



ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

'Do all that you do with Love'

Issue 4 1st May 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a joyful and uplifting week it has been at St Thomas More. We have been blessed with beautiful sunshine, which has brought a real sense of energy and happiness across the school.

A particular highlight of our week was our special May prayer service, where we gathered together for the blessing of Mary. It was a truly reverent and peaceful occasion, and it was wonderful to come together as a school community in prayer. A special thank you to the St. Thomas More dads who kindly helped move the tonne bag of soil, your help was greatly appreciated. The sunshine made the moment even more special as we reflected on Mary's love, care and example to us all.

My sincere thanks to Father Damian for attending and blessing Mary, and to the parents who were able to join us.

A heartfelt thank you also to the Friends of St Thomas More for their fundraising efforts towards our Mary statue and grotto. This special space will be treasured by our children.

We are also very grateful to the parents who kindly provided flowers for the children which were placed at Mary.

It has also been a fantastic week in school, with many children receiving Merit Cards. This is a wonderful reflection of the hard work, commitment and positive attitudes our pupils demonstrate each day at our school. The children's work is a real credit to themselves and to their teachers.

Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend.

Kind regards
Julieann Exley



Loving God,
Thank You for Mary, the mother of Jesus.
Help us to follow her example of love and trust.
Guide us to be kind and caring each day,
and bring us closer to Jesus.
Amen.



Year 2 Prayer Service

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Year 2 Prayer Service. Our worship was based on the Good Shepherd from Sunday's Gospel (John 10:1-10).

The children prepared thoughtfully, read beautifully, and were proud to share this special time with you. It was wonderful to come together in prayer and reflection, and your support made the occasion even more meaningful.

A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Well done, Year 2!



PRAYER SERVICE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED MARY

What a beautiful start to the Month of May! This morning, we gathered in the school playground for a special outdoor prayer service dedicated to Mary. Father Damian led the opening prayer and blessed our new statue of Mary, which stood as the focal point of the celebration. Pupils taking the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in June, led the service with prayers and readings from the Gospel.

We placed our hand-decorated prayer pebbles, at the foot of the statue, symbolising the prayers and intentions of the children. Fresh flowers, brought by families and staff, were also laid around the statue, creating a vibrant display.

Thank you to Father Damian and all the parents that were able to join us. This area will be used as a quiet outdoor space where pupils can reflect and pray.



What a beautiful start to the Month of May!



TIME TO CELEBRATE

WINNING HOUSE
SEE NEXT WEEK



**ATTENDANCE AWARD :
RECEPTION**

Well Done Laya

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from over the Easter break. Laya took part in an Easter colouring competition at her local library and was thrilled to be named the winner! She received a special prize, including a book, and her artwork was proudly displayed on the library notice board. Laya was incredibly proud of her achievement and was keen to share this special moment with our school community



CERTIFICATES

DOUBLE CELEBRATION NEXT WEEK

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Nursery Applications Open

We are now accepting applications for Nursery places for September 2026, January 2027 and April 2027 in our Age 2 and Age 3 Nursery at St Thomas More Catholic Nursery. Our nurturing early years provision is rooted in Catholic values, where children are encouraged to grow in faith, love and learning in a warm and caring environment. Rooted in our school motto, 'Do all that you do with Love' we encourage children to grow through kindness, faith and joyful learning. We warmly welcome applications from families looking to join our loving school community.



ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!



YEAR 4 Year 4 Science: Exploring Electricity

Year 4 completed their science unit on electricity by creating circuits to answer their enquiry question. The children thoroughly enjoyed this practical unit and were excited to apply their learning through hands-on investigation.



YEAR 5

Year 5 Science: Exploring Plant Reproduction

In Science this week, we began our new topic on how plants reproduce. The children enjoyed a practical lesson investigating the different parts of a plant and learning about their functions. Using tulips, complete with stems, leaves and flowers, the children carefully observed the outside of the plant before dissecting it to explore its structure in more detail. It was a fantastic hands-on lesson that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm for our new topic.



