

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2



WORLD BOOK DAY

Earlier this term, we celebrated World Book Day with a focus on not only promoting a love of reading but also a love of language and words. All of the staff and children got creative and came to school in fancy dress, representing some of their favourite words. Throughout the day, the children enjoyed learning more about words, language, reading books focusing on the words within them and creating some creative writing based on this. St. Joseph Class (Year 4) also enjoyed visiting Elm Bank to read to the residents.



Attendance

Current whole school attendance figure:
94%

Everdon

This term, St. Teresa Class (Year 2) embarked on a very exciting trip to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre! They had a fantastic time showing off their knowledge about plants, animals and microhabitats. As well as learning so much more along the way! They also had such great fun in the forest making a variety of artwork using nature too!

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

After a fantastic league win last term from our Year 5/6 boys, our Year 6 girls were determined to match their achievement... And they did! The girls have worked so incredibly hard on improving their football skills each and every week, were impeccable in their representation of our school and got nothing less than they deserved by winning Kettering Town FC's Indoor Sports League for the Spring term, bringing home STM's second trophy in as many terms! Well done girls!



OLICAT Pupil Board

Over the last two weeks, pupil representatives from all twelve schools which make up the Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust (OLICAT) have met with the Trust's CEO, Catherine Burnham in our first "Pupil Board". The idea is for the Pupil Board to mirror the Board of Directors who are responsible for the Trust - pupils can share their experience, skills and ideas to help the Trust to support our schools as well as possible.

The first meeting of the Pupil Board gave pupils the opportunity to contribute their ideas to the Trust-wide IT Strategy, as well as considering how to raise money to support our Trust charity, Mary's Meals. We discussed how pupils can benefit more widely from Trust life, for example by visiting each other's schools, and we thought about some important topics for the pupil board to think about in future, including mental health and wellbeing, Artificial Intelligence and the importance of clubs and trips to enrich pupils' experiences of school. The Pupil Board will meet again next term.



Holdenby House

St. Rose Class (Year 1) enjoyed an incredible day at Holdenby House at the beginning of term. They were under orders from Mrs Bumbridge and Mrs Crumpet and completed tasks such as making the beds, emptying the chamber pots, cleaning the saddles and making bread. In the afternoon, they met Her Ladyship and had deportment lessons. The children worked extremely hard to prove their skills to Lady Annaly by balancing books on their heads and carrying a tray sensibly. They are looking forward to going back when they are 12 years old for employment!



Message from the Chair of Governors

Hello STM community!

Along with the celebrations that accompany the Easter period, I welcome the slightly longer days/shorter evenings and I am patiently waiting for the Sun to make it a hat-trick of wins!

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide the STM community with some brief updates. You may have noticed that we have recently been able to make sure small but significant improvements to the outdoor spaces, notably with the widened pathway on entry/exit from the school, as well as a revamped outdoor play area for reception which has gone down very well with the children. This has greatly improved the outdoor playing and learning experience for the children in reception and is long overdue. As we move into the summer period, there are further plans regarding some classroom developments which will also improve the general facility within the classrooms.

As has come to be the case over many years, STM has enjoyed a great deal of support from the parent/carer community and as we continue to make progress, I'd like to ask parents/carers to continue supporting our efforts with regards to attendance! It is one of the most challenging conflicts of interest for a lot of families, the balancing act of precious time away with our loved one's vs time at school. However, the national picture in the post covid era is still a concern with regards to attendance, and with the new Ofsted framework coming into effect, attendance will only continue to generate even more scrutiny! As Governors, it is a key metric we are duty bound to monitor and so our only request is that you continue to work with the school regarding attendance in light of these challenges!

From all the Governors at STM, have a great Easter break and enjoy the time with your families.

In God we trust,
Crofton

St. Oscar Feast Celebration

Year 5 celebrated their Feast Day by baking cornflake cakes, making bracelets with inspirational words associated with Oscar Romero, making fortune tellers with words of faith, hope and kindness, and then created artwork inspired by El Salvador and famous Oscar Romero quotes!



Mother's Day

St. George Class (EYFS) really enjoyed their recent Book and Biscuit event. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day, bringing children and their families together for a morning of reading and sharing treats. It was lovely to welcome our families and friends into the classroom. A big thank you to everyone who continues to support these special events – they create such memorable moments for the children.



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

St. Patrick Feast Celebration

Year 6 had great fun on St Patrick's Day celebrating their class Saint. There was craft, food, céilí dancing and a good sing song to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland.



Online Safety

Keeping our children safe online is an essential area of safeguarding and one that is constantly evolving. To combat this, we invited Simon Aston, a local Online Safety Officer, into school to deliver a parent workshop and training to staff. We are fortunate to be welcoming Simon back into school later in the term to work with our children in KS2 to develop their understanding of how to manage risk online. Please have a look at the information for parents that Simon Aston has shared with us.



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.*

Reconciliation

On Saturday 7th March, some of our children received their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Edward's Church with Canon Gregory and Fr. Elvis. 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.



Gosspel Snake!

Over the term, it has been wonderful watching our Gosspel snake grow. A huge thank you to everyone who has taken time to contribute a decorated stone and thank you to Miss Tick for organising a competition. The children have been incredibly excited to show their painted creations and have been counting the additions each day. The class who added the most stones was Year 3. They have won their own class pet to look after and make a home for. Ask the children for more details!



St. Joseph Feast Celebration

Year 4 had a wonderful Feast Day, filled with creativity and reflection as they thought about St. Joseph. The children designed and made beautiful "homes for Jesus" in the forest, linking their ideas to St. Joseph's care and love. They also created delicious rice crispy cakes as part of their DT learning, and enjoyed snacks, music, and calming mindfulness colouring to celebrate together.



EYFS Easter Celebration

St. George Class (EYFS) Easter celebrations were filled with joy and creativity, as the children enjoyed singing some of their favourite Easter songs and proudly recited a special poem they had been learning. The Easter crafts were great fun, with everyone enjoying the chance to get creative. It was especially lovely to share these activities with friends and family.



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 Joshua, our overall winner.

Another highlight of this term, was witnessing some of our children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. Leading a school, guided by faith, is a very special blessing indeed. I always feel deeply honoured that we have supported children to take these special steps on their faith journey.

Over the term, we have also had the pleasure of welcoming a new Lunch time Supervisor. We hope Miss Elmore will enjoy being a part of team STM.

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 Monday 13th April for another busy and exciting half term.



Year 1, 2 and 3 Easter Celebration

St. Rose, St. Teresa and St. Bernadette class marked the Easter season with a beautiful and uplifting performance of songs, poems and readings of scripture. Each class worked to create their own contribution towards telling the Easter story and when all the children joined together in song, it was truly a special moment filled with hope and a reminder of the true meaning of Easter. The performance was a wonderful celebration of faith, community and the talents of our pupils. Thank you to all the parents and care givers who attended. We are incredibly proud of the children and all their hard work to create a truly wonderful performance.

Easter Production

Years 4, 5 and 6 have been rehearsing hard to put on a wonderful and reflective performance of 'The Three Trees'. The children have performed brilliantly with fantastic acting skills, and lifted our hearts with their beautiful singing. All of the teachers are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked and the children loved sharing their efforts with their grown-ups. Residents from Elm Bank greatly enjoyed visiting for the dress rehearsal too.

