



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY

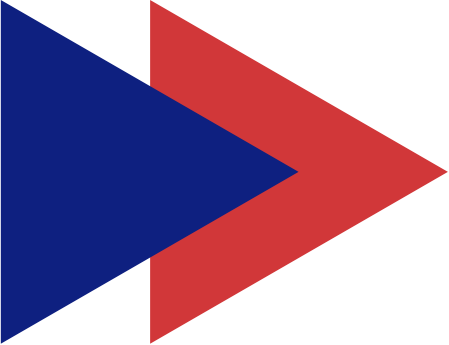


SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Share, Shine, Live, Love, Learn

Contact us on 0208 856 9153
email us at sao@stmprimary.org

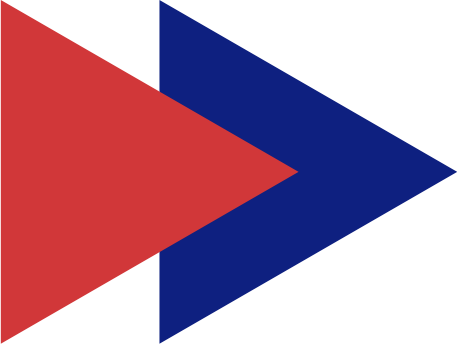
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www.stmprimary.org



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Headteacher's Welcome

A warm welcome to our prospective families from all the staff here at St Thomas More. I hope you find this prospectus helpful in making that important decision as to where your child starts their educational journey.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary is a one form entry school located in Eltham within the Royal Borough of Greenwich and we are dedicated to nurturing young minds and providing exceptional learning experiences for your child. We have fabulous children and a dedicated team, who work very hard to inspire and motivate the children. Our primary school offers a safe, supportive and engaging environment where every child can thrive. We are passionate about ensuring all our children develop self confidence, a growth mindset and achieve their full potential across the spectrum of experiences we offer.

At St Thomas More, we focus on the holistic growth of every child and are committed to providing an education that integrates faith as well as academic excellence. We place great importance on their faith journey and character development, ensuring they foster a sense of responsibility, respect and love for one another. Although we are a Catholic school, we are in fact a multi faith community and welcome families from all faiths and backgrounds. We celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and our school is proud to provide an inclusive, nurturing environment where children of all beliefs can learn and thrive together.

To find out more, we would like to invite you to come and see our amazing school in action either at one of our open mornings held in the autumn term or by calling the office to book a visit. St Thomas More is an exciting prospect for your child and I hope you are captured by the warmth and charm of St Thomas More and that we can welcome you into our happy and high achieving school very soon.

Mrs Collins

Headteacher

0208 856 9153 sao@stmprimary.org

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

At St Thomas More we are dedicated to nurturing the spiritual growth of our children, empowering them to live out their faith and contribute positively to society. Our pupils understand the values of forgiveness, humility and gratitude and we encourage them to grow their gifts and talents and deepen their relationship with God through prayer, reflection and the study of scripture.

Our Vision and Values

We are committed to an ethos of high expectations and our vision is to inspire a lifelong love of learning in our pupils. We aim to create a community of curious, creative and confident individuals who are well prepared for the challenges of the future.

As a school community we will work together to instil high aspirations where all are challenged and supported to succeed in a safe and secure environment and encourage and nurture all pupils to be happy individuals.

Our pupils are guided by a set of values derived from our mission statement and that represent the values we believe to be central to the education of children in our school.

Live Love Learn Share Shine

These values along with our mission statement are more than just words on a page, they weave into the fabric of school life, providing a mirror for our decision making and moral compass for our children’s actions and behaviour. We are committed to modelling and teaching these values through high quality teaching and learning, along with memorable experiences so our pupils can become responsible, well rounded individuals who positively impact their communities and the world.



“The Catholic life of the school is outstanding. It has the highest possible priority and excellent relationships and communication are key strengths of the school”

**Taken from Catholic Schools Inspection
April 2018**



“

“[Pupils are]
polite, friendly
and respectful”

Taken from
Ofsted
July 2018



Safeguarding

Safety of our children is our number one priority, from the security of the site to the welfare of each individual. All children have their '3 for me' trusted adults who they can turn to in school if they ever feel worried, unsafe or just not themselves and want a listening ear.

