

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Summer Term 2



## PARENT EVENTS

In July, St. George Class (EYFS) welcomed their families and friends into school for our final Book and Biscuit event of the year! It was lovely to see so many families coming together to share stories and enjoy a tasty treat. A huge thank you to everyone who have supported these events throughout the year, making these moments truly special for our children.



To conclude our whole-school summer topic: Colourful Cultures, the children celebrated their achievements and shared their learning, as we welcomed our families into school. Parents were invited into the hall to see all of the amazing work that our children had completed in school and at home, and the learning journey and progress from EYFS to Year 6. In class, the children and parents worked together to complete a range of fun activities based on their current area of focus.

## Maths at STM

Exciting times are ahead for our Key Stage 1 children, as we roll out our new NCETM maths lessons across the whole of the key stage. The Year 1 children have thrived from the new resources and teaching approach this year and we can't wait to continue to embed it next year. Please look out for information on Parent Workshops in the Autumn Term.

## Summer Reading Challenge

Kettering Library visited the school to share the Summer Reading Challenge. This is an annual competition, that St. Thomas More have taken part in for many years now. The object of the challenge is to read 6 books throughout the summer holiday. This ensures the children keep up their hard work and progress in reading, while we are not in school and as a reward for doing so, the children will receive prizes for completing the challenge.

If you and your child would like to take part this summer, please visit the library in town and sign up – please let them know our school, as we go into a local competition to win some books for school. We have been very close to winning now for two years in a row! Let's see if this year, we can do it!

## Longtown

Our Year 6 children had a fabulous week in Longtown for their residential. During the week, they took part in gorge walking, canoeing, high ropes, rock climbing and much more. The teamwork displayed was incredible and they showed such amazing resilience and determination. They were great ambassadors for our school and made memories to last a lifetime. Thank you to the staff for making it possible.



## Happy Child Agency

This term, the 'Rainbow Drop In' welcomed Georgia from the Happy Child Agency into school. She has done some incredible work for our school over the years offering wellbeing support to children across the school. Georgia ran a wonderful session for parents where she shared techniques to support children with their wellbeing and mental health. If you would like more information on what support Georgia provides, please do get in touch.



## SILVERSTONE

This term, as part of their 'History of Transport' topic, St Teresa class went on an exciting trip to Silverstone Museum! First, they all got to race around a real replica Silverstone track using Scalextric! Then, they took part in an insightful workshop around how cars have evolved and have been designed for maximum efficiency and safety (where they all got to try on a Formula one suit!). They finished the day with a tour of the huge museum full of interactive learning, a showcase of some very impressive cars, and a cinema simulation! The children had such an incredible day.



## Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:  
**95%**

## Charity

A big thank you to all our wonderful families for your generous support of our summer charity appeal. This term, we collected a fantastic range of summer items for the Kettering Food Bank, helping to support local families in need during the warmer months. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference in our community. We are so proud of how our school comes together to help others—thank you again for your continued support!

## Dr. DNA

This term, we were excited to welcome Dr DNA to our school for a fun and educational assembly all about what should—and shouldn't—go down our toilets! With plenty of laughs and learning, Dr DNA used science to show us why keeping our pipes clear is so important. One of the highlights was the amazing "elephant's toothpaste" experiment, which wowed everyone with its foamy eruption! It was a memorable visit full of science, surprises, and important messages.

## Music Tuition

We are very lucky to have lots of very talented children at St Thomas More and many of our pupils have music lessons at school. Lots of children have been working hard, learning to play a musical instrument throughout the year and many have even taken a grading exam or performed in a concert. Some of our children were also lucky enough to take part in a residential music course run by Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. Musical instrument lessons are delivered via specialist peripatetic teachers in school via our partnership with NMPAT. If you would like to sign your child up for instrumental lessons, please follow the link here - [Music tuition application](#)

## Holy Communion

Some of our children recently received their First Holy Communion, marking a truly special and reverent occasion in their faith journey. In the weeks leading up to the day, they took part in preparation classes, where they learned about the significance of the Last Supper and the meaning behind each part of the Mass. The children approached their preparation with great care and understanding, and this was reflected beautifully during the celebration. Surrounded by their families, friends, and the wider school community, they participated with respect and joy, making everyone incredibly proud. Their outfits looked wonderful and added to the sense of occasion – it was a day to remember, and the children were simply amazing. Thank you to the Catechists for all of their ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated.



## Confirmation

It was a proud moment watching the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the start of July. The reverence and reflective behaviours, both in preparation lessons and at Church were wonderful to see. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them through this new chapter of their lives.



