

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2



BOOKS!

On the 6th March our children had a brilliant day celebrating books for World Book Day. We created and performed raps about books (inspired by MC Grammar); shared stories with the residents at Elm Bank; swapped books at the Book Swap Shed; created character descriptions; created BFG dreamcatchers; listened to stories; and lots, lots more! We even got to wear our pyjamas!

Please remember that the Book Swap Shed can be accessed at any point. Please place in any books that you are happy to donate and feel free to select books to enjoy as a family.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
95%

Shrove Tuesday

St. George Class (EYFS) had a fantastic day learning about Shrove Tuesday. The children discovered the meaning behind this special day and how it marks the start of Lent in the Catholic calendar. The children tried pancakes with some traditional toppings and had a great time racing on the playground!



Easter Activities

To mark the end of term and celebrate Easter, our school came together for two days of exciting 'Easter Activities.' Pupils were divided into seven mixed-age groups and rotated through a variety of engaging and creative activities, fostering teamwork and collaboration across year groups. It was wonderful to see the children working together so enthusiastically, and the school was filled with joy, laughter, and a fantastic community spirit. Well done to everyone for making it such a memorable event!



FOOTBALL TEAM

Our Year 5 and 6 girls have spent the Spring Term competing in an indoor football league at Kettering Leisure Village, demonstrating incredible teamwork, determination and resilience. Each week, they faced tough opposition, but their commitment never wavered. Their hard work and positive attitude have made the school so proud, and they have gained valuable experience along the way. Well done to all the players for representing our school so brilliantly—we can't wait to see what you achieve next!

A huge thank you must go to Apex Connection for sponsoring a new kit for our Football Team. The children wore it with great pride!



Donations

We are very excited to inform you that we have new recycling bins for clothing! One bin is for STM pre-loved school uniform. If your child has outgrown items and you are happy to donate them, please place them in the uniform box. This will be sorted and then stored in the uniform shed, which will be open after school every Friday for you to take items to reuse, as needed. We hope that this will support our school family, especially as children outgrow uniform so quickly.

You will also see a larger blue bin. This is for pre-loved clothing, textiles and paired shoes. See attached document for further details. As you clear items out at home, please consider donating them here. Each time we fill the bin, the items will be collected and recycled. The school will also receive a donation each time this happens.

The children have also voiced that they would like a continual way of supporting the Kettering Foodbank. We will be placing a box in the bike shed for ongoing donations. If you feel you are able to contribute at any point, please place an item in it. When it is full, we will deliver it to the Foodbank.

Elm Bank

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day this year, Year 5 went on a trip to Elm Bank, the lovely care home across the road. Every child took their favourite or current book over to read with the residents. The children were incredibly polite and got lots of comments on how they read so well! Lots of joy and cheer was spread and they even sung Happy Birthday to a lovely lady who turned 100 the following day!



Message from the Chair of Governors

Hello STM community,

What a difference a bit of Sun makes; its great seeing lots of the children playing after school and enjoying the weather. As we draw this term to a close and enter the summer term, I'd like to reflect on what has been a busy period since the new year.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Howes and the whole staff for achieving an excellent independent Health & Safety audit, achieving a score of 98.4%. This is the highest score across all 12 OLICAT schools and represents the highest standards not just in the curriculum, but beyond.

We have also had a number of very successful curriculum visits from the Trust, and have received positive feedback on our own development plans for this year and into next year. We have some exciting plans ahead in which we are confident they will continue to enhance the educational experience for all our classes.

The celebration of Easter is a reminder of God's love, mercy, and the promise of redemption. It marks the beginning of the Easter season, a time of joy and reflection on the significance of Christ's resurrection for the world. With this in mind, please have a peaceful Easter, and we look forward to welcoming you back after the break.

Crofton



St. Joseph Feast Celebration

In Year 4, we celebrated our Class Saint on March 19th. We had a full day of fun, including: a mufti day, using the Chromebooks collaboratively with our friends to create some fact files about St. Joseph, playing games, colouring and art.

St. Oscar Feast Celebration

On the 24th March, Year 5 celebrated their Class Saint. They started off with a prayer and then made friendship bracelets for someone else in the class to build love in their class community, like Oscar Romero did in his. They also made Romero crosses out of clay, which they will paint once they are dry! The afternoon was filled with board games and lastly cake! It was a wonderful celebration!