We actively promote children knowing how to keep themselves safe in everyday life and online and do this through assemblies, lessons and visits from external organisations. We ensure all staff receive thorough safeguarding training annually and that any volunteers or visitors are made aware of our safeguarding procedures before working with our children.

Restorative Approach

At St Thomas More we aim to create a happy, safe, caring, stimulating and inclusive environment for all and aim to keep rules and regulations to a minimum. Promoting good behaviour amongst the pupils is a shared responsibility. All those who work with the school, Governors, parents, the wider community and the children, all have a vital role to play. We expect each individual to respect others, their families, culture and beliefs, as part of the exceptionally high standards of behaviour that we have at our school.

We believe that implementing a restorative approach helps us to focus on building better relationships with each other, taking the time to ensure that every member of our school community feels listened to, valued and respected.

We support pupils in developing the skills to maintain positive relationships with others and to resolve disagreements and problems themselves. It is our role to educate our pupils to understand how their behaviour affects others and as a result we are helping them to become empathic, considerate people who have the skills to avoid and resolve problems independently.

“

[Pupils] are articulate and talked confidently about their learning in a wide range of subjects”

Ofsted
July 2018



An Inspiring Curriculum

At St Thomas More we believe learning should be enjoyable and motivational and must provide a variety of opportunities for all. We set high expectations for all and our curriculum is designed not just to impart knowledge, but to nurture creativity, critical thinking and a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

Across the school we follow the National Curriculum with a clear focus on English and Maths as well as ensuring a progressive, broad and balanced curriculum that develops knowledge and understanding as well as promoting curiosity and independent thinking.

We plan progressive learning with clear yearly objectives which build in small steps. We provide differentiated challenges and believe that when children are involved in their learning they will understand and remember.

Our curriculum inspires children to aim for the highest standards possible and show resilience in reaching their goals.

Expectations are shared with parents at the start of the year and termly meetings are held to share progress towards the yearly goals.

Inclusion and SEND

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School we believe that every child deserves to be safe and loved, have a healthy and happy childhood, be free from harm, and have the chance to make the most of their talents and fulfil their greatest potential. We are an inclusive school and work tirelessly to meet the individual needs of each pupil in our care regardless of their background, physical ability or educational needs.

We have a SENDCO who supports teachers, children and parents with all aspects of special educational needs.

We use outside services to support us in ensuring that your child has specialist provision where a need has been identified.

The School Day

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality help the children to settle in school and not miss out on vital learning and social experiences. Children with poor attendance can easily fall behind and catching up can be tricky. Children need to be in school every day unless ill or there are exceptional circumstance. We expect a minimum attendance of 96%. We ask that any appointments for doctor/dental/opticians etc should wherever possible be made out of school hours.

Holidays during term will not be authorised and could result in further action being taken by the Royal borough of Greenwich.

Times of the day

8.50 - 9.00

Registration: gates open at 8.50 and children file in from the playground. The school gate closes at 9am and anyone arriving after that has to report to the school office.

9.00 - 10.30

Session 1 (assemblies take place on certain days at 10.15)

10.30 - 10.45

Break

10.45 - 12.00

Session 2

12.00 - 1.00/1.15

Lunch

1/1.15 - 2.15

Session 3

2.15 - 2.30

Break

2.30 - 3.30

Session 4



“The school is
excellent at
creating an
atmosphere
where the
children love
learning”

Parent 2023



Pastoral Support

The well-being of children is of paramount importance. Every child, regardless of their background or abilities, deserves a safe space to learn, grow and thrive. We create that safe haven within our school by listening to concerns, understanding their challenges and celebrating their achievements, both high and small. We are committed to providing a safe and caring environment for your child building their emotional resilience and social awareness.

However, it is essential that we work together, and it is this ongoing partnership between home and school, which ensures that successful relationships are maintained and that your child benefits fully from his or her primary years.

