



Newsletter – Issue 29

1st May 2018

St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy

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Visit our website: <http://st-thomasmoresheffield.co.uk>



Important Dates

4th May 2018 - Bling your Bike competition

7th May 2018 - Bank Holiday Monday

Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th May 2018
Bikeability Training

21st May - 2.50pm
Flute concert for all flute students

23rd May – 10.30am
8 KS2 children attending Good Shepherd Mass.

Thursday 24th May
Spring Bank Holiday return to school on Monday 4th June 2018

Sunday 10th June 1st
Holy Communion Mass at St T M Church

12th – 14th June - Y6 Residential Trip

12th June – F2, Y1 & Y4 to church for Mass

Wednesday 13th June – Y5 Kwik Cricket

14th June – Y2, Y3 & Y5 to church for Mass

29th June AM - Sports Day

29th June DISCO - F2 and KS1 at 1.10 – 2.10pm – KS2 2.15pm – 3.15pm.

Friday 6th July 3.20pm – 4.20pm.
Friends Association Summer Fair in school

18th July 9.15am -Progress assembly

19th July 9.30am – Leavers Mass

Monday 9th July from 2.50pm.
Flute Concert

Attendance for week

Class	Percentage Attendance	Lates
Reception	97.3	5
Year 1	100	0
Year 2	98.7	0
Year 3	98.7	7
Year 4	91.0	3
Year 5	97.6	7
Year 6	100	0
School Total	97.6	22

Well done year one, and year six fantastic 100% attendance they will receive an extra playtime for the best attendance this week! Please can we try and improve on lates!

Children will be walking to Church on the 12th and 14th June to attend Mass. Parents will not need to complete a permission slip as this will be covered by Schools local walk permission policy.

If any parent are DBS registered and would like to volunteer to walk with the children, please speak to the office staff, or the class teacher.

Thank you for your support



The Friends Association have arranged for this company to make a collection from school on **Friday 11th May.**

All proceeds raised from this will be used in school for your children.

Please leave bags at the bottom of the drive on Friday 11th May at 9am .

Should you need more bags please ask at the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Jesus said: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

At St Thomas More our Mission is to love and to be loved. We believe that Love is:

Kindness, justice, acceptance, forgiveness and friendship; it is unconditional and inclusive, allowing each one of us to learn and to grow to become the wonderful person God created us to be.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If your child is going to be absent from school due to ill health, please remember to report this to the school office by leaving a telephone message as soon as possible in the morning, or by 9.30am at the latest.

We understand that medical or dentist appointments are not always available out of school hours. However, we do ask as and when possible you do try and make appointments after school or during the holidays. If this is not possible and your child will be late for school or leave school earlier in the day, we ask that you show your appointment card/letter to the office so the absence can be authorised. If your child needs to order a school dinner through school we need to have this information by 9.30am Unfortunately if no evidence is produced the absence will be shown as unauthorised on your child's attendance.

Thank you for your support.



F2 will be having another parent stay and play session. This will be held on the morning of Tuesday 22nd May from 9.00am-10.45am.

Parents, or Grandparents, are invited to come along and join in with some activities in class with their children, refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards for a small donation. If you are available to come along then please sign up in class, and let us know how many adults will be attending so we can make sure we have enough refreshments.

Thank you, F2 Staff



Flute concerts will be held on the 21st May for all flute students and also on Monday 9th July from 2.50pm.

All Parents welcome.

Y5 Kwik Cricket



Year 5 will be taking part in an all-day Kwik Cricket competition at **Whitley Hall Cricket Club on Wednesday 13th June**. As this is local to us, we will be walking to the venue so there is no cost to parents for this activity. Leading up to this, children will have 2 training sessions on Wednesday 23rd May and Wednesday 6th June. Please can you ensure all children have the correct PE kits in school so they are able to take part in the additional PE sessions.

As the competition at Whitley Hall is all day, children will need to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle. Please complete the below section if your child is entitled to free school meals and you would like to order one. Also, as this is a sporting event, we do need a signed permission slip for your child to take part.

