

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 1



FAITH WEEK

As always, the school year started with our School Faith Week. This gave the children and staff the opportunity to reflect on what makes our school an incredibly special place. The children were reminded of our core Mission – Try to be like Jesus in all that you think, do and say. They reflected on our Core Aims, Virtues, Class Saints, School prayer and St. Thomas More. They created some beautiful art work, prayers, posters, music and even a rap! As part of our work to 'Live Simply', the children also made pledges for the year ahead, to help make our world a better place.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
95%

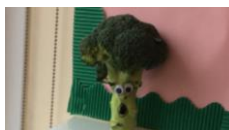
Dunstable Mass

On Friday 11th October, Mrs Howes had the honour of accompanying some of our Mission Ambassadors to a Mass in Dunstable. They joined with other children and staff from the Diocese and reflected on their roles and made promises to lead and inspire our mission across the school. Bishop David officially commissioned them into their new roles. The children made us very proud with their beautiful manners, enthusiasm and reflective responses.



Look Out!

As part of year 2's English topic this term on "Supertato", the children have been writing newspaper reports. On Monday 1st October, Evil Pea completely destroyed our classroom! We were so shocked and surprised when we walked into our room to find a great big mess, as well as some poor, terrified vegetables! The children have written some fantastic newspaper reports in an attempt to catch this villain, so if you see Evil Pea anywhere, please call and let us know!!



FAITH FRIENDS

This half term at Faith Friends, the children have been making the most of the tranquillity and peace in our recently opened Prayer Garden. They have been creating posters to grow our Faith Friends community, reading and listening to scripture; and creating and leading their own prayers and reflections.



Term Time Absences

We are seeing an increase in term time absences. Please be reminded that a form should be completed and returned to the office if you do require one. We are unable to authorise holidays and where possible, absences for reasons other than illness, should be avoided. Please come to speak to us if you would like support with attendance. Further information regarding attendance procedures will be sent home next half term.

Mona

This year, we are delighted to welcome back Mona, our school therapy dog. Mona works with children across the school who have been selected by their class teacher for a variety of reasons. The sessions consist of lots of walks, treats and cuddles! If your child is selected, a letter will be sent home to gain permission. Please do stop and say 'Hi!' if you see her on one of her walks around the school grounds.



Rainbow drop in

On Tuesday 26th November, the 'Rainbow Room Drop-In' will be joined by two Healthy Child Practitioners from the School Nurse Team. Their visit will provide advice and support regarding common issues parents may face. This may include support around sleep, toileting/continence, healthy lifestyle advice, wellbeing/emotions and behaviour amongst other non-medical issues. More information regarding times will be sent via Parent Mail. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Reminder – We are a nut free school. Please be mindful of this in packed lunches and when you send in any snacks.

This is to keep members of our school family safe.

Sea Life Centre

Year 3 visited the Sea Life centre in Birmingham, as part of their 'Under the Sea' topic. We had a pass to behind the scenes, which was amazing. We learnt about how they looked after the animals and kept them safe and happy. Captain, the man giving the talk, told us all about different types of sharks and that some sharks lay eggs, which surprised us all, even the adults. Afterwards, we moved to see the otters being fed, which was cute, as they kept on diving and swimming up to the glass. Later, we went to the touching area, where the children could feel a starfish and different kinds of shells. But the best part was the 360 tunnel, where the animals were all around us, swimming underneath our feet and over our heads. We saw sharks, a turtle, rays and many more. A great day was had by everyone and the children came home buzzing from the experience.



St. George Class Visitors

St. George Class (EYFS) have had a wonderful first term at St. Thomas More and we are so proud of how quickly they have all settled in.

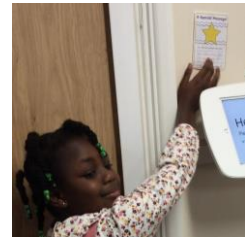
Throughout the term we have welcomed lots of visitors, including Northlands Vets, Northamptonshire Fire Service and PCSO Mike, as we have learnt about people who help us and their roles in the community. The children have enjoyed role playing these careers, trying on uniforms and squirting the fire hoses.

In October, we also welcomed our families into school for book and biscuit. The children shared their favourite stories with the parents and enjoyed a treat. A huge thank you for everyone who supported this event. The children are looking forward to inviting you all in again.



St. Teresa Class Feast Day

This term, on the 5th of September, it was St Teresa class's Feast Day! To celebrate the life of Saint Teresa, we had so much fun, with lots of games, activities, singing, dancing, and cake! We also came up with the idea of spreading words of love and kindness throughout the school by each writing our own message to post around the school for all children, staff, and visitors to see. Overall, we had a fantastic day celebrating our class saint!