School Lunch

We pride ourselves on having an amazing school chef who cooks the meals on site daily. It is healthy and nutritious and children receive a hot meal and have access to the salad bar if they wish - seasonal menus are available on our website.

School meals are provided free of charge to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Thereafter they are charged at the rate of £2.50 per week. Meals should be paid for in advance. Free School Meals are available to children whose parents receive certain state benefits and you are encouraged to claim these, if appropriate, as in addition to helping you it can increase the school's funding.

If you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch, you please notify the office in advance and children can only change at the end of a half term.



School Uniform

To help promote a sense of pride and positive attitudes towards school, children are expected to wear full school uniform. High standards in learning are reflected in high standards of appearance.

Boys

- Grey trousers
- White shirt
- Navy jumper
- Red tie
- Grey or black socks
- Black shoes - *no boots or trainers allowed*
- Dark blue/navy coat
- SUMMER - Grey shorts

Girls

- Navy skirt or pinafore
- White shirt
- Navy cardigan or jumper
- Red tie
- White or navy blue socks/navy blue tights
- Black shoes - *no boots or trainers allowed*
- Dark blue/navy coat
- SUMMER - Red and white checked dress

PE kit (Summer)

- white t shirt, red PE shorts, trainers or plimsols

PE kit (Winter)

- Plain navy tracksuit, white t shirt, trainers or plimsols

The following items of school uniform can be purchased at JK Clothing, 148 Well Hall Rd, Eltham,

Infant and Junior book bags

PE shorts

School ties

Uniform Rules:

- all clothing should be clearly labelled
- no jewellery to be worn - including earrings
- pupils may wear a watch of a suitable size
- hair must be tied back for PE
- pupils in Reception to Year 3 need a book bag for their reading books and homework. children in Yrs 4, 5 and 6 may use a bag suitable for their equipment/swimming kit for Year 4
- in rainy or snowy weather children may wear boots to school and then change into their standard school shoes

Hopscotch Club -our Wrap around care

The school has its own extended hours (before and after school provision) called the Hopscotch Club.

Children may be brought in from 7:30 am in the morning and are provided with breakfast. In the afternoon, children are provided with a light snack and can stay until 5:50 pm. The cost for the breakfast club session is £5 and £10 for the after school club session. Please go online via your child's School Money Account to book the required sessions. The clubs are run by members of staff at the school, and as such will be familiar to the children.

Parents as Partners

We recognise that parents and carers have the most important influences over a child's life and so we place a great emphasis on developing positive partnerships with our parents. Parents are welcome at St

Thomas More Primary and the views of parents help shape our decision making. We do insist that parents have DBS checks before starting this.

Parents can get involved in the school in the following ways:

- Become a parent volunteer
- Assist on school outings
- Helping to shape school improvement planning with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors as a parent governor
- Become a member of the PTA

We encourage regular communication in the following ways:

- Weekly round ups - a brief weekly communication sent out to keep you up to date with what is going on and future dates for your diary
- Half termly newsletters
- Termly parent consultations and an end of year report
- Special events throughout the year that parents are invited to attend - class sharing assemblies, Christmas productions and plays
- Meet the teacher week - an opportunity at the start of a school year to meet your child's new teacher

Community

St Thomas More actively encourages links with our local community and beyond in many ways:

- We encourage school trips so children learn about their local history
- Charity events give our children the opportunity to make a difference in their local community and beyond
- Our school fayres make connections with local businesses
- Collaboration and networking with local primary schools is encouraged to provide the best education for all
- Extra curricular clubs are encouraged to showcase children's talents with the local community
- Visitors are welcomed into school to enhance our curriculum through workshops such as CAFOD and NSPCC
- Our school choir performs in the local community



PTA

Here at St Thomas More we have a very active PTA, who raise substantial amounts of money for the school. Every parent is encouraged to join in and help with events. We have a fantastic summer BBQ,

Christmas fayre, school discos and many more events throughout the year.

The money raised goes towards classroom resources, Christmas celebrations and improvements to the school, such as IT equipment and classroom refurbishments. Without parents support, the PTA would not run so all are encouraged to get involved so your children can benefit from the money raised.



St Thomas More Primary School

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