Reminders will be sent out closer to the time, but as the weather will (hopefully) be sunnier by then, it would also be a good idea for the children to bring caps and sun cream.

Y5 Kwik Cricket

I give permission for my child _____

To take part in the Kwik Cricket competition at Whitley Hall on Wednesday 13th June. I understand my child will be walking from school to the event.

My child is entitled to free school meals and I would like to order the following packed lunch: Ham Sandwich Cheese Sandwich Tuna Sandwich
Signed Parent/Carer _____



MERIT - 27th April 2018

F2	Harry	For	Fantastic effort with your RE writing this week, you really thought about what you needed to include. Brilliant! Well done.
	Bobby L	For	Brilliant reading of the time this week! You have been working hard, well done.
Year 1	Gracie-Ann	For	A positive attitude towards your learning in literacy this week and trying really hard with your independent story writing! Keep it up Gracie - Ann.
	Dantaye	For	Showing us tour fantastic listening at the EIS and putting in 100% effort into all 13 events! Well done Dantaye.
Year 2	Oliver	For	Trying really hard to make sure your handwriting is as beautiful as it can be, and taking pride in your presentation.
	Carly	For	Using an incredible range of sentences to persuade the wolves to leave! Well done.
Year 3	Connar	For	Working really hard this week in all the areas of the curriculum. Well done and keep it up.
	Kaisie	For	A super Big Write. Well done for using short sentences and similes in your writing.
Year 4	Elisha	For	Always displaying beautiful behaviour and manners within school. You are setting an amazing example for your classmates. Keep it up, Elisha!
	Faryl	For	Your amazing work about Charlotte's Web this week. You thought really carefully about synonyms you can use to describe Fern's feelings during each main event of the novel so far. Well done!
Year 5	Ryan	For	Your dazzling teamwork and effort during the Year 5 Handball Tournament. You worked so hard at encouraging and helping your team, and you also demonstrated great sportsmanship.
	Skye	For	Your incredible effort during our Big Write. You organised yourself fantastically and used a range of resources to help you write your character description. Well done!
Year 6	Faith	For	Increased use of strategies on her daily work and during assessments! Keep it up!
	Sibusisiwe	For	Being eager in her leaning in class and taking responsibility for her own learning and comprehension! Keep it up!
Lunchtime Merit	Ryan	For	Showing fantastic sportsmanship, respect and teamwork. Keep it up!
Lunchtime Merit	Oscar	For	Being a good friend and always making sure everyone is included in your games. Well done!

Class	Outstanding Homework
F2	Vanessa
Y1	Tristan
Y2	Guedaliah
Y3	Layla
Y4	Aiden
Y5	Lacey
Y6	Declan

100% ATTENDANCE	
F2	Kylan
Y1	Priscilla
Y2	Oliver
Y3	Sammy
Y4	Faryl
Y5	Ryan
Y6	Evie

100% Attendance & punctuality winners
Well done to our prize winners for last week. Each child chose a small prize.....

Notes from Parent Ambassador Meeting – 24th April 2018

Three of our parent ambassadors attended a meeting in school with Mrs Round and provided some feedback on areas of school life. (Parent ambassador's feedback in italics, school response in red).

Booking a slot online for parents evening- *parents have found it easy to do and have had mostly positive feedback from other parents too.* **Great-it has made the process easier and more efficient for us all!**

The text system - *It's great that school are sending texts to remind parents- this has worked really well.* **This is great news; we are glad it is helpful!**

