



St Thomas More School Newsletter

11th September 2026

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Knowledge-rich, skills-led learning for all
Christ at our heart
Serving everyone in our community
Partnership of love, ambition, joy and peace



Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back and see so many smiling faces around the school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents and carers who have already sent kind messages of support during our first week back. Your encouragement, positive feedback and partnership with us are greatly appreciated by all of the staff, and we are grateful for the continued support you show our school community.

Celebration of the Word

We began the week with a beautiful Celebration of the Word based on the Gospel of Matthew. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to respond when someone has hurt us or made a mistake. This important message reminds us that we are called to love one another, support each other and be an active part of one another's lives within our school community.

It was a true privilege to stand before our pupils in Years 1 to 6 and witness their enthusiasm and participation. Many children confidently shared their responses, but what made me especially proud was hearing them sing our hymn with such joy and conviction. Their voices filled the hall and reminded me just how wonderful it is to be back together as a school family and starting the year so positively.

We were also delighted that Amaziah in Year 6 shared his musical talent by playing the organ as children entered and left our celebration. His contribution helped create a prayerful atmosphere and it was a privilege for us all to enjoy and appreciate his gift.

Throughout the morning, many children came to see me to share how they had already begun to "Go Forth" with this week's mission. They spoke about praying for those who are poor and considering how they could spend time in quiet reflection with their friends, listening to what Jesus is saying to them. Their thoughtful responses and sincere prayers were truly inspiring. In fact, I have received so many prayers from our children that I may need to create a special St Thomas More prayer book to keep them all safe and treasured!

As always, our pupils continue to amaze us with the depth of their faith, compassion and willingness to live out the Gospel in their daily lives.

A wonderful start for our EYFS children



This week, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our EYFS children as they have toured the school grounds and popped into my office to say hello. I have been incredibly impressed by how smart they all look and would like to personally thank our new parents and carers for supporting our school uniform expectations.

You should be immensely proud of your children. They have already been shining examples of our school values in their classrooms and around the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and confidence. We look forward to watching them grow, flourish and achieve great things throughout their learning journey at St Thomas More.



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Reception Admissions 2027

This week, I have begun welcoming prospective families for our September 2027 Reception intake through a series of school tours. It has been a pleasure to showcase all that makes St Thomas More such a special place to learn, grow and flourish.

If you know of any families who will be looking for a Reception place in September 2027, please encourage them to contact the school office to book a visit. We have a number of tour dates available and would be delighted to welcome them to our school community. We still have a few spaces left if Reception for this year too!

Union of Catholic Mothers

This week, I also had the privilege of meeting with members of the Union of Catholic Mothers, who have been wonderful supporters of our school community. Throughout last year, they generously hosted coffee mornings for parents and carers following a number of our school Masses, creating valuable opportunities for fellowship and community.

I am delighted to share that we have already arranged dates for the coming year, and we look forward to continuing this special partnership. On behalf of our school community, I would like to thank them for their dedication, generosity and unwavering support. If you would like to find out more about what they do, please follow this link.

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/union-of-catholic-mothers/>

What's Happening Next Week?

Medway Test for Year 6 Pupils

Next week (Tuesday & Wednesday), some of our Year 6 pupils will be sitting the Medway Test (11+). These children should arrive at school by 8.20am on the day of the test so that they have plenty of time to settle and prepare.

I know that you will join me in wishing them every success. They have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of the effort, determination and resilience they have shown in preparing for this important milestone. At St Thomas More, we encourage all of our children to strive to be the very best version of themselves, and regardless of the outcome, these pupils deserve recognition for their hard work and commitment.

Please keep them in your prayers as they approach the test, asking God to bless them with calm minds, confidence in their abilities and the courage to do their very best.

Curriculum Evening

We are also looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Curriculum Evening. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn more about the curriculum for the year ahead and discover ways in which you can support learning at home.

To make attendance as convenient as possible, we have arranged two presentation slots, meaning you only need to attend one session. The second slot also provides an opportunity for parents with children in different year groups to attend another presentation if they wish.

We understand that not everyone will be able to attend in person, so all presentations will be uploaded to our website and shared via Class Dojo. However, we would encourage you to come along if you can, as it provides a wonderful opportunity to meet staff, ask questions and begin the year together in partnership. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you. Please see the Dates for Your Diary section of the newsletter for full details of the sessions and timings.



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National curriculum assessments for this academic year:

Primary school pupils in England take part in the:

reception baseline assessment: within the first 6 weeks of entering reception

[early years foundation stage profile assessment](#): between April and June of the academic year in which they turn 5 (usually the reception year)

phonics screening check: in June of year 1

key stage 1 tests: optional, at the school's discretion, at the end of year 2

multiplication tables check: in June of year 4

key stage 2 tests (sometimes referred to as SATs): in May of year 6

You will find more information about the individual assessments below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-information-for-parents>

We wish you all a lovely weekend with hopefully some sunshine!

