



St Thomas More School Newsletter

22nd March 2024

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents,

The children have had a lovely week as we have been continuing our Lenten journey. All of the children have attended a Stations of the Cross service this week to learn about and reflect on Jesus' journey towards Good Friday and the Resurrection.

We are very fortunate this year as it is not common for all of us to be in school together during Holy Week as this normally falls during the Easter holidays. Next week, we will be taking every opportunity to make the most of our school family being together at this time, please do speak to your children about their Stations of the Cross service and about their learning and experiences next week during Holy week. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Miss Bowles and Mrs Dolan, our RE co-ordinators, for organising such an enriching spiritual journey for our children throughout Lent, I would also like to say thank you to Father Pawel for the time he has spent leading our children through our Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross services.

Our Year 5 children travelled back in time yesterday as they came to school for their 'Victorian Day' as part of their current history learning. Their costumes were brilliant and I think that by the end of the day they were extremely grateful for the times that we live in and that they don't have to eat gruel every day!

It was lovely to see so many parents attend our Topic Afternoon today and I hope you enjoyed seeing the learning journey your children have had across their subjects this term and we look forward to seeing you all at Parents Evening next week.

We would like to thank everyone for their donations and to our School Council for organising our Red nose Day last week, we managed to raise £194.20 for this charity!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Victorian Day—Year 5

Year 5 took a step back in time to the 1800s where they experienced school as a Victorian child. The children completed drills, needlework and separated into boys and girls for their daily jobs. After their hard work, they were rewarded with gruel and some children even wanted seconds!





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Term 4

26th March 2024

Parents Evening

27th March 2024

Parents Evening

27th March 2024

Easter Egg Hunt



28th March 2024

End of Term 4

Term 5

15th April 2024

Start of Term 5

6th May 2024

Bank holiday

13th May 2024

Year 6 SATS week

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 3B & 2F for 99%
attendance



Punctuality Peacock

Goes to 2F for no lates

Parish News

St Simon Stock Church—Easter Services

March 28th—Maundy Thursday—8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

March 29th—Good Friday— 9am Morning Prayer

10am—Stations of the Cross for Children

3pm—The Celebration of the Passion of The Lord

7.15pm Stations of the Cross

March 30th—Holy Saturday— 9am Morning Prayer

12pm—Easter Blessing of the Food in Polish

8pm—The Easter Vigil

March 31st—Easter Sunday— 9am—Easter Mass

11am Easter Mass

4pm Easter Mass in Polish





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A big Happy Birthday to..

**Darasimi
Emma
Pelumi
Brianna
Ben
Ladiamond
Laroy
Asees
Nieva
Ryan
Jonathan**

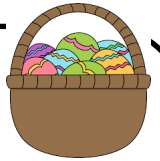
Monday 25th March - World Maths Day



Children will be taking part in lots of fun maths activities.
Photos will follow.

Easter Egg Hunt

27th March 2024



During the school day on March 27th we will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt. Entry to the hunt is £1 and can be paid via MCAS>Clubs>Easter Egg Hunt.

All children taking part will receive a small chocolate egg.



shutterstock.com - 592674138

Donate a book—Tag Day—18th April 2024

In celebration of “National Donate a Book Day” our librarians have organised a tag day. On Thursday 18th April we are asking that you donate a book from home that your child no longer reads so that another child may enjoy it. All donated books will be distributed between the school library and class room book corners.



We are taking part in this, to encourage more children to be active in their journey to school.

This week data has been collected and on average 46% of the school are active on their journey to school. We will be continuing to collect data next week and it would be good to see if we can improve on this score.

Currently 4L are leading the active journey count!

With the current level of roadworks and Medway's School Streets initiative it may help you to park further away and walk, scoot or ride to school.

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.



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Parents Evening—SEN

If your child is on the School SEND Register and receives additional support as detailed on their Pupil Provision Forms or EHCP, please make sure to book a slot at Parents Evening with Mrs Austin (SENDSCO) via the school office by emailing parents@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk.



Medway Children's Therapy Team have a bank of resources for supporting speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) on their website at the link below.

<https://www.medwaycommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-resources>

Alternatively use the QR code to access .

Scan to access Speech and Language Therapy resources on the MCH website:



SEND update

National ADHD medication shortage and support/advice for parents and carers (below).

[Patient information for ADHD supply disruption :: NHS Kent and Medway \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/adhd/patient-information)

Please be aware that the Medway SEND team and Medway Children's Health continue to experience high volumes of referrals which is adding further pressure to pre existing back logs. This does mean that many pupils are being held on waiting lists for long periods of time.

This is a nationwide issue and out of schools control.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please do speak to Mrs Austin our SENDSCO

sen@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

SENDIAS can also offer impartial support and advice - please see below.

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/send/medway-sendias/>



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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

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

Dear Parents

Please sign up to our fantastic resource The National College where you can find lots of useful information to support young adults, children including those with SEN and yourself. There is a whole host of information about Disney+, Snapchat, Roblox, YouTube, Whatsapp, conversation starters to help parents talk to their children about their mental health, cyberbullying, tips for stronger passwords, artificial intelligence and much, much more.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's online habits, speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance or contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Head, Mrs Le Breton if you believe a child is at risk of harm.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-thomas-more-catholic-primary-school-8>

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.