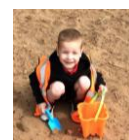
## Term Dates Academic Year 2025 – 2026

Term	Start Date for Children	End Date for Children
Term 1	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
Term 2	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 3	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 4	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Term 5	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Term 6	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July

The school is closed for a Trust training day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

## Rutland Beach

St. George Class (EYFS) had a fantastic day out at Rutland Beach. The weather was beautiful, and the children had a wonderful time building sandcastles with moats and flags. They laughed and splashed as they paddled in the shallow water and searched for fish. To finish the day, everyone enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat and a play in the park. Lots of memories were made and a Great British Day out was had by all.



## Sports Day

We were very relieved that the weather was kind and sports day was able to go ahead. Thank you to all of our families for their patience and understanding as we had to make last minute decisions! It was great to see the children showing teamwork, resilience and sporting skills, as they took part in different activities. Thank you to the young leaders for helping to lead the day and to Miss Barker for organizing it.

## Sewing

St Joseph Class have been working with Mrs Tucker to design and make their own purses for their DT project. They created unique designs and learnt a range of new skills, including cutting fabric, sewing, and fastening. The children were so proud of their finished products!



## Summer Blessings

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

PSALM 97:11-12



# Message from the Governors

Hello STM community,

As we approach the end of another school year, I think it is fair to say that the school has had another outstanding year! There has been lots of progress as well as challenges, but the school continues to be a place of warmth and love for the pupils, staff and family who visit. This is evident by the fact that the school continues to be oversubscribed despite others around us having falling numbers. Looking forward to the next academic year, we have some exciting plans for technology upgrades in the classrooms and some new ideas for our outdoor play areas too, so watch this space!

The heartbeat of the school continues to be the staff who work hard every day to make our children's day positive, safe and exciting, as well as enjoying an excellent curriculum. We are grateful for their continued hard work and dedication, so on behalf of all the Governors at STM, thank you! As always, our school is guided with compassion and care by Mrs Howes and to that, we are very grateful. Please have a restful, but joyful summer break whatever you are doing, and we look forward to seeing you in September for the start of a new academic year.

In God we trust

Crofton

## Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

A huge thank you for your support this term! Your generosity means we have had the pleasure of funding the following projects from the school's 'Wish list' this year; Dino visit, buddy benches, a reading shed, a uniform swap shed, a water boiler, ice poles and cakes for Pentecost, indoor recycling bins, gazebos, and this year's Christmas panto. On top of this, we have also been able to keep the tradition of funding the children in year 6 with their leaver's books. We wish them all the best in their next venture at 'big school'! These are all items and experiences that go beyond the school's regular budget, and we simply couldn't have done it without your help. A special thank you to 'Butterscotch Cakes' for the delicious treats at our garden party, and every one of our volunteers who have given up their time to help organise and run our events this year. And finally, thank you to Mrs McCarney, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Howes; your support and kindness has been hugely appreciated.

Together, we have helped create some special memories, enriched our school community, and made improvements that will benefit the children for years to come. To get involved with even more fun and success next year, please email [fstmvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:fstmvolunteers@gmail.com). We'd love to have you on board!

## Head for the Day

The children enjoyed taking over the school, as Thomas became Headteacher for the day. They had fun wearing comfy clothes and playing lots of games!



## A message from Mrs Howes -

I can't quite believe that I am writing my final message of the year! This year has once again utterly flown and I have some incredible memories that will stay with me forever, especially our visiting dinosaur and our magical elf day! I would like to say a special thank you to all of our school family for all that you have done to make this year another successful and happy year at St. Thomas More. A huge thank you to the incredible children. They fill every day with joy, inspiration and light, just by being them. They make me so incredibly proud. A big well done to all of our Summer 2025 Governor Award Nominees and a special well done to Marco, our overall winner. Keep shining brightly! Thank you to my amazing staff for their dedication and commitment and for always holding the children at the heart of what we do.

I wish you all an enjoyable, safe and sunny summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for another wonderful year at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School.



## Goodbye and Good Luck -

We prepare to say goodbye to some wonderful members of our school family.

Firstly, we say goodbye to Mrs Westwood. Mrs Westwood joined us 7 years ago and has filled our school with care and laughter. We thank her for all that she has done over the years and we wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

We also say goodbye to Miss Tartaglia, who has spent the year in St. Rose Class undertaking her teacher training. It has been a pleasure watching her achieve so much this year and we wish her every happiness as she starts her first teaching role at one of our OLICAT schools.

Though we are not saying goodbye to Miss McCormack, she will be returning to school under her married name of Mrs Archer. We wish her every joy for her wedding day over the summer.

Finally, we also prepare to wave goodbye to our incredible St. Patrick Class. It does not feel like 7 years since they walked into our school. We have had the absolute honour of watching them grow and flourish and we know that they are all so ready for their next steps and all have wonderful futures ahead. As the children leave, so do some of our families. Thank you to all of those families for their love, kindness and support over the years. We wish you all a blessed future.

Please don't be strangers, you will always be a special part of our school family.