

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2



THEMED WEEKS

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, School Safety, Celebrating Differences, Online Safety and Mental Health Awareness. To launch the week, the children and staff wore odd socks to raise awareness.

The children also 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.

Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
94%

EYFS Nativity

St. George Class (EYFS) had a great time performing 'The Sleepy Shepherd' to their families and friends 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! Well done, St. George Class.



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. Year 4 also learnt what it is to be a young carer. The children also explored faith, with a focus on Hinduism.



CAROLS

The carols by candlelight at St. Edward's Church is always such a special moment of our Advent Calendar and this year was no exception. The children sang so beautifully and the readers spoke clearly and confidently.

There was a beautiful atmosphere as we came together with members of the community and Parish 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.



Curriculum Celebration

It was lovely to see so many people joining us to celebrate the end of our 'Lights, Camera, Action' topic. The children were so enthusiastic to share their achievements and some of their learning from the term. We hope our families also found it helpful seeing the whole learning journey of the school. Please note that all of our curriculum documentation is on our school website. We look forward to launching our 'Step Back in Time' topic on our return in January.



Parish engagement.

It was wonderful to again join with our Parish family to share music and joy, as we celebrated St. Cecilia. A huge thank you to our St. Cecilia Choir, who gave their time to rehearse and to also attend the celebration. We received lots of lovely feedback from the Parish.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us to lead the Parish Family Mass. The readers read wonderfully and the singing was superb.

EYFS Phonics Workshops

A huge thank you to all our families who came to our phonics workshops earlier this term. These sessions are hugely valuable in supporting your children in their learning at home. St. George Class loved sharing their learning with their adults from home and many of the adults got involved too.

Message from the Chair of Governors

Hello STM community,

I hope this message finds you all well!

As we prepare to see out the end of one year, and the beginning of another, I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff at STM for their continued effort and hard work. Particularly with this time of year, far from it being an easy ride into the festive period, the whole school are busy preparing for performances across all the year groups, which is no mean feat and takes a lot of planning and time to practice!

I'd also like to say thank you to the parent community for your continued support with what we are trying to achieve with our values, ethos and culture! Your buy in really does make a huge difference regarding all the children, especially with helping us in their development as people.

I'd like to sign off by saying whatever your plans are, on behalf of STM Governors, have a great Christmas and a very happy new year.

In God we trust,

Crofton

Rainbow Drop In

A big thank you to everyone who attended the recent Rainbow Drop-In with Sim from the school nursing team— it was a great success and lovely to see so many families pop by. I will be holding my own Inclusion Drop-In on 12th January, offering phone call appointments for any questions or concerns relating to inclusion, SEND or pastoral support. Please contact the school office to book a slot if you'd like to speak with me.

Miss Giddings

Term Dates Academic Year 2025 – 2026

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

Support

As we head into the Christmas break, please remember that our Inclusion team is here for you. If you're experiencing financial pressures, concerns about food, heating, gifts, or anything else that might make the holiday period feel difficult, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're always here to listen, signpost support, and help in any way we can. Please find email addresses on the school website.

Remembrance

At the beginning of the term, we joined together in a Service of Remembrance. We reflected on what has come before, but also on our role in making the world a happier and safer place. Each child created a poppy and they were planted to create our own garden of remembrance. Residents from Elm bank joined us too.



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.



Pantomime

On the 5th of December, we were visited by the Laugh Out Loud Theatre Company, who performed 'Sinbad the Sailor' to all of the children and adults in school. It was a wonderful treat (which everyone enjoyed!) and made us really ready for all of the Christmas fun we had in school. Thank you to The Friends of St. Thomas More for raising money for things like this to happen in our school.



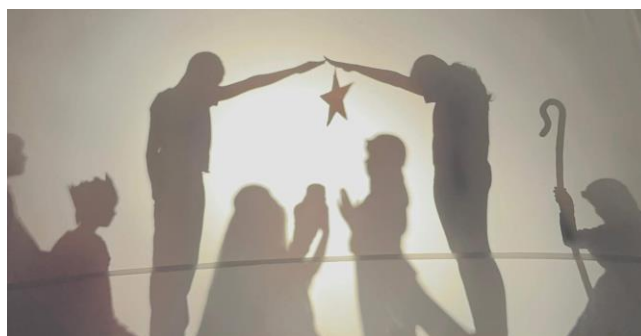
Football

Throughout the Autumn term, our year 5 and 6 boys have been competing in Kettering Town FC's indoor football league over at Kettering Sports Centre. The boys represented the school immaculately through their polite, resilient and sportsmanlike attitude each and every week, making us so incredibly proud. This term we even managed to go the extra mile and bring home the trophy for winning our league! Well done boys!



Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 children, once again took to the stage to perform a spectacular and memory making celebration. They shared their incredible talents confidently, singing with enthusiasm and sharing the true meaning of Christmas.



Visits and Visitors

Earlier in the term, we enjoyed an exciting Science assembly led by Atomic Tom, who amazed everyone with his Elephant Toothpaste experiment! The children were fascinated and loved seeing science come to life. We're delighted that he will be running a science club for Years 1 to 4. This club is a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore experiments, spark curiosity and have fun with hands-on science.

St. Patrick Class (Year 6) had a magical day visiting the Harry Potter Warner Bros. Studio Tour in London. They took part in a costume workshop and loved experiencing the behind the scenes secrets!

St. Oscar Class (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 super 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 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, Sebastian. 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 5th January 2026, for another exciting term!



Come Dine with Me

St. Patrick Class (Year 6) had great fun during their 'Come Dine with Me' DT lessons. The children wowed us with their creativity, kitchen skills and team work.



Christmas Production

This year, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 joined together to perform, 'Angel Express'. The story is all about a traditional nativity, but with a little twist. The angels wanted to do something special for the baby Jesus, but they didn't have long to get it ready. Finally, everything worked out well and everyone was happy.

As always, the children were amazing, learning their lines, singing and performing with enthusiasm. It was a brilliant performance from the children and all the staff were very proud of them. It brought huge smiles to all and brought the meaning of Christmas to life. A huge thank you to all the parents for supporting with the costumes.

