

# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Summer Term 1



## YEAR 6

Well done to all of our incredible Year 6 children for their focus, determination and positivity as they completed their SATs last week. We could not be prouder of them! We all had a fabulous day celebrating in town with our annual Year 6 trip to the park and celebratory Greggs & McDonalds. The children should be super proud of all that they have achieved and we look forward to celebrating their final term at STM together.



### Attendance

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

## Pilgrims of Hope

Earlier this week, the Year 5 children attended a 'Pilgrims of Hope' Conference in Bedford. They joined with other Catholic schools from across the Diocese for a day filled with prayer, reflection and community. They joined in with a beautiful worship led by Bishop David and some of them even had the opportunity to ask him some very reflective questions.



## Space Centre

Year 5 enjoyed a day out to the Space Centre in Leicester to fit with their science topic in the summer term. The day was spent exploring the museum and all of its interactive activities, as well as a planetarium show where we learnt all about what it takes to be an astronaut in space! We even saw two life-sized rockets and climbed 144 stairs to see them from the top! The children were a credit to the school and themselves!



## FRONTIER CENTRE

Earlier this term, the Year 4 children went to The Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough for a two-day, one night residential. Everyone had a brilliant time and they all represented our school wonderfully. They took part in lots of exciting and adventurous activities, including canoeing, archery, walk the plank and the maze. The children learnt lots of new things and developed their teamwork and problem-solving skills (especially when making their beds)!



## Woburn

This term, Year 1 embarked on an exciting trip to Woburn Safari Park, where they had an incredible opportunity to learn about wildlife and all the African animals they will use in their topic. The day began with a guided tour of the safari, allowing the children to observe various animals in their natural habitats, including lions, giraffes and monkeys.

A highlight of the trip was the lemur encounter, where the children interacted with the lemurs. They learnt about lemur behaviour, diet and their natural environment. They even saw them being fed, which was amazing to watch!

This memorable trip was not only an opportunity for fun but also reinforced vital lessons in environmental stewardship and empathy for living creatures. Thank you to all of the staff, helpers and of course the Woburn Safari Park team for making this experience possible!



## Donation Banks

Thank you to all of you who have contributed items to our clothing bins. Just a reminder that if you are clearing out any school uniform that no longer fits, this can go in the red bin and will be reused in our uniform shed. After half term, this will be open every Friday for you to reuse items, as needed. Other items can be placed in the blue bin and the school receives a monetary contribution each time it is emptied for recycling.

It has been wonderful seeing children using our book swap. If you have any books to donate, these would also be gratefully received.

# Colourful Cultures Launch Day



At the start of the half term, the whole school had an exciting day launching our Summer Term topic of 'Colourful Cultures.' The children travelled around the world to their summer destinations including Africa, Australia, Egypt and North America. They took part in crafts and activities such as making their own milkshakes and building Egyptian pyramids. We were also visited by Aman from Leicester Bhangra Classes, who led all the school in brilliant and energetic Bhangra workshops. The children (and staff!) got to explore instruments, clothing and learn new dance moves. It was brilliant to watch the children pick up new skills and we certainly have some very talented dancers! A huge thank you to Aman for sharing his incredible skills with us!

## St. Rose Feast Celebration

Year 1 had such a wonderful feast day celebrating St. Rose Venerini. They created beautiful prayer cards to share at home and learnt all about the life of St. Rose. They went down to the forest and partied with cake, music and lots of dancing!



## St. George Feast Celebration

St. George Class had a wonderful day, celebrating their feast day! The children made scones, learnt to dance the Circassian Circle and hosted their own tea party. In the afternoon, they had a great time slaying the dragon pinata and saving the treats he had eaten!



## 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	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	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.

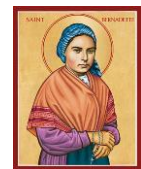
All are welcome.

£2 per family

Contact - [thearktots@gmail.com](mailto:thearktots@gmail.com) for more details.

## St. Bernadette Feast Celebration

What a busy half term year 3 have had. On the first day back, we celebrated our class Saint. We used ipads to learn about St. Bernadette, completed some colouring and spent time with our friends. As it was a lovely day, we went outside and played on the play equipment and enjoyed cake together. We had a great day.



