



St Thomas More School Newsletter

8th September 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

We have had a lovely week welcoming our children back to school and getting to know our new Reception children who started school on Thursday.

This year we are introducing 'Punctuality Peacock' and 'Attendance Anteater'. In our Friday Celebration assembly, the class that has the highest attendance for the week will be presented with 'Attendance Anteater' and will keep him in class for the following week and the class with the least late marks will be presented with 'Punctuality Peacock'!



Daisy has had a super first week in school, she has visited some of the classrooms and welcomed the children into school this morning, she is working hard on following instructions and showing good manners.



We are extremely excited to be able to reinstate our 'Inflatable Afternoon! Unfortunately due to covid and then a lack of provider availability we have been unable to run this event for the past couple of years. This year it will take place on Thursday 28th September from 3:30-5:30, more information will follow about how to purchase a wristband to be able to attend. This event is only available to existing members of St Thomas More and we are unfortunately unable to accommodate pre-school or older siblings.

Attached to this email there are 3 documents, a 'Home-School Agreement', a 'Resolution of Issues' document and a 'Home-School Communication' document – please do take the time to read through all of these documents carefully. Following the parent survey that we carried out last year, these were areas that parents identified as requiring further clarity or additional information. I hope that you find these documents useful in providing that clarity and information and I would like to thank you all for taking the time to respond to the survey so that we can make sure that we are meeting our family's needs.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend
Mrs Ebdon



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Term 1

12th & 13th September

Medway test Y5

14th September 2023

Second hand uniform sale

28th September 2023

Inflatable fun day (3.30-5.30)

12th October 2023

Individual school photos

13th October 2023

SDD—No children in school

20th October 2023

End of Term 1

Term 2

30th October 2023

Start of Term 2

6th November 2023

Flu vaccinations R-Y6

20th December 2023

End of Term 2

Term 3

3rd January 2024

Start of Term 3

9th February 2024

End of Term 3





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Year 6 – Medway Test/11+

For those children taking the Medway Test on **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th September** next week, please remember to get a good night's sleep and have breakfast. Please make sure your child is in school for 8.30am to help settle them ready for their test. Children will be in the hall at 8.45am for registration ready to start the test at 9am. If you wish to withdraw your child on the test day, please contact the school by 8.30am to let us know. You **MUST** contact Medway at medwaytest@medway.gov.uk to inform them or alternatively, come into the school to complete a form at the office by 8.30am. The children do not need to bring in anything for the test as all resources will be provided. If your child is late for registration, your child may not be allowed to sit the test so please do be on time. Please refer to the guidance sent to you if you have any other queries or contact the school office. I am sure the children will work extremely hard and to the best of their ability and we wish them luck!

Parent Helper/Volunteer

If you applied last year to be a parent helper/volunteer, completed the application and attended safeguarding training, please contact Mrs Le Breton if you wish to continue this year. We do try to avoid placing volunteers in the same class/year group as their own children or relatives. Please read the latest Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education [Keeping children safe in education 2023 - part one \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) and our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy which can be found on the school website. Thank you for your continued support.

If you would like to be a parent helper, please contact the office requesting an application form. All volunteers will be subject to DBS checks and will be given safeguarding training.

St Thomas More's produce!

Our plants have been very busy over the summer and have grown an incredible amount of lovely vegetables ! We were able to pick lots of tomatoes, a few cucumbers and 3 very large squash which the children (and Miss Bunyan) thoroughly enjoyed eating





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Bentley A-B

Emma B

Max M

Indie R

Callum G

Aria C

Alice M

Oluwadurotimi O

Alexander S

Lucas C

Vincent S

Thank
you!



Here is a tiny selection of our new books for the school library and classroom libraries. Thank you so much to all families who got involved with the sponsored read last year. Thanks to your time and generosity, we now have a lovely range of diverse, inclusive and dyslexia-friendly books.

Operation Encompass - Police

As a school, we have signed up to Operation Encompass which is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that schools receive a notification to the Designated Safeguarding Lead prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attending outside of school where there are children related to either the adult parties involved. Children are negatively impacted when experiencing domestic abuse and without early intervention, this can negatively impact a child's life course. Domestic abuse can impact upon social, psychological, physical, emotional and behavioural outcomes with an often negative impact on a child's academic success. Operation Encompass alerts aim to connect police and schools to ensure better outcomes for children, to enable schools to better understand a child's lived experience and to therefore be able to support and nurture each child. If you would like to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead regarding an incident or support, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Le Breton, Mrs Ebdon or Mrs Deamer who are the safeguarding team.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/domestic-violence/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/domestic-abuse/>

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.





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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