

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

Autumn Term 2



### HEALTHY ME

This term, the school celebrated 'Healthy Me Week'. The children learnt how to keep themselves healthy and safe. There were 5 focuses for the week which included: Anti-Bullying, Speak Out Stay Safe, Celebrating Differences, Online Safety and Mental Health Awareness. To launch the week, the children and staff wore odd socks to raise awareness. The children were also visited by the Big Bubble Theatre company who delivered anti-bullying workshops throughout the week.



#### Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:  
**94%**

### EYFS Nativity

St. George Class (EYFS) had a great time performing 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' to their families, friends and residents of Elm Bank this Christmas. The children worked so hard to learn the script and sang the songs so beautifully. We are so incredibly proud of them all; they were all stars!



### Diversity Week

Earlier this term, we spent a week looking at diversity and differences in our local and global communities. The question, "Are all disabilities visible?" was posed to the children and each class spent some time learning about a specific disability. These included: deafness, selective mutism, colour blindness, visual impairment, chronic pain, dyslexia and dementia. The children also explored faith, with a focus on Judaism.



### WORLD WEEK

This term, the children took part in 'World Week'. This is a week to focus on a current issue which will impact on the children's futures, providing the children with a deeper understanding and mechanisms to make changes in their own lives. Children looked at topics such as deforestation, climate change, litter and water pollution and all earned a badge towards their Eco Hero certificate. We have been inspired to make a change and alongside the Eco Stewards, we are hoping to implement changes at school to help our environment...watch this space!

We have also signed up to take part in a community litter pick next term. Look out for more information.



### Charity Appeal

A huge thank you for all your ongoing support with our charity appeals. This term, the STM Ambassadors chose to support Caritas, who support people in our local community, sharing the mission of the Catholic Church to serve the poor and promote charity. We collected 77 Bags of Kindness, for the charity 'Love Christmas Appeal'. We were blown away by the generosity of everyone in school.

#### Faith Friends

This Advent, the children have been thinking about prayers of hope, love, joy and peace and have also created a beautiful prayer advent calendar, which has been displayed at the school office. The children have been leading the worship and we have been blown away with their preparation, thoughtfulness and reverence.

### Carols by Candlelight

The carols by candlelight at St Edward's Church is always such a special time of year, and this year was no exception. The children sang so beautifully and the readers spoke clearly and confidently. There was a really special atmosphere as we came together with members of the community to mark this important and holy time of year. Thank you to all the children, parents and families who attended, it was truly a wonderful occasion.



# Message from the Chair of Governors

Hello STM Community,

I hope this message finds you well? We have had another busy year with lots of highs and some lows, but as a school community, we have continued to come together and support one another. My highlight for the year has to be our 50th Anniversary celebrations. The day is still edged into my memory like it was last week. It was the past, present and future feel to the day, and I was humbled to have spoken to past staff, students and family members and to listen to their memories of the school.

As we close out this year, I would like to say thank you to all our families for their continued support with making STM an amazing place for our young people. A special thank you must go to all our amazing staff who are simply that, amazing! Finally, thank you to Mrs. Howes for continuing to lead our school with passion, courage and dedication to which we are all grateful.

Please enjoy a well earned break over the festive period, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

I wish prosperity to all of you in 2025.

Mr Crofton Alexander

## Nurse Visit

This term, we welcomed Lisa and Simone from the School Nurse Team as part of our 'Rainbow Drop In'. They worked with families and gave support linked to sleep, toileting, healthy living and emotional support. The session was very educational and we look forward to welcoming them back soon.



## Term Dates Academic Year 2024 – 2025

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

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

## 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](mailto:thearktots@gmail.com) for more details.

## Winning with Numbers

The children are really enjoying their new style fluency lessons using our new online programme 'Winning with Numbers'. We have loved seeing how enthusiastic the children are to complete their Wins at home. Keep up the hard work everyone and together we'll all be ... Winning with Numbers!



