



# St Thomas More School Newsletter

5th January 2024

*'Love one another as I have loved you'*

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see the children return to school on Wednesday for the start of Term 3 and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

We had our Epiphany Mass this morning which was led beautifully by 4S.

Can I please remind all parents that hair longer than collar length must be tied up and should not have extensions, include non-natural colours or have beads in. Small hair ties/bows in school colours are permitted.

For PE, children are allowed to wear a tracksuit for their outdoor PE sessions. This should be plain and either navy blue or black, it should not have stars, stripes, glitter or branding/logos on and should only be worn on their outdoor PE days. We are seeing lots of children wearing branded tracksuits in a range of different colours and coming to school in their tracksuit on non-PE days which is not permitted.

Next Thursday, Miss Ronja will be running a workshop for Year 1 parents about the Phonics screen that Year 1 children undertake in the summer term. If you have a child in Year 1 and are able to attend this session please do so, parents from previous years have found this to be a very beneficial and informative experience.

I hope you have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon



We are looking for the following for our play areas

Clean plastic drain pipes

Cable reels

Big paint brushes

Pump bottles

Small tyres (please contact the office before delivery)



A big thank you to Mrs Bubb (Jacob's Nan) who made us some worry worms before Christmas.

Thank you for taking the time to make these again for our children, they are much appreciated.





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## Term 3

**11th January 2024**

Yr1 Phonics screening parent meeting 2.30pm

**26th January 2024**

Art & DT display to parents

**9th February 2024**

End of Term 3

## Term 4

**19th February 2024**

SDD—no children in school

**20th February 2024**

Start of Term 4

**1st March 2024**

National offer day—  
Secondary

## Term 5

**15th April 2024**

Start of Term 5

**8th May 2024**

Bank holiday

**24th May 2024**

End of Term 5



## Parish News

First Reconciliation books are due in this weekend.

If anyone wishes to leave Christmas presents under the tree in Church (for children who may otherwise not receive presents), this weekend is the last opportunity to do this. (Presents do not need to be wrapped.)

There will be Children's Liturgy at 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday.

At 3pm on Sunday there will be an Epiphany Carol service in the church- all welcome. During this service, the Christmas presents under the tree will be collected.

A date for your diary... the next Messy Church (for pre-schoolers) is 15th January.



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## Thank you very much to all of our Christmas raffle prize donors

Afternoon tea for 2 at Chilston Park Hotel  
Sunday Lunch for 4 at Bridgewood Manor Hotel  
£100 Taj restaurant voucher donated by D&P Utilities & The Dickinson Family  
Gymfinity 1x Holiday camp voucher  
Back Massage with Relax & Retreat  
Dance Envy voucher  
Little Laces & Layers £20 voucher  
SWIM! Chatham 1 month lessons voucher  
363 Coffee Lounge 1 free treat box  
£20 Smyths Toy store voucher donated by Little Green Gems Childminding  
Gel Pedicure with Gabriela  
Gel Manicure with Gabriela  
The Rose Garden £30 voucher  
Christmas Goodies donated by Asda  
Cupcakes by Carly  
Preserves & Chocolate hamper donated by Robin Hood petrol Station  
Sweetie box donated by Sweet Eat Treats  
Waddesdon Rothschild Wine Collection donated by Miss Drywood  
Pamper basket donated by a parent  
Mary's Kitchen, 1 box of chocolate brownies  
6 cupcakes from Cupcakes by Carly  
Sweet Bouquet  
Sweet Bouquet  
Morrisons Hamper  
Domino's pizza voucher  
Domino's pizza voucher  
£20 Nail Sense Voucher  
Christmas Biscuits and Spoons  
Yankee Candle Warmer  
Rose & White Wine donated by Chartway Building Supplies  
AU Vodka  
Baileys  
Malibu  
Jack Daniels  
Grahams Port  
Whiskey  
Gin  
Pommery Champagne  
Jagermeister  
Prosecco  
Muscador Rose  
Toy Tool Kit



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**A big Happy Birthday to..**

- Alex D**
- Ronnie R**
- Selvyn A**
- Jack B**
- Reyna D-A**
- Chizaram I**
- Kacey B**
- Nancy-Lou B**
- Zahra K**
- Nancy B**
- Kurtis K**



Do you have any spare uniform, tights, underwear or socks. We have very little and in many ages none at all. Our lowest levels of spare clothes are in the younger ages which is where we tend to need it most. We are looking for sizes from age 4 to 11. If you have any you would be happy to donate please drop it into the office.



Mr Hughes was overwhelmed by all the Christmas gifts he received from the parents and children. Thank you all very much.

Thank you too for all of the Christmas gifts the office received we hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

Thank you

### Year 4's visitor

Year 4 had a concerning visitor on their first day back- a dragon! Toothless from 'How to train your dragon' destroyed their classroom! They have been busy this week looking at all of the clues to work out why he paid them a visit...hopefully they solve the mystery!



### Epiphany Mass

Today, as a school we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany which signifies the end of our Christmas period. This week across the school we have been learning about the journey the Wise men went on, following the star in the east until they met the special baby Jesus.



### **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.



### **Art & DT**

We are excited to announce Art and DT week, the children will be participating in various activities including creating an art piece in the style of inspirational figure, as well as meeting one and creating junk modelling based on various landmarks around the world. You are all invited to see your children's work on the afternoon of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, timings to be confirmed.



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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.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.