Mrs Le Breton
Headteacher

The Little Recyclers Are Coming!

We're excited to announce that *The Little Recyclers* will be visiting our school to collect bags filled with *gently used clothes* on **Thursday 24th September 2026!**

Not only will this be a fantastic way to **declutter** and give your old clothes a second life, but it's also a **great opportunity to raise funds for our school!** Every bag collected helps support our pupils, so let's come together and make a positive impact – both on the environment and our school community!

How to Participate:

- 1 **Fill a bag (or more!)** with clean, wearable clothes.
- 2 Bring your filled bags to school on **Thursday 24th September at the beginning of the school day.**
- 3 Help raise funds while being eco-friendly!





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Merit
Award

RR James

RS Adam

1C Carter

1R Kendra

2B Imani

2M Arlya

3C Elizabeth

3S Adrianna-Rae

4F Methaya

4T Amy

5C Nancy-Lou

5S Nancy

6F Marley

6L Lewis



**Punctuality
Peacock**

RR, 1C 2M, 3S,
4F, 5C, 5S



**Attendance
Anteater**

Anteater

6L, 5S, 3S

facebook

Please see our Facebook
page for photos of learning
and good news



Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our school community and for the wonderful start we have made to this new school year.

Through the teachings of Your Son, Jesus, help us to be kind, forgiving and understanding. Give us the courage to say sorry when we make mistakes, the wisdom to resolve difficulties with love, and the compassion to support those who may be struggling.

Help us to listen carefully to one another and, in moments of quiet, to listen to what You are calling us to do. May our children continue to grow in faith, happiness, confidence, resilience, respect, compassion and ambition as they journey through life.

We pray especially for our Year 5 children who will sit the Medway Test next week. Fill them with peace, confidence and courage, and help them to do their very best.

Bless our families, our staff and all those in need of our prayers, especially those who are poor, lonely or facing challenges at this time.

May we go forth this week sharing Your love through our words and actions.

Amen.



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Term 1

15th—16th September 2026

Medway Test in School

16th September 2026

Curriculum Evening

Session—1 4pm—4.30pm

Session - 2 4.30pm—5pm

18th September 2026

PTFA event

Sponsored Danceathon

21st September 2026

Y6 Chessington Trip

24th September 2026

Little Recyclers Collection

29th September 2026

Reading & Phonics workshop

EYFS, Y1, & Y2

9am—9.45am

8th October 2026

Y6 Celebration of the Word

9.15am-9.45am

13th October 2026

Individual School Photos

By Vancols

16th October 2026

Harvest Festival Mass

9.30am in Church

All Welcome

21st October 2026

EYFS parent meetings RR

All Day

21st October 2026

Y1-6 Parent's Evening

4-7pm

No children to attend

22nd October 2026

EYFS parent meetings RS

All Day

22nd October 2026

Year 1-6 Parent's Evening

4-7pm

No children to attend

23rd October 2026

Last Day of Term 1

Half Term

Monday 26th– Friday 30th October



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St Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade

Our Parish is primarily a place of worship. The very centre of our prayer is Jesus Christ whose Eucharist we celebrate nearly every day. Listed below are the times of our weekly Masses and Services. For more details you can look at our **Parish Diary** Masses are celebrated as follows:

Weekends:

Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9.00 am
11.00 am

Weekdays:

Monday 10.00 am Mass
Tuesday 10.00 am Mass
Wednesday 10.00 am Mass
2pm – 10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday 8.00 pm Mass

Holy Days of Obligation:

8.00 pm Vigil Mass
10.00 am Morning Mass
8.00 pm Evening Mass

During holiday periods, please consult the weekly newsletters for the times of all the Services.

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a special intention, please **contact** the Parish Office. The Archdiocese of Southwark guideline for a Mass intention stipend is £10.00. Reconciliation (Confession) is available on Friday from 7.15 pm - 7.45 pm and Saturday from 5.15 pm – 5.45 pm also by appointment, please call: 07305 831925. Thank you

Safeguarding

If you're worried about a child or would like some family support, please contact us:

Our Safeguarding Team

Mrs Le Breton Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Murphy Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Ronja Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Miss Caswell Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mr D'Souza Safeguarding Governor

You can also contact Medway Children's Safeguarding Partnership

<https://www.medwayscp.org.uk/info/5/mscb-1/34/worried-child>

Monday– Friday 9am to 5pm 01634 334466 or out of hours 03000 419191

In an emergency phone 999 if you think a child is at immediate risk of harm.