



ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

'Do all that you do with Love'

Issue 1 27th March 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and joy-filled term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a successful few months it has been for our school. It is wonderful to see our community continuing to go from strength to strength, and this is only possible because of the dedication, generosity, and shared commitment of our staff, children, and families.

One particular highlight has been receiving confirmation of our LiveSimply Award. This achievement is the result of a great deal of hard work from both staff and pupils, who have embraced the call to live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with others. We are incredibly proud of the values this award represents and of the way our children have led the way with such enthusiasm.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Parish Priest, Fr Damian, into school this term. His warmth, kindness, and genuine interest in the children have already made a very positive impression. We look forward to deepening our partnership with the parish and continuing to strengthen the faith life of our school community.

As ever, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and trust. We are privileged to have your children in our care, and it is a joy to watch them grow, learn, and smile each day.

We look ahead now to an exciting Summer term, filled with new opportunities and shared celebrations.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Easter. May the risen Lord hold you and your families in His loving arms.

Every Blessing
Julieann

Dear Lord,

As we enter this Holy Week, we remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus.

Help us to reflect on His journey, His kindness, and His courage.

Guide us to follow His example in our words, actions, and hearts.

May we be loving to others, forgiving where it is needed, and thankful for all we have.

Bless our school community, our families, and our friends,
and help us to share Your light and hope with everyone we meet.

Amen.



LiveSimply Award Success!

We are delighted to share that our school has achieved the LiveSimply Award following a successful online assessment with CAFOD.

A huge well done to our pupils who represented the school so brilliantly they were described as “a delight to speak to” and “a credit to our school.” Thank you also to all our families for your continued support through donations, events, and living out our shared pledges.

This is a fantastic achievement for our whole community. We look forward to continuing our journey, living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with others.

A huge thank you to Mrs Machin for her hard work!



CAFOD Soup Kitchen

Some of our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful lunchtime at the church hall, helping at the soup kitchen to raise money for CAFOD.

The children laid the tables and served delicious homemade soup to parishioners and Fr Damian. They were praised for being polite, helpful, and a real credit to the school. During Lent, we are encouraged to serve others, and the children reflected on how giving their time to help others is both rewarding and meaningful.

A big thank you to Mrs Naser and Mrs Exley for preparing the delicious soup!

A Lovely Message Following Our Soup Lunch

We were delighted to receive this kind message from Lin and Ian Drury:

“We would like to say how enjoyable the soup lunch was. The soup was delicious, and the pupils were efficient, friendly, and a real credit to the school. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged we do hope we can have the pleasure again.”

We are incredibly proud of the children for how they represented the school and thank all staff and volunteers who made the event such a success.



VOCATIONS WEEK

Year 3 were delighted to welcome PC Crosby into school this morning to talk about police work and the roles and responsibilities of an officer. The class had lots of questions and put PC Crosby to the test with their brilliant “interrogation”!

Afterwards, we headed outside to take a look at the police car, complete with flashing lights and sirens what an exciting and memorable morning!



A Special Visit from Fr Damian
As part of Vocation Week, Year 2 and Reception were delighted to welcome our Parish Priest, Fr Damian. He spoke to the children about the meaning of vocation and shared his own journey of answering his calling.

The children listened beautifully and asked thoughtful questions, gaining a meaningful understanding of how people are called to serve others in different ways.

We are very grateful to Fr Damian for his time and for helping to enrich the children’s spiritual learning in such a special way.



Safety Superstars at Junior Citizens!

We had a fantastic trip to Oxford Fire Station this morning for Junior Citizens. Each child took part in making a 999 call in a range of scenarios, including a house fire, railway accident, road traffic accident, river incident, and stranger danger.

The sessions, led by the police and fire service, provided valuable life skills, helping pupils learn how to recognise risks and keep themselves safe.

TRIPS-JUNIOR CITIZENS



TIME TO CELEBRATE



WINNING HOUSE



ATTENDANCE AWARD :

Year 5 with 99 %



CERTIFICATES

Reception

Coming soon !

Year 1

Coming Soon !

Year 2

Coming Soon !

Year 3

Coming Soon !

Year 4

Coming Soon !

Year 5

Coming Soon !

Year 6

Coming Soon !



MATHS SUCCESS

Four of our pupils visited d'Overbroecks Senior School to take part in their first Primary Team Maths Challenge.

They competed in a range of activities, including logic problems and equation solving, working both in teams and pairs. Competing against schools from across Oxford, we are incredibly proud to share that our team achieved an amazing second place!

Their focus, determination, and enthusiasm for maths were fantastic to see. A huge well done to Nicole, William, Filip, and Hanna what a brilliant achievement!

