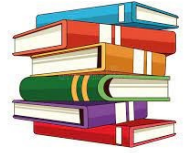
'Love one another as I have loved you'

Fundraising Team



As usual we will be having a Christmas Raffle so are looking for donations, if you have links to a business that could make a donation it would be greatly appreciated, it does not necessarily have to be something that they sell/ provide, last year we had a couple of business's that purchased a gift voucher and donated that, and of course we do share all the names of the business's that have donated to give them some advertisement.

The book fair is coming!



From Monday 27th November- Thursday 30th November, the Scholastic book fair will be open in the hall until 4pm.

Children will have the opportunity to visit with their class to see all the exciting books on offer!

For every book bought, we receive a book for the school!

Payments will be through the Scholastic QR code so please make sure you bring a smartphone and payment card. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept cash.

Don't forget to check Dojo for a digital leaflet showcasing some of the books on offer - for every book bought, we receive a free book for the school!

If you're planning on buying your child the latest mobile phone or device for Christmas, check out this useful guide for parents.



<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/mobile-phones-for-children/>

'Factory of the Future' Workshop

Today we took part in a workshop all about how we can adapt factories so they are more sustainable. We had to make decisions on what our factory should produce, where it should be located, what it should be made out of and how it should get its energy. We even got the chance to meet a robot who could box and dance! Then we were able to ask questions to a real-life engineer about his job.





St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Class Representatives



As you may be aware we now have a class representative for each class from the Fund raising Team. Their role is purely to share information relating to activities being organised by the Fund-Raising Team, for example; closing dates for money to be paid or Tuck shop dates. So please keep a look out for their messages and thank you to them all for volunteering.

RC Sam Morgan

RR Frankie Attwater

1S Eigile Challis and Laura Cotterell

1C Sophie Cooper

2F Emmie Burbidge

2D Tracy Duffy

3L Sarah Boffa

3B Nicola Thompson

4S Jane Redpath

4L Nichole Fitzmaurice

5C Carla Page

5M NO REP



Reminder re healthy packed lunches & allergies

We do not allow the following:

Nuts

(please remember that some breakfast bars may contain nuts)

Nut based products i.e Nutella

Chocolate spread

Fizzy drinks

Glass bottles

Chocolate bars i.e kitkat, twix

Sweets

If children have these in their lunch boxes they will be given to the class teacher to return to you at the end of the day.

Amazon Rainforest—Barney the Macaw

Year 4 had a special visit from Mr Hughes and his parrot Barney today. They have been learning all about the Amazon rainforest and how different animals have adapted to live there. They also carried out a still life drawing of Barney- look how talented they are!





St Thomas More School Newsletter

'Love one another as I have loved you'



A big Happy Birthday to..

Akif
Nesia
Halle
Chloe
Orlaith
Lucrece
Nancy-Mae
Jasmine
Shekinah

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

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

Friday 1st March—National offer day

Please visit 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.

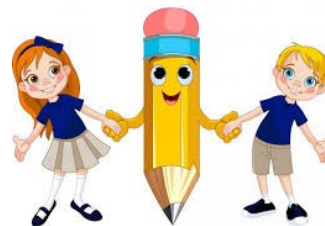
Medway residents can apply from Monday 4th September

Monday 14th January 2024—Primary applications close

You can read about primary admissions at

medway.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Tuesday 16th April 2024—Primary offers sent out



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.



Can you help the fundraising team with donations of the following please?

Christmas wrapping paper
Christmas decorations
Cardboard boxes
Arts and craft materials/utensils
Small footballs





St Thomas More School Newsletter

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.