Term Dates Academic Year 2023 – 2024

Term	Start Date for Children	End Date for Children
Term 1	Tuesday 3 rd September	Friday 18 th October
Term 2	Monday 4 th November	Friday 20 th December
Term 3	Monday 6 th January	Friday 14 th February
Term 4	Monday 24 th February	Friday 4 th April
Term 5	Tuesday 22 nd April	Friday 23 rd May
Term 6	Monday 2 nd June	Thursday 24 th July

Reminder – The school is closed for a Trust training day on Friday 27th June.

Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart to start the new school year.

Just a reminder to please ensure that black shorts, leggings or jogging trousers that are worn for PE are plain, without logos or writing on them.

Children should also not be wearing trainers, unless it is their PE day. School shoes should be black. Children are able to wear boots when the weather is wet/cold or can wear wellingtons and change into their school shoes once they arrive.

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.

Football

Some of our wonderful Year 6 boys are once again competing in the Kettering Town Football Club's Intersport's league football. We are currently in the seeding process and are playing weekly against all the other schools in the competition.

The children have been working really hard as a team during their training on Tuesday lunchtimes and have been giving it their best on Thursdays when we compete.

I am sure they will continue to succeed and make us proud once we are in the cup or trophy games next term. Good luck Team STM!

Our School Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for my school, family, friends and all who help me to be the best that I can be.

Help me to make the right choices as I learn, love, pray and play at St. Thomas More.

Guide me to live my life as you want me to. I know that you are always there for me.

St Thomas More – Pray for us.
Our Lady Immaculate – Pray for us.
Amen

STM Mission Ambassadors

A big thank you to the STM Mission Ambassadors for all you did last year to help improve our school! You helped your classmates voices be heard and made a big impact. Earlier in September the children voted for new ambassadors to represent them this year. Congratulations to Morgan and Daveed (Year 1), Leia and Tharul (Year 2), Thea L and Harry (Year 3), Holly and Guy (Year 4), Miya-May and Austin (Year 5) and Tarrell and Bella (Year 6).

Keep an eye out soon for our latest charity launch!

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.

Please join us at our AGM which will be held at the school on Thursday 7th November. We invite and warmly welcome new members; parents/carers, friends, teachers and family to express an interest in joining or playing a part in voting for this year's committee. 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!

Please drop an email to fstmvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested in joining or putting yourself forward for a committee role ahead of the AGM.

Lights, Camera, Action!

The children across the school had a wonderful day to launch our first topic of the year – Lights, Camera, Action! The children were immersed in music, drama, story and film, as they took part in creative activities to inspire them with their learning. In the afternoon, the school hosted a cinema experience for all, with each classroom playing a short film. The children collected their tickets and mixed across the school to watch the film of their choice. The children also looked amazing in their costumes and loved sharing about some of their favourite characters. Thank you for supporting us with this.



A message from Mrs Howes -

We have had another busy start to the academic year! There has been lots of school trips, with lots more booked to look forward to, wonderful progress and wow moments witnessed, blossoming friendships and a huge focus on empowering our children to reach their full potential, especially by growing a deeper understanding of behaviours for learning and metacognition.

Over the term, it has truly been a pleasure to visit the classrooms daily and witness such happy, engaged and enthusiastic children! Thank you and well done to you all. A special congratulations to our wonderful St. George Class for settling so well into their first term at school, we are very proud of you all.

A huge thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support and especially for giving your time to attend parent consultation meetings. If you have any concerns or questions over the next half term, please speak to the class teacher, so that they can help. Another thanks must also go to my hardworking and dedicated staff. Wishing you all a restful, safe and enjoyable half term break with your beautiful families and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November.

Harry Potter Trip

St. Joseph Class (Year 6) had an unforgettable trip to the Harry Potter Studios. As well as seeing all of the props, riding broomsticks and boarding the Hogwarts Express, this year, they were lucky enough to experience a lesson: Costume Distressing. They learnt the secrets from the costume department about distressing items of clothing and had the opportunity to distress their own piece of fabric using real tools and supplies from the movies. They even got to see some exclusive items not included as part of the tour! It really was a magical day they will never forget!



ECO Voices Competition

This term, on Saint Francis' feast day, 3 Year 5 students were selected to compete in the final of the trust's 'Eco Voices' speaking competition.

After a really tough round in class, the final 3 children were selected and worked extremely hard on presenting their own views on how to help the environment and make the world a better place to live in.

The children worked really hard and did a wonderful job at not only speaking in front of lots of other teachers and children, but they represented the school beautifully and made everyone extremely proud of them.

