



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

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

Autumn 1 Newsletter

A Busy Start to the Half Term

As our classes settle back into the routines of school life, we're pleased to see so many children ready to learn and take part. We continue to remind everyone of our school expectations: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. It has been wonderful to see so many of our children showing these qualities in class, on the playground and in the way they look after one another. Congratulations to our very first raffle winners that have consistently demonstrated our expectations over this first half term!

	Be Ready	Be Respectful	Be Safe
Reception	Croistoir	Elizabeth	Ustym
Year 1	Freya	Zion	Michael
Year 2	Naomi	Simon	TeddyRae
Year 3	Andre Maria	Orla	Charlotte
Year 4	Taylan	Gabrielle	Kitty
Year 5	Maxwell	Maxwell	Iona
Year 6	Louie	Marcel	Freddie Raphael



On Saturday, we were delighted to be invited to Blackheath Rugby Club to celebrate its first season in The Champ. There was a huge turnout, and some of our children took part in the pre-match guard of honour and half-time match. We were very proud of them and it was lovely to see them having such fun.

We're very sad to say goodbye to our wonderful teaching assistant Ms Nielsen. Thank you for all the care, commitment and warmth you have brought to St Thomas More. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you every happiness and success in your new career chapter and upcoming university studies.

We're also delighted to congratulate Miss Cleary, who is getting married this half term. We hope she has a truly wonderful day and wish her every happiness.

And finally as we prepare to spend time with families and love ones over the coming week, we are sending our prayers and best wishes to Pope Leo XIV as he recovers following his recent surgery.

We wish you a relaxing half term break,

Kind regards,

Mrs Collins

Upcoming Dates

Autumn/Winter 2026

3rd November – School Photos (individual and siblings) and Nasal flu vaccinations

11th November – Parent Evening

12th November – SEN Drop-ins and Parent Evening

17th November – Year 3 Trip to Lesnes Abbey

24th November – Year 5 British Museum Trip

26th November – Open Morning for Reception 2027 places

PTA Wreath Making 6pm – 8pm

27th November – PTA sending baubles home to be decorated

4th December – Non-Uniform Day (tombola donations)

9th December – Infant Nativity 9.30am

10th December – Infant Nativity 5.30pm start (children to be here for 5pm)

11th December – PTA Christmas Fair (3:45pm – 5pm)

15th December – Junior Advent Service (2pm)

18th December – School Finishes at 1:30pm

January 2027

4th January – Back to School

6th January – School Mass

15th January – INSET Day

SHARING ASSEMBLIES – Spring 2027

We are pleased to announce the dates for our spring sharing assemblies. This is an opportunity for parents to come and see a short class assembly that will showcase what the children have been learning. Afterwards you are invited to have a look around your child's classroom and see some of the work they have been doing.

All assemblies will start at 9.15am

Friday 5th February 2027	Reception
Friday 12th February 2027	Year 2
Friday 26th February 2027	Year 4
Friday 5th March 2027	Year 3
Friday 12th March 2027	Year 1
Friday 19th March 2027	Year 5
Wednesday 24th March 2027 – 9.30am start	Year 6

EVERY DAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Being in school regularly helps children make the most of their learning and feel part of the St Thomas More community. Each day gives them the chance to build knowledge, spend time with friends and grow in confidence.

Even a few days away can add up. Attendance of 95% means missing around two weeks of school over the year, which can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning.

We encourage every child to aim for at least 96% attendance. Thank you for working with us to give your child the best possible chance to learn, thrive and reach their potential.

Autumn 1 – Attendance Figures

Class	% Attendance
Reception	96.6%
Year 1	96.9%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	96.7%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	97.1%
Whole school	96.8%

JTAs & School Council

Our Junior Travel Ambassadors and School Council have now been appointed and are ready to begin their important work. We're looking forward to seeing the ideas they share, the challenges they take on and the positive changes they help bring about this year. We can't wait to keep you updated on all they achieve!