A big thank you to Mrs Long for taking them and supporting the team throughout the event.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS-ALISON TEMPLER

Dear Parents

Another term has flown by! It has been nice to end it with some sunny weather! We are reminded of the beauty of God's Creation, as we see the blossom, daffodils and tulips adding colour to our lives.

Congratulations to Mrs Machin and the school for achieving the LiveSimply Award. The LiveSimply award enables Catholic communities to care for God, his creation and stand in solidarity with our global family.

The pupils continue to make us proud, and we thank you for supporting them and the school.

We welcomed Mrs Emma Stinga as our SENCo. This is a vital role, ensuring our pupils with additional needs receive appropriate support. We have also welcomed Miss Rosie McCloughlin as a TA and Mrs Helen Gomm as a lunchtime supervisor. On behalf

of the governors, I want to thank all staff for their dedication to providing the children with a safe and happy place to learn and grow. We wish them a relaxing Easter holiday.

The governors continue to fulfil their roles by monitoring and through meetings. If anyone would like to know more about the role, please contact me via the school office.

May the Risen Lord bring you joy and peace.

Wishing you all a blessed and Happy Easter.

Alison Templer
Chair of Governors.



Wednesday Word

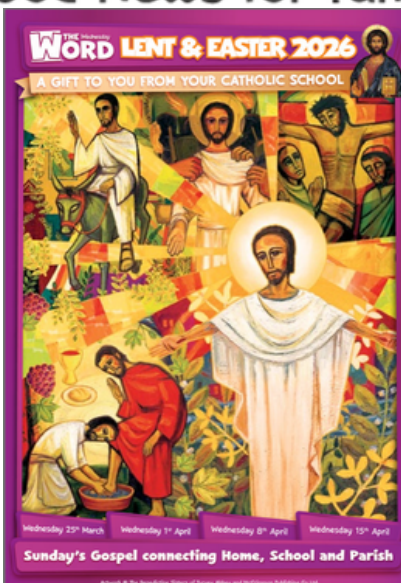
This week's Wednesday Word is a special Lent and Easter edition, helping us to reflect on this important time in the Church's year. It encourages us to think about prayer, sacrifice, and the joy of Easter, supporting children in understanding the meaning of Jesus' journey and resurrection. We invite all families to explore this together at home using the link below and share in these important reflections:

<https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/lent-easter-special?pid=MTA101634&v=206.9>

Term Reminder

Just a reminder that the new term begins on Monday, 13th April.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back after the break!



MASS TIMES DURING EASTER

Saturday 28th March (K) Vigil for Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord 6.00 pm:

Mass:

Sunday 29th March

St Hugh of Lincoln, (W) Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord 9.30 am: Mass

Sunday 29th March (K) Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord 11.00 am: Mass

Tuesday 31st March (K) Tuesday of Holy Week 7.00 pm Mass followed by Penitential service

Wednesday 1st April (W) Wednesday of Holy Week 6.00 pm Station of the Cross followed by Mass

Thursday 2nd April (K) Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper, Recommissioning of Eucharistic Ministers

Watching before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight 8.00 pm Zoomed & on YouTube

Friday 3rd April (K) Good Friday: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord.

Holy Places Collection 3.00 pm. Zoomed & on YouTube

Saturday 4th April (K) Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass, Blessing of the Fire and Holy Water. 9.00 Mass Zoomed & on YouTube

Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord Dawn Mass 8.00

Kidlington, Early Morning Mass 9.30 am Woodstock, Day Mass 11.00 Kidlington Zoomed & on YouTube

The Holy Triduum Services in the Parish of St Thomas More, Kidlington and St Hugh of Lincoln, Woodstock: Liturgical Rubrics encourage just one concentrated service in Triduum for obvious reasons.

All the services except Easter Sunday-9.30am Mass, will be held at the parish church in Kidlington.

Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses: Easter offering is for our Parish Priest.

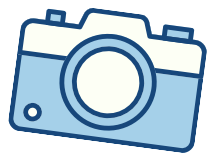


A Beautiful Lenten Mass

What a wonderful whole school Mass at the church. It was a lovely Lenten celebration, beautifully led by Year 4. The children did an excellent job and made us all very proud. Thank you to the families who joined us it was lovely to share this special time together.



DT WEEK DELIGHTS



We have had a very busy and exciting DT Week! The children have been busy making Easter biscuits, World War II ration cookies, pizzas, and fruit skewers. All pupils have worked hard to plan and develop their own ideas, and we have been amazed by the fantastic results. Well done to everyone for their creativity and effort!



**HAPPY EASTER FROM EVERYONE AT
ST. THOMAS MORE**

