



St Thomas More School Newsletter

22nd September 2023

'Love one another as I have loved you'



Merit Award

- RR Mary A
- RR Luke W
- RC Avery H
- RC Buddy B
- 1S Iriye D
- 1C Lucas W
- 2F Dideola I
- 2F Kian S
- 2D Lily A
- 2D Spencer W
- 3L Jonathan K
- 3D Ugochi-Grace N
- 4S Blake A-B
- 4S Emmanuel A
- 4L Sophia C
- 4L George F
- 5M Tobiloba O
- 5C Oscar H
- 5C Chinyere N
- 6F Aidan B
- 6C Tife G

Dear Parents ,

This week we have welcomed our new Reception children into school full time, they are doing a great job and are settling into school brilliantly!

On Tuesday we had a visit from Sharon Docherty from the Southwark Diocese Education Commission who worked with all our children. In these workshops the children took part in Visio Divina which is 'scripture doodling', using pictures and music to focus the mind on prayer and allows God to speak to us through the image. Even our Reception children took part and they used lego to help them think about and structure their own prayers.

Next week is another busy one – our Inflatable Afternoon is on Thursday from 3:30-5:30 on the school field, please remember to buy your child's wrist band through MCAS as entry will not be permitted without one. On Friday we are having our first Macmillan Coffee morning from 9:15 to raise money for Macmillan, at this session we will also have Mrs McNaughton on hand to support with any queries about attendance or the MCAS app, Mrs Austin, our SENCO and Assistant Head will be there to answer any SEN related questions and Jody, our Pastoral Manager, will be there to share more information about our Fund-raising Team and hopefully and set the wheels in motion for this year's fundraising events.

As in previous years, we are supporting Medway Food Bank this year as part of our Harvest celebrations , please check Class Dojo as your child's teacher will be posting the information on there about the items that their year group can bring in. The Food Bank is running very low on supplies at the moment as so many families are finding themselves in hardship – your support for those families would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ebdon

Fratelli Tutti: A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty

that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen



CAFED





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Term 1

28th September 2023

Inflatable fun day (3.30-5.30)

29th September 2023

Coffee morning 9-10am
SEN, PTFA, MCAS help

2nd October 2023

Black History month assembly

3rd October 2023

Coffee afternoon 1.30-2.30
SEN, PTFA, MCAS help

6th October 2023

Harvest Mass

10th October 2023

Science Dome KS2

12th October 2023

Phonics workshop 2.30
(FS & Y1 parents)

12th October 2023

Individual school photos

13th October 2023

SDD—No children in school

18th October 2023

Parents Eve 4-7pm
(booking avail soon)

19th October 2023

Parents Eve 5-8pm
(booking avail soon)

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

Term 4

19th February 2024

SDD—no children in school

Parish News

Children and parents on the First Reconciliation course start classes this Saturday. Please remember them in your prayers.

The annual Mass for the sick and housebound is this Sunday at 3pm. This will include anointing for the sacrament of the sick. Light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall afterwards.

A reminder that teas, coffees and biscuits are always served after 11 o'clock Mass. All welcome.



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Year 2

Year 2 worked collaboratively this week to create storyboards using natural materials. They used their storyboard to retell the story of The Bear and the Piano.



Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage have had their first full week in school this week. They have been busy making relationships and learning new routines. The children have been crafting, singing songs and beginning their phonics learning. It's lovely seeing them settle in so well!

Year 6

Year 6 have placed periods of history on either the BC or AD timeline and discovered that some eras were much longer than others and that events such as WWII were actually extremely short compared to other periods such as Ancient Egyptians and the Bronze Age.

Inflatable afternoon

Thursday 28th September 2023

Get your wrist band through MCAS—wrist bands will be going home next week in contact books. Cost is £5 per child.

We will have 7 inflatables including bouncy castles, a slide, footpool, and a maze.



Barbie Dolls

Do you have any unplayed with Barbie dolls that need a new home? Our wrap around care facility is in need of Barbie dolls for the children to play with. If you can help with this request please drop them into the office. Thank you





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A big Happy Birthday to..

Edward D

Arora G

Catherine M

Mercy T

Tomas C

Lily L

Isabelle S

Ennio A

Ella M

Zac H

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

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

Please go to [Medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](https://www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions)

Monday 4th Sept—Secondary school applications open

Tuesday 3rd Oct—Medway Test results

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.

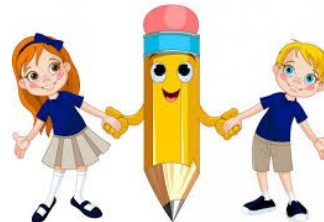
Medway residents can apply from 0am Monday 4th September

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



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

Jody Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Simon D'Souza Safeguarding Governor

Sinead Joshi Safeguarding Governor