



St Thomas More School Newsletter

2nd October 2026

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

What another incredibly busy and uplifting week we have had at St Thomas More! As I reflect on everything that has taken place, what strikes me most is the many different ways in which our children, staff, families and friends continue to demonstrate the values that make our school community so special.

Last Sunday's Gospel, from Matthew 21:28-32, tells us the parable of the two sons. Jesus reminds us that our faith is demonstrated not simply by what we say, but by what we actually do. It is a message about choices, actions, reflection and having the courage to change when we know we can do better.

I see this message lived out every day at St Thomas More. Our children demonstrate kindness, help one another, include others, take responsibility for their choices and notice when somebody needs a friend or a helping hand. Of course, children will make mistakes, just as we all do. What matters is that they learn to reflect, put things right and make a better choice next time. Our Gospel values are not simply words we talk about. They are becoming embedded in who we are and how we behave as a school family.

Reading and Phonics: Working Together

This week, we were delighted to welcome our KS1 parents and carers into school for our Reading and Phonics Workshop. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and give up their time. We hope you found the session useful and gained some practical ideas for supporting your child at home.

- Read little and often. Even 10 minutes each day is valuable.
- Encourage your child to say the sounds and blend them together when tackling an unfamiliar word.
- Re-read familiar books to develop fluency, confidence and expression.
- Talk about stories together and ask what might happen next or why a character acted in a certain way.
- Continue reading stories to your child, including books they cannot yet read independently.
- Most importantly, keep reading enjoyable. Praise effort, celebrate progress and enjoy that special time together.

By home and school working in partnership, we can give our children the strongest possible foundations and prepare them confidently for the next stage of their learning journey.

Beginning Our Year Together in Faith

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of taking representatives from our Faith Beacons to Aylesford Priory for the Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership Beginning of the Year Mass. It was a wonderful celebration with Bishop Paul and children and staff from schools across our Trust.

Gathering together at the beginning of a new academic year is always such a special occasion. It gives us the opportunity to celebrate our family of schools in faith and to give thanks to God for the many blessings we receive. Our children, as always, represented St Thomas More beautifully. They participated reverently and respectfully and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. We even managed to enjoy a picnic afterwards in the beautiful grounds, made all the more enjoyable because we were blessed with such glorious weather!





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What a Wonderful Community We Have!

Our families and friends have also raised a phenomenal amount of money for our school. Thank you! A huge thank you must go to our wonderful PTA, who give so much of their time and energy to support our children.

A particular thank you goes to Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Fitzmaurice for leading the dancing with some of our talented pupils and getting everyone involved! The fact that Mrs Fitzmaurice is not even a parent at our school anymore, continues to give up her time to support us, says something very special about our St Thomas More family and her kindness. A very special thank you to Ruby in Y1 and her family and friends for raising a whopping £500+.

This is another wonderful example of Sunday's Gospel in action. We don't just talk about community and supporting one another. We do it. The money raised will help us continue improving our school environment and developing our outdoor areas for the children, providing even better spaces in which to learn, play and flourish.

To everyone who organised, danced, donated, supported and joined in, thank you. The strength of our school lies within its community, and we are surely blessed!

Welcoming New Families

I have also been busy this week welcoming prospective families into St Thomas More as they begin thinking about school places for September 2027. It has been wonderful to show families around our school and to receive such positive feedback, particularly as visitors have had the opportunity to see our children learning in action.

I am always incredibly proud to open our doors and share the warmth, care, high expectations and strong sense of community that make our school so special. Of course, our children are always our greatest ambassadors. Seeing them happy, engaged and enthusiastic about their learning says far more than I ever could! If you know a family looking for a school place for September 2027, please encourage them to come and visit us. We also have a "stay and play" session on Wednesday 4th November from 2pm-3pm, so spread the news. Bookings can be made via the office



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Harvest Appeal: Putting Our Faith into Action

As we enter Harvest time, we would once again like to support Medway Foodbank and the important work it does within our local community. This year, one of our particular Catholic Social Teaching focuses is Preferential Option for the Poor.

Put simply, this teaches our children that we have a responsibility to recognise and respond to people who are vulnerable or in need. As followers of Jesus, we are called not simply to notice when others need help, but to respond with compassion, generosity and love.

Throughout October, we will have crates at the front of the school every day for families to drop in any items they are able to donate.

Every single item will make a difference. There is absolutely no expectation for families to donate, particularly as we recognise that circumstances are different for every family, but we are enormously grateful for whatever you are able to give.

For our children, this is about much more than collecting food. It teaches compassion, generosity, empathy, responsibility and citizenship. It helps them understand that being part of a community means looking beyond ourselves and thinking about what we can do for others. We want our pupils to become responsible, active and compassionate citizens who recognise that their actions can positively affect the lives of others. When our children learn to care for others, everyone in our community benefits.

Items we need

As of 11/09/2026

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ✓ Angel delight | ✓ Coffee |
| ✓ Cup-a-soup | ✓ Hot tinned meat |
| ✓ Instant mashed potato | ✓ Long-life milk |
| ✓ Men's deodorant | ✓ Noodles |
| ✓ Oat Milk | ✓ Pasta sauce |
| ✓ Shampoo | ✓ Tea bags |
| ✓ Tinned custard | ✓ Tinned fish |
| ✓ Tinned fruit | ✓ Tinned meat |
| ✓ Tinned potatoes | ✓ Tinned rice pudding |
| ✓ Tinned spaghetti | ✓ Tinned tomatoes |
| ✓ Washing up liquid | ✓ Women's deodorant |

Celebrating Black History Month

October is Black History Month, and we are very much looking forward to celebrating and learning together. Whilst learning about and celebrating different cultures, backgrounds and heritage happens throughout the year at St Thomas More, October provides us with an important opportunity to come together as a whole school and deepen our children's knowledge and understanding.