Voluntary contributions - *We understand that trips are cancelled because not enough money is raised by classes, and understand that some parents don't pay, even if the child wants to go and this isn't fair on the child. But what about those children who don't want to go? e.g. Magna trip- children are telling parents they don't want to go because they went last week and therefore the trip gets cancelled, and this doesn't seem fair.* **Trips and visits are an important part of your child's education. We try to keep costs to a minimum where possible and subsidise as much as we can – for example each class is given £100 to put towards a trip/visit; the Friend's Association make contributions towards some trips/visits. Unfortunately as with all schools, if we do not receive enough voluntary contributions towards a trip/visit/event then it will have to be cancelled. This will result in children missing out on the extension to learning that a trip/visit/event provides. This is something we really don't want to happen but has happened on a few occasions this academic year. We understand that sometimes families experience financial hardships and may not be able to make contribution or may wish to pay in instalments – if this is the case then please come and talk with us and necessary arrangements can be made. We realise some of our children may have visited places before that school organise a trip/visit to and this is something that is out of our control. It is often the case that when going on a school trip, there will be a different slant to the visit or children may be taking part in a workshop that are only run for school groups. The trip/visit will usually support work taking place in class. A trip/visit will cost an amount of money and the vast majority of this amount needs to be covered by voluntary contributions for the trip/visit to go ahead.**

Summer fair- *could we advertise more this year? Could we put it on twitter, the website, design a poster etc?* **A date has been organised for the summer fair and this is Friday 6th July 3.20pm – 4.30pm. Yes we will advertise on twitter etc, and design a poster. Stalls will also be advertised for £5 per table. Friends Association would welcome help with the summer fair!**

Attendance ideas as this has dropped this academic year - *Encouragement to get children to school. Incentivising being in school each term. Similar to pizza hut but a termly reward. Whole school treat for 100% attendance for those who have achieved roll of honour. E.g. in the hall for games for an hour. Only needed 3 times year, and it may make it easier for those children who have only had say ½ day off the whole year to still receive a treat. Also children with not good attendance will look at the children getting the treat and it will be something to aim for.* **This is a great idea! Mrs Round and Mrs Faley will run the whole school termly attendance reward. We will inform parents of the date & event via the school newsletter.**

100% attendance- pizza hut award. *We understand that if a child is e.g. sick for a day, then they can't have the treat at the end of the year. However, if a child has a specific medical condition, and say they attend x3 specialised hospital appointments per year, should their medical condition hold them back on achieving 100%? This is always a tricky one! In this case what is classed as a medical condition and who decides this? Who decides how many absences are reasonable? Would this be different dependent on the medical condition? The level of monitoring and administration that this would require would be unmanageable. When we look at our records, generally parents whose children have ongoing medical conditions do actually arrange appointments for children out of school time/towards the end of the school day so that it has a very minimal impact on children's learning and attendance. Allowing this for medical conditions could also set a precedence for other requests of this nature eg a child may have attended a family funeral for ½ day - do school then allow this to be classed as 100%? Our policy for attendance & punctuality is reviewed regularly by our Governing Body.*

Y6 girls in the mornings- *Some Y6 girls are blocking the entrance on the path near the bike sheds and other children/parents cannot get passed. Mrs Round has already spoke to the girls about this previously therefore they will not be allowed to stand there at all as it blocking the entrance. They will move onto the playground from now on.*

Snowflake- *parents are not aware of how much each class have raised and there has been no update re this. We don't have the final amount yet from Sheffield Children's Hospital however this information will go on the newsletter when we do.*

School uniform- *Some children are not sticking to the uniform policy, especially in KS2 E.g. trainers, multi-coloured tights, leggings etc. Parents feel that we are paying for a uniform and some parents are not adhering to this. Parents know that it isn't a major priority, however it is not a good representation of the school when not all children are in school uniform. A reminder of our uniform policy is attached to this newsletter and we will continue to send letters home if a child does not have the correct uniform.*

Issues re front doors - *Front door and middle door in the entrance were both open at times last week during breakfast club, can staff ensure these doors are kept closed for safety? This has been followed up in school and all staff reminded that doors are to be shut even before 8:50am.*

Breakfast club- *can we have a further variety of cereal? Fruit? We do have a variety of cereals on offer but when the current stock of cereal runs out we will look at other alternative options that could be ordered. We did try fruit at one stage, but a lot was wasted. We will give this another go.*

UNIFORM AND JEWELLERY POLICY
St. Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy
Reviewed Autumn 2016.

