

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 1



CHINESE NEW YEAR

St. George Class (EYFS) enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, making Chinese lanterns, cards and dragons. In PE, the children danced with the dragon, going on parade throughout the school. They had lots of fun learning about how people celebrate and the traditions that people follow.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
95%

Launch Day!

We had a wonderful day launching our spring topic of 'A Step Back in Time.' We were visited by Giant Journeys, who led the children through a Jurassic exploration. The children enjoyed using augmented reality, fossil hunting and especially meeting Trixie and Reggie! The children have enjoyed going back into different time periods across the school and are looking forward to sharing our curriculum with you next half term.



Football Team

We're halfway through the term, and we couldn't be prouder of our Year 5 and 6 girls' football team! The girls have been working so hard after school at Kettering Leisure Village and their progress has been amazing. From improving their ball control to developing their teamwork and communication skills, they represent our school impeccably. Every session is filled with energy and determination, and we've already seen significant improvements in their confidence and ability. We can't wait to see how far they go as they continue to push themselves!

MATHS

Earlier this term, the children across the school celebrated maths by investigating all the different ways it is used in our lives.

From EYFS to Year 6, they learnt about the role of Maths in Sport, Space, Travel, Shopping, Food and in our daily routines. The children loved exploring and discovering that

MATHS IS EVERYWHERE!



Cricket

Cricket sessions in KS2 have been a fantastic opportunity for children to develop essential skills in catching, throwing, batting, and bowling. Led by a County Cricket Coach, the sessions were both fun and educational, allowing students to build confidence and improve their game in an engaging environment. The children practiced catching and throwing through various drills designed to enhance their reflexes, accuracy and teamwork. Fielding games helped them develop quick reactions and better coordination, making these sessions both enjoyable and beneficial. Batting exercises focused on grip, stance, and shot selection, encouraging students to find their rhythm and timing while hitting the ball. Bowling was another key area, where the coach introduced proper techniques for delivering the ball with accuracy and control. With expert coaching and structured activities, every child had the chance to learn, improve, and enjoy the sport. The sessions were designed to be inclusive, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship, while keeping the children active.



Reconciliation

On Saturday 7th February, some of our children received their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Edward's Church with Fr. Gregory. The children had been preparing for this special step at school with Mrs Hawkins and enjoyed preparing themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. All of the children made everyone feel very proud and lucky to be following them on their faith journey. The children were truly amazing and we look forward to supporting them with their First Holy Communion later this year.

Friendships across the ages – Elm Bank

Reading with residents at Elm Bank was a heart-warming experience that brought joy to everyone involved. The children, full of energy and enthusiasm, brightened the day of the elderly residents as they read aloud their favourite stories. The room was filled with laughter, warmth, and a shared sense of connection as young voices brought tales to life, transporting listeners to different worlds. For many of the residents, the presence of the children was a reminder of their own youth, sparking fond memories and encouraging conversation. Some residents shared their favourite childhood books, while others simply enjoyed the company and the sound of storytelling. The intergenerational interaction fostered a sense of community, bridging the gap between young and old through the simple act of reading. The experience nurtured empathy and respect, showing the children the value of patience and companionship. By the end of the session, smiles and laughter filled the room, proving that a small act of kindness like reading together can create lasting moments of happiness. The children left with a deeper appreciation for their elders, and the residents were left with hearts full of warmth and gratitude.



Local History Week

We started the term with our local history week. Each year group learnt about different parts of Kettering. The school journeyed through time as they celebrated the history of Kettering, learning about the boot and show industry, Wicksteed Park and the timeline of Kettering, along with so much more! Many classes enjoyed exploring the local area as they went for walks into the community.



Poetry and Handwriting Day

Earlier this term, we had a whole school Poetry and Handwriting Day. Each class learnt about a new form of Poetry, including: Diamantes, Ottava Rima, Limericks, Kennings, Acrostics, Senryus and poems with actions. Children had the opportunity to listen to, plan, create, draft, produce and perform their own original poem and developed their handwriting whilst doing so.



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.