We want our children to develop curiosity, respect and appreciation for others, recognising the things that make us unique as well as the many things that unite us. This connects beautifully with our Catholic belief in human dignity, recognising the value and worth of every person. We have lots planned and look forward to sharing what our children get up to and learn over the coming weeks!

October: A Month with Mary

October is also a very special month within our Catholic faith and is traditionally associated with Our Lady of the Rosary and devotion to Mary, our Mother. Mary provides a wonderful example for our children through her faith, courage, humility and trust in God. Her willingness to say "yes" to God reminds us to listen to what God might be asking of us and respond through the way we treat, serve and care for others.



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Throughout October, we will encourage our children to think more deeply about Mary and the Rosary, taking time for prayer and reflection both individually and together. Perhaps families might also find a quiet moment at home this month to pray a decade of the Rosary together, say a simple Hail Mary before bedtime, or simply stop together to thank God for the people we love.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

Our Children Leading the Way

We are incredibly proud of our children who are beginning to take an even greater role in school life by organising and running their own clubs during break times and lunchtimes. How wonderful that our pupils are choosing to give their own time to engage, include and support other children, while helping us to make our break and lunchtimes even better.

These opportunities are about far more than simply running a club. Our children are developing leadership, communication, organisation, teamwork, resilience and responsibility. They are learning to take initiative, solve problems, listen to others and understand what it means to serve their community.

"Leadership is not simply about being in charge. It is about using your gifts and talents for the benefit of others."

These are exactly the qualities that will help our children grow into confident, compassionate and responsible leaders and citizens who know they can make a positive difference. Well done to our young leaders. We are very proud of you!

Looking Ahead to Secondary School

A huge thank you to Mrs Campbell, Headteacher of the Walderslade & Greenacre Partnership, who visited our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to talk to them about transition to secondary school and the opportunities available to them.

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is such an important milestone. It can be both exciting and, understandably, sometimes daunting for children and their families. It was lovely for our pupils to hear first-hand about what WGSP can offer children within our local community and to begin thinking about the next stage of their educational journey.

We really value opportunities to work in partnership with local secondary schools. Strong relationships between each stage of education help our children feel informed, confident, prepared and excited about their next chapter. Thank you again to Mrs Campbell for giving her time to visit and speak with our children.



Always Learning, Always Improving

Our children are not the only learners at St Thomas More! Our staff continually invest time in developing their knowledge and expertise so that we can provide the very best opportunities for every child.



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This week, our teachers have been enhancing their knowledge of inclusive practice, considering how we can ensure that every pupil can access learning, participate fully and achieve their very best. Mrs Murphy has attended a Maths Network Meeting, bringing back ideas and good practice to further strengthen

mathematics across our school. I have attended Catholic Schools Inspection training, ensuring that as leaders we continue to reflect upon and strengthen our Catholic life, mission and provision.

Meanwhile, Mrs Southern and Mrs Clausen, our DT and Art Leads, have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes as we work towards achieving an Artsmark Award for St Thomas More. This is a really exciting journey and an opportunity to further develop and celebrate the creativity, art, design and cultural experiences we provide.

There is always so much happening behind the scenes in a school that families may never see. Thank you to our staff for their continued commitment and enthusiasm because when our staff and children grow too!



Our Prayer for Our School Family

Loving God,

Thank you for our wonderful St Thomas More family, for our children, families, friends and staff, and for all those who give their time, talents and support so generously.

We thank you for the kindness and generosity that surround our school each day. Help us always to look out for one another, to notice when others need us, to lend a helping hand and to use our gifts to make a difference.

Bless everyone who supports our school, those who give their time, those who help us raise funds and those who work quietly behind the scenes to make St Thomas More the special community it is.

Help our children to grow in kindness and compassion, to stand alongside those in need, and to show their faith through their words and actions.

May we never take our blessings for granted, but always remember to give thanks, to share what we have and to care for one another.

Mary, our Mother, watch over our children, our families, our staff and our friends. Keep our whole school family safe, happy and united as we continue to grow together in faith and love.

We are truly blessed.

Amen.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and generosity. There is so much to celebrate in our school, and I feel incredibly fortunate to see our children growing not only as learners, but as kind, compassionate, faith-filled young people who understand that they can make a difference.

Have a wonderful weekend with your families.

God bless,

Mrs Le Breton
Headteacher



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RR Eva

RS Violet

1C Tiresimi

1R Angelica

2B Leon

2M Harper-Violet

3C Axum

3S Paul

4F Demilade

4T Freya

5C Juliet

5S Lucas

6F Freddie

6L Jake & Willow



**Punctuality
Peacock**

1C & 4F



Attendance

Anteater

1R

facebook

Please see our Facebook page for photos of learning and good news





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Term 1

8th October 2026
Y6 Celebration of the Word
9.15am-9.45am

13th October 2026
Individual School Photos
By Vancols

16th October 2026
Harvest Festival Mass
9.30am in Church
All Welcome

21st October 2026
EYFS parent meetings RR
All Day

21st October 2026
Y1-6 Parent's Evening
4-7pm

No children to attend

22nd October 2026
EYFS parent meetings RS
All Day

22nd October 2026

Year 1-6 Parent's Evening
4-7pm

No children to attend

23rd October 2026
PTFA Crazy Hair Day
£1 donation via Arbor
Last Day of Term 1

Half Term
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

Term 2

6th November 2026
EYFS/KS1 Disco
In school

13th November 2026
KS2 Glow Disco

12th November 2026
Y3 Celebration of the Word
9.15-9.45

Book Fair
Monday 23rd – 25th November