Amazing!

THE ARK ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE



Gymnastics: Travelling Through the Rainforest

In Nursery, the children have enjoyed an exciting gymnastics unit based on Travelling Through the Rainforest. They moved like rainforest animals, balancing, climbing, rolling and jumping while developing coordination and confidence.

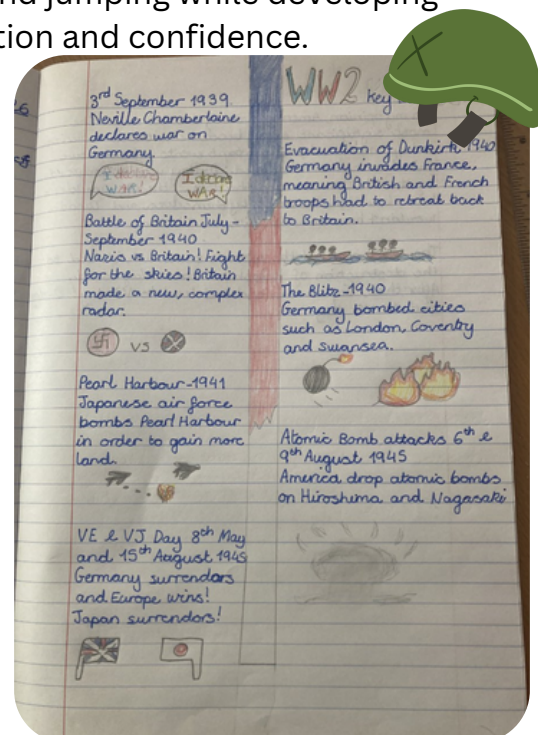
NURSERY



Year 6 History: Significant Events of the Second World War

Year 6 completed their History Unit 2 by creating timelines of the significant events of the Second World War. They then considered our Big Question: Which was the most significant event of the Second World War and why? The children shared thoughtful opinions and justified their ideas using evidence from their learning last term. We were impressed by their historical knowledge, critical thinking and ability to debate different viewpoints.

YEAR 6





DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 5th May	Ark and Nursery Closed
Wednesday 6th May	Ark and Nursery Closed
Monday 11th May	SATS week Year 6
Thursday 14th May	Whole School Ascension Day Mass 1:30pm
Monday 18th May	Art Week in school
Tuesday 19th May	Year 4 Class Trip
Wednesday 20th May	Reception Class Prayer Service
Wednesday 20th May	Year 2 Class Trip
Thursday 21st May	Year 5 Class Trip Story Museum
Friday 22nd May	Year 6 SATS treat Harry Potter Studios
Friday 22nd May	Art Week Exhibition in school 2:30pm



HALF TERM
MONDAY 25TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY



Monday 1st June	Back to school
Friday 5th June	School Nurse vision screening visit
Sunday 7th June	Holy Communion
Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Check week
Wednesday 10th June	Year 6 Prayer Service
Monday 15th June	Refugee Week
Tuesday 16th June	Year 1 class trip
Thursday 18th June	Farm Visit Early Years
Thursday 18th June	St Thomas More Celebration Mass in school
Sunday 21st June	Year 6 Confirmation
Tuesday 23rd June	Wonder Dome Planetarium workshops
Wednesday 24th June	Year 4 Prayer Service
Wednesday 24th June	Year 3 Class trip
Wednesday 24th June	Gosford Hill Transfer day
Wednesday 24th June	DT Week in school
Tuesday 30th June	Year 5 to Gosford Hill production of Matilda
Friday 3rd July	Rocksteady concert
Friday 10th July	Sports Day (Year 1 – Y6)
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers' Party
Thursday 16th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass 9:30am
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9:15am
Friday 17th July	School finishes 1:00pm (no after school club)
Monday 20th July	INSET day

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September - INSET day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 2nd September - INSET day – school closed to pupils
School starts on Thursday 3rd September