



Saint Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Newsletter

31st August 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

A warm welcome to our new Foundation stage 2 children and families who have started school today. Thank you to all of you who have helped to prepare the children for this important day. We will work together to guide and nurture the children as they develop and grow emotionally and academically whilst they are at St Thomas More.

These newsletters are designed to keep you updated about things that are happening at school including key dates and reminders throughout the year. This year there will be a monthly newsletter from me and other key updates will be posted on the class dojo system. We also use our school twitter account to share photos and updates about key events happening at school.

This newsletter will contain important information about procedures this year.

Parent pay and school dinners

It is vital that you use the parent pay system to pre-order your child's school dinner. It is helpful if these can be ordered in advance to ensure our numbers are accurate in school. Please ensure there are adequate funds to pay for school dinners.

School uniform

Please label ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM with your child's name. We already have lost property from last week that does not have any names in.

Beginning and end of the day

Yr1-5: 8.40-3.15

Yr6: 8.30-3.05

F2: 8.50- 3.05

Beginning of the day- KS2 through Silver gate, onto the playground and straight into class. Teachers will be at the gate to welcome children into school.

KS1 to enter via the Green gate on Newstead Road and directly into class

F2 enter via green gate

End of the day- F2 to leave via the Green gate on Newstead Road

Year 1 & 2 leave via the KS1 playground

Yr3-6 leave via the KS2 playground.

Parents can come into the playground at the end of the day and the gates will be open at 3pm.

Please do not let children play on the trim trails at the end of the day

Please collect children on time. On the rare occasion you may be late always let the school office know. Persistent lateness may result in a meeting in school.



"Love one Another as I have Loved You"
John 13:34



**ST THOMAS
AQUINAS**

CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Celebration assembly

This will start on **Friday 3rd September at 9am**. We are pleased to be able to welcome parents back to our assembly that will be in the school hall. If your child is due to receive a star of the week certificate you will get a text message to invite you to the celebration assembly. At this current time, I politely request that only families who have been invited to assembly come into school. We must remain vigilant and agile that this situation may change if our current risk assessment is adapted.

Class services and masses

We are hoping to resume our class services this year. This is a nice opportunity for parents and families to come into school and find out what the children have been learning about. Dates for this will be on class dojo pages.

Drop in masses: all classes are timetabled to go over to mass for the 10am Thursday mass during the year.

Awarding House/Dojo Points for Positive Behaviours

At St Thomas More CVA, we will be using the Class Dojo system to support our school community. Staff will award points to children who exhibit positive behaviours linked to our Learning Super Powers.

Children will accrue points individually and these can be logged on Class Dojo by the Class teacher, TAs, Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher. These points can be viewed by parents on the class dojo app to celebrate with their child. Children will also complete an individual points tracker on a weekly basis so they are aware of their achievements.

Consistent positive behaviours will be rewarded by:

- A child receiving 1 raffle ticker per 25 points earned. The raffle will be drawn half-termly and the winner will receive a voucher, book or similar.
- When a child accumulates 100 points (or multiples thereof), they will be awarded a 100-points club badge of honour by their house captain.
 - When the next multiple of 100 is earned, their badge will be 'traded-in' and they will be awarded their new badge.

Behaviours for Effective Learning - Learning Super Powers

We are developing and embedding a school culture focussed on effective behaviours for learning in order to support metacognition and subsequently self-regulation.

In order to thrive, children need to be able to make the transition from the negative "I can't" to the proactive; "How can I?" To do that, they need to think about why they're stuck, what's frustrating them, what they would need to get unstuck. They need to think about their own thinking and learning. Our strategy to develop a culture of effective learning behaviours will support children in achieving this.

Responsibility

Attentiveness

Kindness

Resilience

Listening

Fairness

Perseverance

Concentration

Regulation

Courage

Organised

Honesty

Positivity

Ready Renshu



Responsible Rhea



Resilient Raj



Risk Taking

Resourcefulness

Reflection

Problem Solving

Participation

Making links

Creativity

Adaptivity

Revision

Confidence

Curiosity

Questioning

Risk-taker Rita



Responsible Rebekah



Reflective Ross





Reading at St. Thomas More CVA

Research has shown that reading for pleasure can make a huge difference to children - not only academically (even in subjects like maths) but also socially and emotionally. Just ten minutes shared reading a day can help your child grow into a happy, confident learner.

Even if your child is a confident, independent reader it is still very beneficial for your child to also hear you reading aloud to them so please do share books together even as they get older.

Reading in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Every child in F2 and KS1 will be issued with a Reading Record where you can record when you have heard your child read their school reading books. We ask that children read at home at least 5 times a week. Staff who read in school with your child will also write a brief comment to let you know about any successes and next steps. Your child should bring their reading folder to school every day.