Zones of Regulation

This term, St Thomas More has embedded the Zones of Regulation into daily practice. The framework helps children understand, identify, and manage their emotions, equipping them with essential skills for self-regulation and resilience. The Zones of Regulation model categorises emotions and states of alertness into four distinct zones. Throughout the school day, children are encouraged to reflect on their emotional state and identify which zone they are in. Importantly, students learn to use personalised strategies and tools to regulate their feelings. We are already so proud of how well the children have taken to the framework and we look forward to continuing to embed it further.

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.

ECO Committee

Our ECO committee continue to work hard to improve our school and environment. We even received a special certificate from the Kettering Nature Group. This term, representatives met with other stewards from across the Trust to share ideas and consider new initiatives. As a school, we have committed to support our local community and join 'The Great Kettering Spring Clean' on Saturday 29th March. We would like to invite families to join us at 10am at Meadow Road Park. Further details will be shared nearer the time.



A Prayer for Valentines

God of love,
 You give us St. Valentine as an example of love.
 As we celebrate the feast of this loving and caring Saint,
 we ask you to bless our friendships.
 May the love and affection we share with each other,
 always come from a sense of care and respect.
 May we always follow the example of your Son, Jesus Christ,
 who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.



Mission Ambassadors

Our STM Ambassadors actively contribute to school events, engage their peers in exciting initiatives, and serve as role models within our community. They work hard to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone. Recently, they have been enjoying coming together on a Wednesday lunch to develop the next Charity launch, which will be coming your way soon! Keep your eyes peeled!



Friends of St. Thomas More (FSTM)

The school enjoyed a memorable launch day this term, with the dino visit being a highlight for the children; it was a pleasure for FSTM to contribute towards the event. We are also pleased to have provided a clothes and book shed for the school too and hope this will be a helpful addition for the school community.

We raised £349 at the Valentine's disco – thank you to everyone who helped! It's great to see everyone's efforts and contributions making a difference to the children's experiences and needs.

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!

Muddy Education

St. George Class (EYFS), had the most wonderful time exploring the forest and learning about dinosaurs at Muddy Education, on their first school trip! The children were very excited to take part in a variety of dinosaur themed activities, before ending the day by making a campfire, cooking marshmallows, making popcorn and drinking hot chocolate. A great day was had by us all and we couldn't have been prouder of all the children.



A message from Mrs Howes -

Wow, what a busy and exciting term it has been once more at St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The children have continued to shine brightly with their enthusiasm and hard work. The Spring term is always very special, as we see great progress and new concepts clicking!

We have had lots of incredible memories over the term, including launching the Jubilee Year, seeing Reception off on their first school trip and even welcoming a dinosaur to school. A special mention must go to our children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. It was an honour to witness and feel the lived faith and to see them make this special step. I must also express my thanks to our wonderful choir for letting me join you at Young Voices. I smiled until my face hurt and my legs were certainly sore from the dancing! I was so proud to see your happiness, enthusiasm and talent and I hope that you cherish the memories forever.

This term, we have also welcomed lots of visitors from our Trust Central Team for them to come and see the great things that happen in our school. The team were blown away by lots of things, but especially how the children articulated their learning, the incredible engagement of all and the joy that they felt for learning across the whole school. Thank you to all the children for welcoming our visitors into their classrooms and for even challenging some of the adults with their learning!

Thank you to all of our school family for making our school a very special place to learn, love, pray and play. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 24th February 2025 for another exciting term.

Phonics Drop in

EYFS welcomed their parents into school for Phonics workshops this term. This gave the children an opportunity to show off the work they are proud of, while also showing the parents how we learn in school. A huge thank you to everyone who supported these sessions, we hope they were beneficial to you all.

Young Voices

In January, our choir travelled to Birmingham, to spend the day with thousands of other children and sing their hearts out as part of the Young Voices Choir 2025! The children spent the afternoon rehearsing, meeting celebrities (MC Grammar, Tommy Blaize, Souparnika Naira and Urban Strides) and being incredible role models for our school. In the evening, they raised the roof and danced their socks off during the concert! Thank you to everyone who supported the children and made it possible. It is certainly a memorable and joyous experience.

