

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 1



CLIMATE CHANGE

It was wonderful to welcome the Big Bubble Theatre Company back into school earlier in the term, to lead some of our classes in drama workshops focused on climate change and recycling! 🌍

The children were enthusiastic to share their knowledge and joined in the activities with passion. The hall was filled with lots of laughter and joy. All the children committed to making our world a better place for all.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
94%

Launch Day!

We had lots of fun across the school as we took 'A Step Back in Time' to launch our Spring term topic! Here is just a small selection of some of the amazing costumes on display! Can you guess the different time periods? 🕒



The children enjoyed taking part in immersive activities. Thank you to our families for supporting the children with their costumes.

Football Team

This half-term, our Year 5 and Year 6 girls have been waving the STM flag high at our termly indoor football league ran by Kettering Town FC at Kettering Sports Park. The girls have been representing our school impeccably with their attitude, effort and sportsmanship. With the seeding processes over, we've set our sights on bringing back STM's second trophy of the year next term! Let's get behind them!

MATHS

Earlier in the term, pupils across our school celebrated the idea that **MATHS IS EVERYWHERE!** Children at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School discovered how maths plays a vital role in everyday life. From exploring daily routines in EYFS, to learning about shopping, travel, space and sport, it was wonderful to see pupils sharing their enthusiasm and appreciation for the importance of maths in the world around them.



Prayer Ministry

Earlier this term, we invited the children to take greater responsibility in leading our Prayer Ministry. We have been utterly blown away by the thoughtful worship that the children have been preparing and sharing, it has been truly beautiful across the whole school. Thank you to all our families who have supported us with this so far. We hope that you have also enjoyed taking this time to either share your child's ideas or even taking a moment to pray or listen to the word of God as a family.



Reconciliation

During the week, over 20 of our children have begun their journey of preparation for their First Reconciliation. They have undertaken their classes with respect and reverence and we look forward to continuing to support the children on their faith journey.



Outdoor Learning

This term, the weather has not been kind to outdoor learning, but that hasn't stopped us. In Year 2, we have been into the forest and listened for different bird sounds. The children and adults had to be very quiet and move slowly and carefully around. We loved all the different sounds we heard and how different parts of the forest gave us different sounds. Also, we collected a selection of leaves and twigs, bringing them back to the classroom, where we made leaf families, which were amazing and all individual! In Year 1 and EYFS, they have been making bird feeders out of pipe cleaners and using Cheerios as the food, adding them to the pipe cleaners and twisting the end, so they don't fall off. The children went and hooked them over the branches and the birds absolutely loved them.



Local History Week

We started the term with our Local History Week. The children learnt about how our local area has changed and developed. They considered the shoe industry, school changes, geographical changes and learnt about famous people, including Charles Wicksteed. Mrs Tucker enjoyed visiting the Year 2 children to talk to them about how St. Thomas More has changed and what school was like when STM was first built. The children loved getting to ask lots of different questions.



Poetry and Handwriting Day

We started 2026 with a whole-school Poetry and Handwriting day. Each class focussed on a different poetry style including: poetry with actions, Acrostic, Diamante, Limericks, Kennings, Senryus and Ottava Rima. During the day, the children learnt about and explored the style of poetry they were focussing on, planned, drafted, edited, produced a final draft (applying their handwriting skills) and performed their original poems to an audience.



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

Uniform

Just a reminder that if you are sorting outgrown uniform over half term and you are able to donate it to others, please consider placing it in our recycling bin after our return to school. This uniform is then sorted and added to our uniform shed. If you need any items, please feel free to check inside the shed at any time.

If you have non-uniform items, please also donate them into our other recycling bin for us to support Caritas in Action. They also make a monetary donation to the school for our support.

Ukuleles

Year 5 have started their very exciting music project with NMPAT this term - Ukuleles! They have been working hard each week to learn new chords and songs ready for their performance to families and the school at the end of their 10-week block! We can't wait to show you what they have been working on next term!



Music Lessons

At St. Thomas More Catholic Primary we are lucky to have many talented musicians and we have a wonderful team of peripatetic music teachers from the local music hub who come in to teach our students. We currently have teachers for guitar, piano, strings, woodwind and singing in our school. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and you would like them to have instrumental lessons in school, you can book directly with NMPAT via this link

<https://presto.nmpat.co.uk/musicinschool/stuiappl.asp>

If you would like your child to have singing lessons, you can book directly with ISM Music Academy via this link

<https://www.ismmusicacademy.com/>

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.



Rainbow Drop In

In January, we held the Rainbow Drop In sessions and provided parents and carers with the opportunity to discuss their child's development, behaviour, and well-being. If you were unable to attend on that date, you are very welcome to book a new appointment via the school office. The sessions had a really positive response, and we'll share details of the next Rainbow Drop In soon.

Science Club

Our Science Club has been buzzing with curiosity this term! Children from Years 1–4 have been busy investigating some brilliant scientific ideas through hands-on experiments. They've explored static electricity, discovered how unique fingerprints really are, and tested the push and pull of magnets. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, asked thoughtful questions, and loved making predictions and observations like real scientists. It's been wonderful to see their confidence and excitement for science grow each week. If you would like to join Science Club after half term - please look for Mrs Archers dojo post.



Parking

Please ensure that you are parking **safely** and **responsibly** on the surrounding roads. Sadly, we have still had a number of complaints from residents over the term and it is very important that we build good relationships with our neighbours. Please also remember to not park in Elm Bank, as this is private land. It is important to keep all of our school family safe, so please be mindful of this when parking.

Thank you to all the children who took part in our poster competition to promote safe parking. PCSO Mike loved looking at your designs! Well done to our overall winners!

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!

A very special moment for me this term, was being able to join our incredible choir as they represented our school at Young Voices 2026. Every child shone brightly with their singing talents, joyful dance moves and brilliant behaviour. I smiled until my face hurt and my legs were certainly sore from the dancing! Most of all, my heart was truly full with pride! Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful and special experience possible and to all the families who travelled to support us!

This term, we have also welcomed lots of visitors from our Trust Central Team and also other visiting schools, for them to come and see all the great things that happen in our school. They were all blown away by lots of things, but especially how welcoming our children are and how beautifully they articulate 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 23rd February 2026 for another exciting term.

Young Voices

The Year 5 and 6 choir were lucky enough to attend Young Voices 2026 in January earlier this year in Birmingham! The children joined thousands of other school children to form the world's largest children's choir to perform all of the songs they have been working hard learning since September.

The children performed fantastically and it was a magical evening filled with enthusiasm and joy! The children were even lucky enough to meet Andy (a big Young Voices celebrity) which caused lots of excitement! All of the adults were so proud of the children and how they sung and danced their hearts out!