Term Dates Academic Year 2024 – 2025

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 due to a Polling day on Thursday 1st May and for a Trust training day on Friday 27th 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 for more details.

St. Patrick Feast Celebration

St Patrick Class had a wonderful day celebrating their class Saint. They had the opportunity to research the significant day online and create a quiz. They also produced some beautiful artwork and got to use the PE equipment.



Cricket

Over the term, Key Stage 2 have been lucky enough to have 2 wonderful coaches from Northamptonshire County Cricket Club come in to deliver PE lessons to the children. We focussed on a range of skills from fitness to bowling, batting and fielding. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we are very grateful to the coaches for delivering such engaging lessons!



A Prayer for Easter

An Easter Prayer

*That you gave your one and only Son,
that we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and
grace of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
for your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
and tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
Amen.*

Rainbow Drop-in

On Monday 31st March, Miss Giddings, our Inclusion Lead, hosted a successful *Rainbow Drop-In* session for parents and carers to discuss their children's development, including behaviour, health and well-being concerns. Due to the positive response, we are pleased to announce that another drop-in session will be held later next term. If you would like to speak to Miss Giddings before then, please contact the school office to book an appointment.

Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

It was a joy to celebrate Mother's Day this year with the help of the school community; we thank you all for continuing to support our school. All funds raised will go towards exciting projects, trips, equipment, treats and events for our children.

Please feel free to highlight any ideas regarding future events for the school to us, as this can add real value to the children and families of the school.

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!

Holdenby Trip

St Rose Class had an absolutely unforgettable day at Holdenby House, immersing themselves in a genuine Victorian experience! From dressing up in period costumes to trying their hand at traditional Victorian cooking, every moment was packed with learning. The children explored the grand halls, learning about the daily life of Victorian children, and even enjoyed a lovely picnic in the stunning ballroom! A massive thank you to the staff at Holdenby House for making this day so enriching and memorable and well done to Year 1 for being such great ambassadors of our school.



EYFS Easter Celebration

Spring has arrived and St. George Class (EYFS) had a great time performing their Easter songs and poems to their families for our Easter celebrations. The children were very excited to take part in a range of Easter crafts. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and celebrated with us!



A message from Mrs Howes -

What an amazing week for us to finish our term on! I have been so proud of every child this week, as they have shared their incredible talents. The children have not just shone brightly with their remarkable performances, but also with their kindness to one another during our Easter Activities. I always feel honoured to be their Headteacher, but this week has been extra special. Another very special moment for me this term, was yet again celebrating our Governor Award Nominees. Each of them has been a wonderful ambassador for our school and has demonstrated our Mission Statement daily. A huge well done to them all and a special congratulations to Archie, our overall winner.

Another highlight of this term, was seeing our school family join with the community to take part in the 'Great Kettering Spring Clean.' A huge thank you to all who joined us and a special thank you to the Rotary Club of Kettering Huxloe for working in partnership with us. I hope we have inspired our children to make a difference in our community.

It is with sadness, that today we say goodbye to the wonderful Miss Tanya. Miss Tanya has brightened our school with her warmth, generosity and kindness and we can't thank her enough for all that she has given to our children and staff. We wish her every happiness and success, as she returns home to the Ukraine.

Thank you to our school family for your ongoing support and dedication. Wishing you all a safe, restful and blessed Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 22nd April for another busy and exciting half term.



Year 1, 2 and 3 Easter Celebration

The Easter celebration was a joyful event filled with fun and excitement as children from Key Stage 1 and Year 3 came together to share the Easter story. After working hard to prepare, they beautifully told the story through poems, scripture readings and uplifting and inspiring songs. Their voices rang out with enthusiasm as they sang about new life and hope, while their carefully crafted poems brought the message of Easter to life. The children's performances captivated the audience, reminding everyone of the true meaning of Easter in a heart-warming and memorable way.



Easter Production

This year, Years 4,5 and 6 have been rehearsing hard to put on a wonderful, original production of the Easter story. The children have performed brilliantly with fantastic acting skills, and sung beautifully with a range of new songs to STM. All of the teachers are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked and the children are excited to show off their efforts to their grown-ups!

