

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Spring Term 1 2023 Information Letter for Parents or Guardians of Lower Key Stage 2

	Class : Year 3	Class: Year 4
Class Teachers	Mr Young	Mrs Long & Mrs King
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Steenberg	Mrs Heap Mrs Naser

A reminder that school begins at **8.45am** and ends at **3.15pm**.

Please make sure your child is at school on time and that he/she is collected on time. Thank you.

Please remember to inform the school office of any change of address, home telephone number, mobile telephone number, or any other emergency contact or medical information.

We have produced this letter as a way of keeping you informed of all the wonderful things we are hoping to achieve this term.

GOSPEL VIRTUES	GROWTH MINDSET	BRITISH VALUES
Eloquent and Truthful	Your children will be focussing on this approach to their learning throughout this term as well as reflecting on how we interact and build good relationships with each other.	Mutual Respect

Please Remember:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
PE	PE Year 4	Year 3	Swimming Year 4 PE Year 3		
Homework set	Year 3: Reading TimesTable Rockstars - Studio Games Year 4: Reading, Spellings and Tables (learn for following Monday)	Year 3&4: Reading Year 3: Reading Journal Checked	Year 3&4: Reading	Year 3&4: Reading Y3 homework handed out on Thursday to be completed by Tuesday. To be marked in class on Tuesday. Y4: Homework handed out on a Thursday to be completed by following Wednesday. Children will mark their homework with the teacher on a Friday	Year 3&4: Reading Y3 Spellings set and tested Times Table Test

This term we are focused on learning more about **Traders and Invaders (The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings) (History/DT Focus)**

	Class: Year 3	Class: Year 4
RE	3E: We Listen to God's Word at Mass 3J: The Eucharist is a Thanksgiving to God	4D: Christmas 4F: Old Testament - Moses to King David 4G: Lent - Living as Followers of Jesus today
Catholic Social Teaching	Family & Community: What makes community? The Dignity of Work: The many sides of working together to build up community	Family & Community: What makes community? The Dignity of Work: The many sides of working together to build up community

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English	<p>Fiction: The Princess Who Hid in a Tree by Jackie Holderness</p> <p>Class Novel: Charlotte's Web by E. B. White</p> <p>Poetry: The Spy and the Fly by Mary Howitt</p> <p>General information books to support science topic this term: – Forces and Magnets</p>	<p>Fiction: Anglo Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman (Class Novel)</p> <p>Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton</p> <p>Fairy Tales by Hilary McKay- Foundling tales. Key Concept: Inference through Setting</p> <p>Non- Fiction: Science and History texts.</p> <p>Grammar: Apostrophes (contraction and possession), speech, noun phrases.</p>
Mathematics	<p>National Curriculum –Multiplication and Division</p> <p>Mental Number Skills, Times Tables (3,4,8)</p>	<p>National Curriculum –Multiplication and Division, Fractions</p> <p>Mental Maths Skills, Times Tables to 12 x 12</p>
Science	Forces and Magnets	Animals including humans – investigating tooth decay and life cycles.
Inquiry Based Learning	<p>History: Anglo-Saxons</p> <p>DT: Traders and Invaders - to design, make and decorate and Anglo-Saxon shield</p> <p>Computing: Y4 Coding, Word Processing, Programming – Repetition in shapes</p> <p>Y3 Word Processing and Coding.</p>	
Other	<p>Spanish Y4 Y3</p> <p>Music Recorders Y3, Glockenspiel Stage 2 Y4</p> <p>PE: Y3 Fundamentals and Gymnastics Y4: Gymnastics and Swimming</p> <p>PSHCE: Healthy Me, Internet Safety, British Values: Mutual Respect</p> <p>Our Relationships Education uses resources from Life to the Full:</p>	
	<p>This term <u>Year 3</u> we will be learning from</p> <p>Module 2 Created to Love Others</p> <p>Unit 3 - Keeping Safe</p>	<p>This term <u>Year 4</u> we will be learning from</p> <p>Module 1 Created & Loved by God</p> <p>Unit 2 Me, My Body, My Health -2 Respecting Our Bodies</p> <p>Module 3 Created to Live in Community</p> <p>Unit 1 Religious Understanding-1 A Community of Love</p>
	<p>Further information about each lesson can be found in the Life to the Full Parent Portal: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal School Username: st-thomas-ox5 School Password: blue-planet-12</p>	

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Books: It is extremely important that your child reads EVERY night. This may be only a few pages but could be a few chapters. You will notice that reading is listed as a homework activity every day and must be given a similar priority to any written homework given. The children must complete their reading journals, which will form part of their homework, on a daily basis. By reading daily, the children will be exposed to a range of authors and genres, and this will help them to perform better in their own creative writing tasks. This is a certain way of helping to improve writing ability in conjunction with other techniques. Children will also regularly be heard read in school during our Guided Reading sessions and during a dedicated reading skills session.

Homework in Year 3: In addition to daily reading (at least 15 mins) either of books at home or those from school, children need to practice their times tables using the TTRockstars platform. In Year 2 the focus was on x2, x5, and x10 tables. In Year 3, we focus on x3, x4 and x8 tables.

The TTRockstars program has algorithms to progress your child's learning automatically through these (x2, x10, X5, x3 x4, x8 and onwards). Studio games are a way of seeing how quickly the children can answer random timestable questions. A gig will be completed once a month as a way of checking understanding across all tables, these then form the practice algorithm questions for the children's independent practice. A weekly times table test will take place on Fridays.

Additionally a weekly spelling pattern is introduced on Fridays and the 'SpellingShed' platform provides the children with fun games to practice these at home. The spellings are tested on the following Friday. Two pieces of homework will be set weekly on Thursdays this term. These will be a reading comprehension and a relevant maths task. These are due on the following Tuesday, and will be marked in class. Reading journals will be checked every Tuesday. Please ensure that at least 5 signed reading entries are recorded, as well as a small paragraph or a few sentences written about the book they are reading.

Homework in Year 4: The children will be set Maths/English homework on Thursdays. The Maths homework will consolidate and extend children's learning during that week. The English homework will generally have a grammar or reading comprehension focus. Differentiated spellings (based on letter blends worked on in Spelling skills) and a times table focus will be set every Monday, to be learnt by the following Monday. The main spelling pattern will also be available to practise weekly via the Spelling Shed online scheme. The pupils will also be expected to practise allocated times tables using the ttrockstars app/website. The children's Thursday homework needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Children have been given Reading Journals which should be completed every time they read, and these will be checked regularly.

GENERAL REMINDERS:

Uniform: All pupils should be wearing full school uniform at all times and also need a pair of trainers for outdoor use and shoes for indoor use. Please refer to the school's uniform policy for guidance. All children should be in winter uniform. On days when PE is timetabled, pupils should come to school in their PE kit but will still need to change their footwear for break. Please ensure all belongings are labelled.

Equipment: In key stage 2 we expect all pupils to have the following equipment:

Pencils	Sharpener
Ruler	Highlighters (optional)
Eraser	Coloured pencils (optional)

Medicines: Only prescribed medicines should be labelled and handed in to the office with details of dosage requirements. Please refer to school policy on handling and administering medicines. (This excludes asthma inhalers, which must always be named and with the child at all times).

Water/Healthy Snack: Every pupil requires a labelled water bottle, this is ESSENTIAL in the warmer weather. Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack for break time, this must be fruit, vegetables or a product which contains 100% fruit/vegetables. Year 3 and 4 will be having their lunch at the second sitting of approximately 12:15 and so a break-time snack would be beneficial.