## Festival of Nature

We currently have artwork and posters displayed at The Festival of Nature Exhibition at Wicksteed Park. Tomorrow, Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> May, is the last day of the festival. The Kettering Nature Group have transformed a building with bug hotels, nests and bat boxes, planters and wildlife information boards. You also have the opportunity to vote for our school in the 'favourite decorated wooden animal' category and the 'favourite school poster' category. Thank you to all those who have already visited and voted and if you have not, please try to pop down tomorrow and vote for our school!



**PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED  
POPE LEO XIV**

Lord, source of eternal life and truth,  
give to your shepherd a spirit of  
courage and right judgment, a spirit  
of knowledge and love.

By governing with fidelity  
those entrusted to his  
care, may he, as successor  
to the Apostle Peter and  
vicar of Christ, build your  
Church into a sacrament of  
unity, love, and peace for  
all the world.

Amen.

## Rainbow Drop-in

Following the success of our recent Rainbow Drop-In session, we're delighted to share that Georgia from the Happy Child Agency will be returning for another session with parents. Georgia has worked closely with our school for many years, providing invaluable emotional support to children. This upcoming drop-in will be a chance for parents to hear more about her role and the support she offers, as well as to seek guidance. We will share the date and further details via email in the coming weeks.



## Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

Thank you to everyone for participating in our 'Guess the money in the jar' competition. We hope the children had fun guessing and we are looking forward to announcing the lucky winners after half term. A special thank you to the Pinheiro family for generously donating the jar to us. We appreciate your contribution and support in helping to raise funds for our school.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to donate or have any ideas for future events.

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!

## Everdon

This term, St Teresa class went on an exciting school trip to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre. The trip was linked to our science topic 'plants'. We learnt about how a tree is formed, found natural objects and even created art from natural materials. The bluebells were all out in the wood and it was a truly beautiful experience. Thank you to all the adults who came to support us!



## Listening and Discernment

Thank you to all of the staff, parents and pupils who contributed to our listening feedback for the Parish. If you were unable to attend and would still like to give feedback to the Parish on the following questions, please use the QR code to submit your response:

- What is good about our Catholic communities currently?
- What are the needs in our local area?
- How do we work together to seize new opportunities?



## A message from Mrs Howes -

Though this has been a short term, it has been an incredibly busy one, filled with lots of different visitors and many exciting and engaging school trips! Thank you to all of the children who have been wonderful ambassadors for our school, we have received lots of lovely feedback about your manners, enthusiasm and friendships. Thank you for being you!

I must say a special well done to our incredible Year 6 children. They have approached this term with amazing determination and focus. I could not be prouder of you all and I know that we have lots of exciting things to look forward to with you next half term.

This term also saw the sad passing of Pope Francis. We gathered together for a beautiful reflection and the children have added some very thoughtful responses in our 'In memory' book. The children were fascinated to learn about the papal conclave and kept a close eye on the chimney. We joined together to celebrate the selection of Pope Leo and the children have written some beautiful letters to congratulate him, which we will be sending to the Vatican.

Thank you to all of our school family for your ongoing support and dedication over this half term. I cannot believe that we are now preparing for the last half term of the academic year. Wishing you all a safe, restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, for another busy and exciting half term.

## Bikeability

St. Oscar Class (Year 5), had a brilliant week taking part in Bikeability, the government's national cycling scheme. The children worked with trained instructors to develop their skills, confidence and knowledge of how to cycle safely on today's roads. The children were brilliant ambassadors for our school as they cycled in the local area.



## Mr Egypt

As part of our Ancient Egyptian topic, we were visited by Mr Egypt. We had so much fun, from learning to dance like an Egyptian, to being allowed to touch artefacts that are over 3000 years old. One of the items, a coin from Alexandra the Great, there are only 6 left in the world, 5 in the Cairo Museum and one in the children's hands. They learnt how a body was mummified and what it is like to be in Tutankhamun's tomb and touch his death mask.