Our School Councillors

Michael and Freya Y1	Isla and Taylan Y4
Olivia and Frank Y2	Edlyn and Jeremiah Y5
Maria and Ned Y3	Vanessa and Freddie Y6

Our JTAs

Amelia Y5	Maxwell Y5
Jack Y4	Gabrielle Y4

Recent trips and celebrations...

Cleo's Story-Writing Success

Congratulations to Cleo, who was runner-up in Eltham Library's 2026 Junior Eltham Read story-writing competition. This year's theme was "Where I Live", and Cleo's story was displayed alongside the other entries. We're very proud of her achievement—well done, Cleo!



Charity Work!



Last weekend, Poppy took part in the 7km Commando Run, tackling an amazing 26 obstacles to raise money for Fight for Sight. The charity funds research to help prevent and treat sight loss. Well done Poppy, for taking on such a fantastic challenge!



Maria and Isabella have enjoyed two exciting activities recently. With the Rise and Shine Presenter programme, they visited the Romanian Consulate in London to learn about diplomacy, news presentation and public speaking. They also joined Ms Gowing for a brilliant Saturday at Blackheath Rugby Club, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Y3 Trip to Oxleas Wood

The weather stayed dry and sunny for Year 3 yesterday, who enjoyed using their orienteering skills around Oxleas Wood! Lots of fun was had and map reading skills were put to the test!



Autumn 2 PE timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y4 (swimming) Reception Y3	Y2 Y3	Y1 Y4 Y6	Y1 Y2 Y5	Reception Y5 Y6

Please ensure your child is in the correct PE kit, no branded or logo on tracksuits please

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular clubs will be starting week commencing the 2nd November.

School Uniform Reminder

As we move into the Winter, the children will need to wear their WINTER uniform. Please ensure ALL items of clothing are labelled, we cannot stress this enough.

A polite reminder that it is against school policy for children to wear earrings to school.

Poppy Sale

When we return our Year 6 House Captains will be selling poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Items will range from 50p to a £1 and children will be able to buy them at playtimes the week we return.

Half Term Homework

This week your child was sent home with homework to complete a poppy print made using their handprint. Please do try to take time to make this with your child next week so it can be used to decorate our hall in preparation for our Remembrance assembly – thank you.

Help support our school with Easy Fundraising!

As Christmas is fast approaching, we would like to remind you that St Thomas More is part of the Easy Fundraising community – an easy free way for you to support our school every time you shop online! We would be grateful if you could please sign up. It won't cost you a penny extra.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-thomas-more-primary-school-eltham/> or scan the QR code and join for free.
2. Install the app and Donation Reminder extension.
3. Activate your donation before shopping online and the retailer will automatically donate to us for free!

These donations will make a real difference. Funds raised will help support vital resources to help ensure our children have access to everything needed to enhance and enrich what we already provide.

If every family joins and uses Easy Fundraising we could raise hundreds of pounds for the school each year – simply through the shopping you already do!

Thank you in advance and for making St Thomas More an even better place to learn and grow.



Scan me!

easyfundraising

Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2 2026

Term time: Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2026*

Christmas and New Year holiday: Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January 2026

Spring Term 1 2027

INSET DAY – Friday 15 January 2027: No attendance for children

Term time: Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2027

Half-term holiday: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027

Spring Term 2 2027

INSET DAY – Thursday 25 March 2027: No attendance for children

Term time: Monday 22 February to Wednesday 24 March 2027*

Easter holiday: Friday 26 March to Friday 9 April 2027

Summer Term 1 2027

Term time: Monday 12 April to Friday 28 May 2027

May Day bank holiday 3 May: school closed

Half-term holiday: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027

Summer Term 2 2027

Term time: Monday 7 June to Wednesday 21 July 2027*

INSET DAY – Thursday 22 July 2027: No attendance for children

*1.30pm end of day finish