Children in F2 and KS1 will have 2 reading books. One will be a phonics-based book which matches their current phonic knowledge which children should be able to read independently. The other is a sharing book which your child may need more support with. Suggested questions on how to develop your child's comprehension at their current level will be inside Reading Records.

Children will be also be given a coloured 'bookworm' sheet to record their reading at home. 25 signatures from a parent/carer will complete a bookworm with the child receiving a certificate and 5 raffle tickets. They will then receive the next bookworm to track reading. The bookworms move through the colours of the rainbow and children's progress through the colours will be part of our 'Can You Read a Rainbow?' display.

There will be a further letter sent from the F2 and KS1 team with more information about reading books and supporting your child in reading at home.

Reading in Key Stage 2

Research has shown that reading for pleasure can make a huge difference to children - not only academically (even in subjects like maths) but also socially and emotionally. Just ten minutes shared reading a day can help your child grow into a happy, confident learner.

Even if your child is a confident, independent reader it is still very beneficial for your child to also hear you reading aloud to them so please do share books together even as they get older.

Every child in KS2 will be issued a Reading Record where you can record when you have heard your child read. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 can fill this in themselves. We ask that children try to read at home at least 5 times a week.

In the front of your child's Reading Record you will find some questions you can ask your child to support them with their comprehension.

In school, throughout the year your child will be heard reading aloud by an adult, this will be recorded internally.

This year, KS2 will be running a reading incentive where a raffle ticket will be issued for every completed week of reading entered in the Reading Record which has been signed by an adult at home at the end of the week. More information on this can be found at the front of your child's reading record.

If you have any questions about your child's reading please speak to their class teacher.

Covid update

Please do not send your child into school if they have any Covid symptoms or if they have tested positive on a Lateral flow or PCR test. If your child test positive for Covid they must isolate for 10 days. If a child tests positive this does not necessarily result in a class closure or self-isolation for other children. We will continue to follow the Government guidance and seek support from Public Health England.

Breakfast club and Afterschool club

Breakfast club starts at 7.45 and ideally, we like children to have arrived by 8.15 through the fire door into the hall on Newstead Road. The children are taken to their classrooms for the start of the school day.

Afterschool club is available until 5.30 each day. Children meet in the hall at the end of the school day. Parents are asked to collect their children from the side door (next to the bike shed).

Parents can book and pay for these clubs in Parent pay, but there is currently a waiting list for afterschool club.

Term dates

Please find the term dates for 2021-2022 attached and they are also on our school website.

Please DO NOT book holidays during term time. It is vital this year that children attend school everyday.

Pupil premium

Please see the attached letter for information about this. If you have any questions do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Slater.



Eco-School

During this school year we are aiming to achieve the green flag status as an Eco school. Mrs Whitehead is our Eco-lead and more information will be shared over the year.

Friends of STM

As always, the Friends are busy planning for the year ahead. The first event will be to welcome our new families into the school on the evening of Friday 17th September. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

The Friends is such an important part of our school community. Please support wherever you can.

I encourage all parents to regularly check the class dojo pages for updates from teachers and to see photographs of the exciting things happening in school. We are in the process of updating our Behaviour policy and I will share this with you soon. It is vital that we work in partnership with all of our families to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children in our school.

God bless,

Mrs Crosse



Are you eligible for Pupil Premium?

Free Schools Meals and Pupil Premium Information

Currently, pupils in Years 1 and 2 as well as Reception children all receive free school meals, these are paid by government funding. This provision is called Universal Free School Meals or UFSM.

In addition to this funding, parents in low income families or those that are unemployed can also apply for Pupil Premium funding so that their children can receive free school meals in subsequent school years (Year 3 and onwards). Pupil Premium funding can also give children access to some discounted educational trips and events throughout their school years.

Please read on to find out how to check if you are eligible and if so, how to apply for this financial support

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'.

If you qualify, your child/children can receive free school meals and reduced costs towards some after school activities (e.g. after school clubs) or curriculum enrichment opportunities such as learning to play the violin or keyboard. If you are registered for Pupil Premium you may also get help with the cost of day trips and residential trips.

For every child registered, St Thomas More CVA gets £1,345 this year. This additional funding allows us to provide an even better education for your child through the purchase of additional resources or staff to support learning.

Are you eligible?

Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190

Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How to apply:

- 1. Registering is really quick and easy – you can apply online at <https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk/> and get an immediate answer. If you are eligible, your child's school will be notified within 5 working days.**
- 2. If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal, saving you more than £350 a year.**
- 3. If you don't want your child to have the free school meals, they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, you still get discounts for some educational activities from the £1,320 extra the school receives.**
- 4. If you have any problems with applying for this support, please contact Mrs Slater at school who will support you.**

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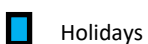
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Please check with your child's school website to ensure you have the correct dates for inset/teacher training days



Holidays



Bank Holiday



Suggested INSET/Training days