



St Thomas More RC Primary School

'Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others'

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Children return to school

Friday 6th January

Epiphany Mass – whole school mass at church 9am

Tuesday 10th January

Open Morning – Reception

2023 starters

Year 4 Cricket starts

Monday 16th January

Choir performing at the O2 – Young Voices

Monday 30th January

Art week

Monday 6th February

Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 10th February

Last day of term

Monday 13th February-

Friday 17th February

Half Term

Monday 20th February

Children return to school

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 1st March

Y6 trip to church for St David's day

Friday 31st March

Yr 6 perform Stations of the Cross

Last day of term 3.30pm finish

Head teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Autumn term has been a busy and successful one and as it draws to a close we reflect on all the amazing things our children have achieved. We have spent the last 2 weeks enjoying our incredible Nativity, Christmas Celebration and Carol Services, where the children were wonderful and sang beautifully. Thank you to everyone that came to see our performances.

As the calendar year comes to an end we will also be saying good bye to Mrs Ingram- our year 5 teacher. She has been with us for 19 years and during that time I know she has taught many of your children that may now be teenagers or at university! I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the children, their families and the school. Mrs Ingram is not only a colleague but a great friend that the STM team will miss dearly. We wish her all the best in her new ventures and wish her every happiness for the future.

We have successfully recruited a year 5 teacher who is currently in post at another school and will be joining us after her notice period. In the interim the year 5 class will be covered by Miss Green and a temporary teacher.

Important Information

Can I please ask that you read over the next few pages of this newsletter as there are important notices as well as reminders on uniform, attendance, clubs and PE days.

On behalf of all of the staff at St Thomas More we send you warm festive wishes for a happy and restful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing the children return on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.



Mrs Collins

Attendance

I am asking for your support in improving whole school attendance and punctuality. During the COVID pandemic it was necessary for pupils and families to isolate if they or a close contact tested positive. That is not now the case and it is essential that we build back up on our previous positive attendance rates. I am also aware of the recent increase in Scarlet Fever cases this autumn that will of course affect attendance.

However, the impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted it is vital that we **make every school minute count**. I urge you to ensure that your child is in school and on time every day to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning.

Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered to be neglect.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% will lead to the Borough Attendance Officer intervening.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

Attendance % over a school yr	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to approximate wks of absence	Approximate number of lessons missed
95%	9.5 days	2 weeks	47.5 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	95 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	190 lessons
70%	57 days	12 weeks	285 lessons

We aim to ensure that all children attend school regularly and on time wherever possible to ensure that they are able to make the most of the educational experiences offered. School education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment.

In the Spring term we will be having a whole school drive on attendance and awarding most improved attendance individually and as a class.

Thank you for your continued support with this important matter.

Nut allergies and Birthday Treats

Following serious concerns from parents can we please remind you that no varieties of nuts and sesame seeds are allowed in school i.e. in packed lunches or in birthday treats/gifts. This is due to some of our children having very severe allergies. If you are bringing food/treats in to give to any child, other than your own, please bring in via the School Office and not directly to the children. We would recommend that if you are wishing to bring in birthday treats that it is not chocolate based.

Please do not give treats to children, other than your own, after school in case of unknown allergies.

Winter Uniform and PE Kit

When the children return in January they should still be in their winter uniform. This consists of:

Children are expected to wear and be proud to wear our school uniform.

Boys	Girls
Grey Trousers	Navy Skirt or Pinafore
White Shirt	White Blouse
Navy Jumper	Navy Cardigan or Jumper
Red Tie	Red Tie
Grey or Black Socks	White or Navy Blue Socks / Navy Blue Tights
Black Shoes - no Boots or Trainers	Black Shoes - No Boots or Trainers
Dark Blue / Navy Blue Overcoat	Dark Blue / Navy blue Overcoat

Winter PE Uniform

Can you please make sure that for PE your child is wearing their winter PE kit on their days (see timetable below). A navy, plain tracksuit, white polo shirt and trainers is required.

PE Timetable

Reception Class:	Monday and Friday
Year 1:	Monday and Thursday
Year 2:	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 3:	Wednesday (double session)
Year 4:	Tuesday and Wednesday (+ Mon Swimming)
Year 5:	Monday and Thursday
Year 6:	Tuesday and Friday

*****Please remember to label ALL items of clothing so they can easily be returned*****

Extra-Curricular Clubs this term

In addition to the letters sent out this week, please see below a list of our clubs for this half term. If you would like to request a place for your child, please contact the school office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Multi Sports for Yrs 1- 3	Dodgeball Yrs 4-6	Art Club Yrs 2-6	Prokickers Yrs 3-6
	Choir Yrs 3-6 children are selected by Miss McGill		Musical Theatre Yr 3-6

****If your child attends a club that doesn't fall on their PE day can they please bring their kit in a bag and wear school uniform as normal.****

Term Dates

Spring Term 1

Tuesday 3rd January to Friday 10th February

-Spring half term: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February-

Spring Term 2

Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March

-Easter Break: Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April-

Summer Term 1

****INSET DAY – Monday 17th April: No attendance for children****

Tuesday 18th April to Friday 26th May

(Bank Holidays: 1st May and 8th May – for the Coronation of King Charles)

-Summer half term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June-

Summer Term 2

Monday 5th June to Thursday 20th July

****INSET DAY – Friday 21st July: No attendance for children****

Issue: #2 Term: Autumn 2 Date: December 2022