## A Prayer for Christmas

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show how much God loves the world.  
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,  
until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.  
Amen.



## Poetry

The children at St. Thomas More have taken part in a poetry competition called, 'Poetry Together'. The premise of this was for children and the elderly to create some poetry based on the theme of friendship. We teamed up with some of the residents at Elm Bank to write and perform a poem titled 'A Friend for Christmas'. We hope you enjoyed the performance of this at the KS2 Christmas Show.

## Football

Throughout this autumn term, our year 6 boys have been competing each week in KTFC's Indoor Sports League. There was a great range of experience in the group, with those who play regularly in their communities amongst those just developing their love for the game. The team fought triumphantly every single week, and managed to finish in 3rd place in their league! The organisers from KTFC even commented on STM being the most improved school during the trophy presentation! As always, our children's sportsmanship was second to none, and we continue to be incredibly proud of the way in which they represented our school. Well done!

## Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

Firstly, we would like to express our thanks to our volunteers who helped to make the Christmas events special for the children. We couldn't do what we do without them! It was so lovely to see the children enjoying both the Christmas Fair and the school disco.

A big thank you to; Cassandra Riley Designs, Coop, Laser Maze, Lavender bee tea room, The Raj, The Shop, Thunderbowl, Tigers Play, Tots and West Lodge Farm who all gave generously with their amazing prizes for the raffle. A special thanks to The Palmichael Restaurant for kindly offering the delicious turkey, sausages and cranberry sauce at our Christmas Fair.

We have raised £1372.48 from our Christmas events – thank you and well done everyone! We look forward to more fundraising events next year and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

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](mailto:fstmvolunteers@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining!

## Visits and Visitors

During Advent, Year 1 visited the residents at Elm Bank Care Home to decorate biscuits with them. They mixed the icing and tried super hard not to eat it before decorating some shortbread biscuits. They looked in the sensory grotto and loved exploring with the residents. The biscuits were devoured before we returned to school after being decorated with sprinkles and so much fun was had by all!

As part of their Religious Education learning, Year 1 have also been learning all about Mary. This term, as a class, they embarked on a special pilgrimage to St. Edward's Church to visit the Lady Chapel. Each child had made a flower to take with them that we put next to the statue of Mary. This was a beautiful way for the children to honour the role in their faith as well as being able to connect their learning from inside the classroom to real life experiences.

Year 5 also had a wonderful day in Stratford to enhance their learning during our 'Lights, Camera, Action' topic. They visited Shakespeare's birth place and got to learn about his life. They also took part in a wonderful workshop with the Royal Shakespeare Company.



## A message from Mrs Howes -

It has been another busy term here at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

The term has finished with lots of wonderful productions and gatherings. It has been very special to celebrate this very magical time of year together and to see all of our children shining so brightly and sharing their very special talents. A highlight of the term is always our Governor Award celebration. A huge well done to all of the incredible nominees and our overall winner, Shuvai. You are all wonderful ambassadors for our school.

A huge thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support, we are blessed to work hand in hand with you all. Another thank you must also go to my hardworking and dedicated staff. My final thank you is to the children. They make us proud every single day with their positive attitudes, behaviours for learning, kindness and enthusiasm. I wish you all a magical, safe and enjoyable Christmas and a very happy new year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025, for another exciting term!



## Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration

Year 4, 5 and 6 worked together to create a beautiful Christmas celebration. They shared light, joy and Christmas spirit with all. Mr Bishop, our Strategic Executive Lead, was blown away by the children's incredible talents and professional performance.

## Christmas Production

This year, key stage 1 and year 3 joined together to perform, 'The Big Little Nativity' The story is all about a traditional nativity, with presenters, who help to retell the story. As always, the children were amazing! They learnt their lines brilliantly and sung and performed with enthusiasm. The children were all very confident in their roles, which enhanced their performance. It was an amazing performance from the children, which never ceases to make all the staff so very proud. It brought huge smiles to everyone's face and brought the meaning of Christmas alive.

