



St Thomas More School Newsletter

3rd October 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Knowledge-rich, skills-led learning for all
Christ at our heart
Serving everyone in our community
Partnership of love, ambition, joy and peace



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our Gospel reflection was taken from **Luke 16:19–31**, where Jesus shares the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. It's a powerful story that reminds us of the dangers of living a life focused solely on wealth and comfort, while ignoring those in need around us.



In our assemblies and class discussions this week, the children explored the idea of **riches not just in terms of money**, but also in **time and talents**. They spoke thoughtfully about how they might respond if they were part of this Gospel story—many shared beautiful ideas about helping others, showing kindness, and using their gifts to make a difference. It was heartening to see such empathy and understanding from our pupils. Their reflections showed a deep awareness of the importance of compassion and the responsibility we all share to care for those less fortunate.

As always, thank you for your continued support in nurturing these values at home.

A Special Welcome to Father Joseph

Many staff and families had the pleasure of attending Father Joseph's official Welcome Mass on Friday evening last week. It was a beautiful and meaningful celebration, and we are delighted to welcome him into our school and parish community. We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the occasion so special. A particular thank you goes to the parishioners, families, and staff who supported the event and contributed to the lovely gathering in the school hall afterwards. Your generosity and spirit of togetherness truly reflect the values we hold dear.

If you've ever wondered what it's like in church for Mass, we warmly invite you to come along. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the peace, reflection, and community spirit that our children encounter during school liturgies. We would love to see you there! Mass times can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Harvest – Medway Foodbank



As we enter the autumn season, we are reminded of the importance of compassion, community, and care for those in need. In the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching, which calls us to uphold the dignity of every person and support the vulnerable, we are proud to be supporting **Medway Food Bank** this term.

Although we will not be holding a Harvest Mass this October due to Father Joseph's leave, we will still be celebrating the season of gratitude and giving through school assemblies. Today we welcomed Medway Foodbank in to talk to us all about how we can support this fantastic cause. These help our children reflect on the values of generosity

and social responsibility.



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We would be very grateful for any **donations (during October)** you can offer to help families across Medway who are facing hardship. Below is a list of suggested food items that can be sent in over the coming weeks:

- Pasta sauce
- Instant mash
- Tinned ham or corned beef
- Tinned fruit, vegetables, spaghetti, custard, rice pudding fish, potatoes
- Fruit juice – long life
- Squash
- Tinned potatoes
- Cup-a-soup
- Jam/marmalade/meat pastes
- Coffee – small jar
- Cereal
- Ketchup
- Hot chocolate
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Deodorant for men and women
- Washing-up liquid
- Razors

Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Together, we can live out the principles of **Catholic Social Teaching** – promoting human dignity, solidarity, and care for the poor – and help build a stronger, more compassionate community.

Parent Evenings - Wednesday 15th 4-7pm or Thursday 16th 5pm-8pm

As we move closer to our upcoming parent evenings, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of respectful and constructive communication.

In the media, there is frequent discussion about teachers leaving the profession—and sadly, this is a reality many schools are facing. Teaching is a demanding role, and the pressures on educators have never been greater. Despite this, our staff continue to go above and beyond, working well beyond their contracted hours to support children and provide the best possible education.

As a school, we are proud of the way we support staff wellbeing and manage workload. We value our team deeply and want to retain the excellent professionals we have. Your support makes a real difference—not only to our staff, but to the quality of education we can provide. Thank you for being part of our school community and for continuing to uphold the values we share.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO PARENT EVENINGS – IT IS FOR PARENT(S) ONLY AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SUPERVISE CHILDREN.



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October is Black History month and this year's theme is 'standing firm in power and pride', highlighting the profound contributions made by those who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity and growth. Our humanities curriculum maps include lots of inspirational figures of black heritage that the children will be studying and we look forward to sharing our learning with you.

Secondary Transfer Y6 Pupils

You can apply for your child's secondary school place from **1st September 2025**, if you are a Medway resident. The application deadline is **Friday 31st October 2025**. You need to apply online but if this is not possible you can contact the School Services Admission Team.

Medway Test result day is **15th October 2025**.. National offer day is **2nd March 2026**

Have a fantastic weekend!

