



Newsletter 17/11/23

Opening Prayer

November

IN REMEMBRANCE

*Lord God,
whose days are without end and whose mercies
beyond counting,
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of
death unknown.
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of
holiness and justice,
that we may serve you in union with the whole
Church,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live forever and ever.
AMEN*



Heads News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for coming along to Parents Evening last week, it was wonderful to see all of you there and I hope you found the evening informative and reassuring about how well all the children have settled into the new academic year.

This is a very busy but exciting term Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing the nativity and parents should have received relevant information this week.

It has been great to see that our extra-curricular clubs are now back up and running and that the children and staff are all thoroughly enjoying them.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that supported the 'Cook for Books' event. This raised £84.00, all of which goes towards purchasing new and much needed books for school, it was a great start to kick off this year's fundraising. We will be running another 'Cook for Book' event in a few weeks' time, thanks again for all your support in what I know are difficult times.

The Friends of St Thomas More are running the annual Craft Fair at Exeter Hall tomorrow. Please pop in if you can and perhaps get some Christmas shopping done.

I hope you all have a good weekend, and that this term is truly amazing for your children. As always, if you have any issues or concerns, please do speak to a member of school staff.

Every blessing,

Julieann



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Notices and Information

Place2Be

Place2Be provide mental health support in our school through one-to-one and group counselling using tried and tested methods backed by research. In addition, they also offer expert training and professional qualifications.



Birthdays: If it is your child's birthday, they can come to school in non-school uniform.

If their birthday falls on a weekend or in the holidays, they can come to school in non-school uniform the following school day.



SCHOOL PHOTOS-23RD NOVEMBER

Your child will have an individual and sibling photo taken during the school day.

Please wear full school uniform



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Notices and Information

FREE ENTRY & PARKING

JOIN FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS MORE AT...

AUTUMN 

CRAFT FAIR

SAT. 18 NOVEMBER

10am - 4pm

Exeter Hall, Kidlington

CRAFT
STALLS

GIFTS

RAFFLE
& MORE

craftfair@stthomas-more.org.uk





Attendance

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less absence per year
97% or above
**VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET**

Between 7 and 19 days absence per year
90% - 96%
**BELOW
EXPECTATIONS**

More than 19 days absence per year
**Under 90%
POOR
ATTENDANCE**



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

| | Until... |
|--|--|
| Chickenpox | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting | 48 hours after their last episode |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics |
| Measles | 4 days after the rash first appeared |
| Mumps | 5 days after the swelling started |
| Scabies | they've had their first treatment |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics |
| Whooping Cough | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics |



No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice | Tonsillitis |
| Threadworms | Slapped cheek |



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Gates open at 8:40am ready for lessons to start at 8:45am



Internet Safety

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if auto-play is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get-rich-quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.





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Values Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to all of these children who showed one of our school values this week. We are very proud of you all!

RECEPTION - PADDINGTON FAMILY

Mustafa for showing our value of Determination

Pippa for showing our value of Unity

Toleen for showing our value of Respect

Miguel for showing our value of Determination

YEAR 1 - MATILDA FAMILY

Lara for showing our value of Determination

David for showing our value of Determination

Zora for showing our value of Respect

Madhav for showing our value Humility



YEAR 2 - MUGGLE-WUMP FAMILY

Khanya for showing our value of Determination

Amir for showing our value of Determination

Khadija for showing our value of Respect

Ekorm for showing our value of Determination

YEAR 3 - MR FOX FAMILY

Matei for showing our value of Determination

Ioanna for showing our value of Unity

*Elliott for showing our values of Respect and
Determination*

Saira for showing our value of Determination

YEAR 4 - MALALA FAMILY

Pearl for showing our value of Determination

William for showing our value of Determination

Alfie for showing our value of Determination

Ella A for showing our value of Determination



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YEAR 5 - GATES FAMILY

Lucas F for showing our values of Respect and Fairness

Alice for showing the values of Unity and Fairness

Dion for showing our values of Determination and Unity

Charlie for showing our values of Unity, Determination and Fairness

YEAR 6 - POTTER FAMILY

Ivor for showing our value Determination

Amelia for showing our value of Determination

Zach for showing our value of Unity

Elijah for showing our value of Fairness