Our school uniform fulfils three roles:

- It shows that we are proud to belong to our school community
- It shows that we are all included and valued equally
- It shows that our school is a place of work, and that is why our uniform is practical and safe

All children wear the following (please note, **all** uniform should contain the child's name):

Burgundy sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan, knitted waistcoat or tank top, - with the school logo or plain. No hooded tops or other kind of logo tops are permitted
Red and white/burgundy and white school dress - checked pattern
Polo shirt – white with the school logo or plain white
Trousers, shorts, skirts, pinafores –grey or black 'schoolwear' fabric (not denim or combat styles or leggings)
Tights – plain (not patterned) in the following colours; black, grey, burgundy or white
Shoes – suitable full toe, flat, dark coloured shoes/boots, preferably black. No trainers.
No flip flops, heels no more than ½ inch block heel

Jewellery

One pair of small plain stud earrings may be worn, one in each ear, no other style is permitted. Earrings should be removed for PE. If they are not removed then your child may not be able to participate in PE. They may be worn at playtime and lunchtime when children are involved in physical activity but this is at your own risk. School staff are not permitted to assist children in removing their earrings, or putting them in again, nor can they tape up earrings.

A wristwatch may be worn which needs to be removed for PE.

No other jewellery is permitted.

Make-up/hair styles:

School has a policy of no-make up, including no false nails or nail polish. There should be no extreme hairstyles ie hair dyed, no patterns shaved into hair - if you are unsure please check with school staff before having your child's hair cut/dyed/styled in a specific way

Physical Activity

For indoor PE in school, children require black, grey or navy shorts, and a plain white T-shirt (with or without school logo), children do indoor PE in bare feet. For outdoor PE, children wear their indoor PE kit in warm weather, they also need a pair of trainers for outdoor games. In colder weather, children need a pair of jogging bottoms and a long sleeved top to keep them warm; these should be plain navy blue, grey or black, with no logo. PE kit is kept in school during term time, in a bag clearly marked with your child's name. Long hair should be tied back for PE.

Non –uniform days

On these days your child can wear their own clothes – please do ensure that clothing and footwear is appropriate and ensure health and safety – ie children should not wear flip-flops or shoes with heels

Year 5 - Bikeability Training – Wednesday 9th – Friday 11th May 2018.

Our School has been chosen as one of a few schools in Sheffield to receive Bikeability Cycle Training. This course seeks to give children the skills and confidence to cycle safely on the road. This fun course starts in the playground and will continue on quiet roads around the school.

In order for your child to take part, you will need to complete the consent form sent home before Easter and return it to school by Friday 20th April. If you need another letter, please send a message in to Miss McKay. The training is FREE.

Ideally your child will use their own bike for the training, but bikes can be loaned to those without. Information about requesting the loan of these items is included in the letter sent home.

This course is suitable for children who can already ride a bike, and are pretty stable, i.e. be able to look behind whilst riding, without wobbling, and hold a signal for about 3 seconds. If your child cannot yet ride, you can advise Bikeability in the permission slip and they may be able to teach them during their time in school.

The cycling will continue whatever the weather, so please send your child with warm and waterproof clothing. Gloves are a good idea. We suggest that pupils wear trousers or tracksuit bottoms when training and, if the weather is warm, get them to bring sunscreen and a water bottle.

Bling your Bike Competition – Fancy dress for Bikes!

On the 4th May 2018 the school will be having a Bling your Bike competition to celebrate the final day of the Big Pedal.

This is a fun day to decorate your bike (or your scooter)! The theme is any that you want – be creative!! There will be prizes for the most imaginative and creative ideas and judging will take place in the school grounds. The prizes will be presented in the afternoon assembly.

So, get your thinking caps on and get decorating your bikes. Have fun, think big,

BUT, be SAFE – make sure that any decorations you put on your bike does not stop the bike from being pedalled safely. Keep the wheels and chain clear and ensure that you can still make full pedal revolutions.

I look forward to seeing you for the judging!

Happy pedalling!

