

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 1



LOCAL HISTORY

The children enjoyed getting out and about in Kettering at the start of this term to learn more about their local area and its fascinating past.

Each class had a different focus from shoe making, to famous names and even learning about how much our own school has changed over the years. The children thoroughly enjoyed Local History Week.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
95%

Topic Launch

Earlier this term, we launched our whole-school topic for the spring term: A Step Back in Time. The children had a fun and immersive day to start their curiosity about the event/era from history that they have been leaning about this term.

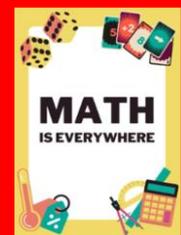
We celebrated with a whole-school assembly, where the children were shown old photographs of the staff (some older than others!) and the children had to guess who was who. Mrs. McFarlane then talked to the children about how dance had changed over time. The children watched some video clips in chronological order and we finished with a dance-along to a modern classic.

The children (and adults) had a great day and everyone was left inspired and looking forward to finding out more about their history topic.



MATHS

What a fun start we had to this term with a whole school focus maths day. Our theme 'Maths is Everywhere' taught the children to consider maths as more than just a lesson at school. Across the school, children looked at how maths is used in our daily lives and routines, whilst out shopping, in sport, travel and even the weather. We're confident that we've inspired the children to spot Maths more as they go about their days and see how much of a role it plays in our everyday lives.



Handwriting and Poetry Day

On the very first day back in school after the Christmas holiday, we had a whole-school handwriting and poetry day. Each class started the day by spending some time practising our handwriting approach: Kinetic Letters. Following this, the children in each year group were introduced to a new style of poetry. They then had an opportunity to plan and create, draft and redraft and perform their original poems.



Rainbow Drop In

On Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 9am, we will be holding our next 'Rainbow Room Drop In'.

This will be an opportunity for parents to come and speak to both Miss Giddings (SENCO) and Mrs Stanyon (Inclusion Support Officer).

Individual invitations will be sent out to parents whose children are currently using the provision but anyone is welcome to come join for tea and cake. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



On Wednesday 10th January, the STM Mission Ambassadors and the Eco Stewards had the pleasure of meeting Emily, the Mayor of Kettering. We talked about our projects within school, including our vegetable patch and our soft plastic collection bags. We also spoke about what we would like to see Kettering do in the future!

We have also been keeping in contact with Bushillah, the little girl we sponsor through Watoto.



On Saturday 3rd February, some of our Year 3 children received their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Edward's Church with Fr. Gregory and Fr. Elvis. The children had been preparing for this special step at school with Mrs Hawkins and enjoyed preparing themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. All of the children made everyone feel very proud and lucky to be following them on their faith journey. The children were truly amazing and we look forward to supporting them with their First Holy Communion later this year.



NMPAT

We were delighted to be joined by the NMPAT String Recital team. The children were treated to a wonderful concert of music, ranging from classical to pop and even some video game music! We learnt all about the different instruments in the string family and how sound is created through vibrations. If your child is interested in taking music lessons please contact the school office.



Term Dates Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Term	Start Date for Children	End Date for Children
Term 1	Monday 4 th September	Friday 20 th October
Term 2	Monday 6 th November	Wednesday 20 th December
Term 3	Thursday 4 th January	Friday 16 th February
Term 4	Monday 26th February	Friday 28 th March
Term 5	Monday 15 th April	Friday 24 th May
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June	Wednesday 24 th July

The dates for 2024 – 2025 are now on the school website.

The Ark

The Ark is a community group for families, from both the school and local communities.

The group meet on a Thursday morning from 9am to 10.45am in the school hall.

All are welcome.

£2 per family

Contact - thearktots@gmail.com for more details.

Cricket

This term, KS2 have been lucky enough to have cricket sessions delivered by coaches from Northamptonshire County Cricket Club. Each week, the children have learnt a new skill and built on previous skills in some exciting and fun ways!

These sessions led to a cricket tournament for some of our Year 6s. They competed in a tournament between 8 teams, made up of several schools across Northamptonshire where they put into practice all their knowledge from their cricket lessons. We were really proud of the children for how they represent the school, and hope that this will inspire more children to get into cricket!

Uniform

Visitors have all commented this term how smart the new uniform looks. Thank you to all of you for your support with this.

Please continue to ensure that the children are either in the new or old uniform. Leggings and joggers for PE should be black and should not have logos or patterns on.

The weather is still very changeable, so please ensure coats are in school, even when we do get the sun shining!

Lenten Prayer

GOD OF GOODNESS AND MERCY,

HEAR MY PRAYER AS I BEGIN THIS LENTEN JOURNEY WITH YOU.
LET ME BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AS I LOOK INTO MY HEART AND SOUL,
NOTICING THE TIMES I TURN AWAY FROM YOU. GUIDE ME AS I HUMBLY SEEK
TO REPENT AND RETURN TO YOUR LOVE.

MAY HUMILITY GUIDE MY EFFORTS TO BE RECONCILED WITH YOU AND LIVE FOREVER
IN YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE.

TRANSFORM ME THIS LENT, HEAVENLY FATHER. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO
COMMIT MYSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO YOU EACH DAY.

AMEN.



Ash Wednesday

It was wonderful to be joined by Fr. Elvis to lead us in a special service for Ash Wednesday. It gave us the opportunity to reflect on the Lenten season ahead and to consider how we will prepare for Easter. Thank you to everyone who joined us.



Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

We thank the school community for continuing to support our school. All funds raised will go towards exciting projects, trips, equipment, treats and events for our children.

We warmly welcome all new members: parents/carers, friends, teachers and family of the school to express their interest in joining. Whether you would like to play a key role in FSTM or are able to provide a few hours where you can, we would love to hear from you!

If you would like to play a vital part in enhancing your child's time at our lovely school and help raise much needed funds; we invite you to join Friends of St Thomas More (FSTM). Please drop an email to fstmvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested in joining!

Volcanoes

As part of our Dinosaur topic, children in St. George Class (EYFS) have been learning about the environments they might have lived in. Following this, the children took a particular interest in volcanoes, which lead to us wanting to know more. They were very excited to learn lots of new vocabulary and shared their new knowledge with everyone they met. As part of our learning, we made our own volcanoes using fizzy drinks and Mentos. Predictions were made after comparing the ingredients in each drink. The children were very excited to watch them erupt.



A message from Mrs Howes -

This term has absolutely flown by yet again! I must first of all thank all of the school community for their kindness and support whilst I was unwell. Your kind words and gestures all gave me great comfort during a challenging time. A special thank you must go to my amazing staff, Governors and Trust Central Team for their hard work and dedication to ensure that the school continued to run smoothly. I must also mention our wonderful families who work in the medical profession – You all make such a difference and I feel blessed to know you all!

I always find the Spring Term in school a magical one! Lots of new concepts suddenly click and it is such a wonderful honour watching our children grow and thrive. They make me smile and laugh every single day, just by being themselves! I can't wait to see what the next half term has in store for them all. We have lots of exciting things planned, especially as we continue to journey through Lent and prepare for Easter as a school family.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half term break and a we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26th February 2024, for another exciting term!

Parking Update

We apologise that we have not been able to update on this yet. We have proposed a way to support parking and NNC are in agreement to trial the idea. We are waiting for them to complete actions for us to give you further information. We have made further contact to chase it.

Chinese New Year

St. George Class (EYFS) enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year. The children made spring rolls and Chinese lanterns. They also enjoying learning the dragon dance.