Mrs Le Breton

Dear God,

Thank You for all the blessings we have.
Help us to open our hearts to those who are in need.
Teach us to be kind, generous, and thoughtful,
So that we may share what we have with others.
May our school be a place of love and care,
Where everyone feels safe, supported, and valued.
Amen.





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Term 1

8th October 2025

Y6 Celebration of the Word
9.15-9.45am (parents welcome)

9th October 2025

Individual school photographs

15th October 2025

Parents Evening 4-7pm
No children

16th October 2025

Parents Evening 5-8pm
No children

17th October 2025

Last day of Term 1

Term 2

30th October 2025

Y4 Liturgy 9.15am-9.45am

30th October 2025

Parent coffee morning
Family Solutions
9.15am-10.15am

Term Dates & SDD

Term 1

2/9/2025 —17/10/2025

Term 2

27/10/2025 – 19/12/2025

Term 3

5/1/2026—13/2/2026

Term 4

24/2/2026—2/4/2026

Term 5

20/4/2026—22/5/2026

Term 6

1/6/2026 - 17/7/2026

SDD—No children in school

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 22nd June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Tuesday 21st July 2026





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Merit Award

RC Ella

RB Charlie

1C Francesca L

1B Nathan

2B Leo

2D Favour

3C Ryan

3S Amy

4D Evan

4F Edward

5RP Nataniel

5W Kara

6F Amber

6L Israel



**Punctuality
Peacock**

RB



Attendance

Anteater

5RP



Tuck Shop is back

Every Thursday

There will be 50p bags and £1 bags, all sweets will be prepacked. Please bring loose change with you.

**Secondhand Uniform
Sale**

Alongside tuck shop.

For Sale £3 each

We have several of the old style STM
PE t-shirts

3/4 Years—7 green, 6 red, 7 blue

12/13—Years 5 blue

M—1 red

These will be first come first serve via
the office

Parent Coffee Morning

 **Date:** Thursday 30th October

 **Time:** 9:15 - 10:15

 **Location:** Learning Centre



We're pleased to welcome **Family Solutions Medway**, who will be on hand to talk about the support they offer for families around:

-  School and education
-  Relationships and parenting
-  Health and wellbeing

 Work and employment

Whether you're seeking advice or simply want to meet other parents, this is a great opportunity to find out what's available to help your family thrive.

 **Tea, coffee, and light refreshments provided.**

Little recyclers

Thank you for all of
your donations to the
Little Recyclers we
raised £192.15 for our
school.





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St Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade

Our Parish is primarily a place of worship. The very centre of our prayer is Jesus Christ whose Eucharist we celebrate nearly every day. Listed below are the times of our weekly Masses and Services. For more details you can look at our [Parish Diary](#) Masses are celebrated as follows:

Weekends:

Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9.00 am
11.00 am

Weekdays:

Monday 10.00 am Mass
Tuesday 10.00 am Mass
Wednesday 10.00 am Mass
2pm – 10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 10.00 am Mass
Friday 8.00 pm Mass

Holy Days of Obligation:

8.00 pm Vigil Mass
10.00 am Morning Mass
8.00 pm Evening Mass

During holiday periods, please consult the weekly newsletters for the times of all the Services.

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a special intention, please [contact](#) the Parish Office. The Archdiocese of Southwark guideline for a Mass intention stipend is £10.00. Reconciliation (Confession) is available on Friday from 7.15 pm - 7.45 pm and Saturday from 5.15 pm – 5.45 pm also by appointment, please call: 07305 831925. Thank you

Safeguarding

If you're worried about a child or would like some family support, please contact us:

Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Mrs Murphy Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Acting Deputy Head
Mrs Austin Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Assistant Head
Mrs Ronja Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & EYFS Lead
Mrs Deamer Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) & Pastoral Manager
Mr D'Souza Governor Safeguarding Lead
Miss Joshi Governor Safeguarding Lead

You can also contact Medway's Children's Safeguarding Partnership

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child#:~:text=If%20you%20think%20the%20child,hours%20on%2003000%20419%20191.

Or via telephone - **In an emergency phone 999**. If you think the child is at immediate risk of harm contact Medway Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 01634 334 466 or out of hours on 03000 419 191.