



ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

'Do all that you do with Love'

Issue 5 8th May 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy week in school, even though it was only four days following the bank holiday weekend. As always, the children and staff have shown great energy, focus, and positivity throughout.

Next Thursday, we will be celebrating a whole school Mass for the Feast of the Ascension. Due to the SATs exams taking place each morning, Mass will be held at 1.00pm to ensure our Year 6 pupils can join us. It would be wonderful to see as many parents and carers as possible celebrating Mass with us.

As a school, we have also made an operational decision regarding indoor shoes. From September 2026, children will no longer need a separate pair of indoor shoes. Instead, all pupils may come to school wearing plain black trainers (completely black, with no coloured logos).

This change supports several practical and health and safety considerations: Children cannot use the playground equipment safely in regular school shoes. Changing shoes throughout the day takes valuable learning time.

Families will only need to purchase one pair of black trainers, which we hope will ease financial pressure.

If you have any questions about this change, please do come and speak to us.

Finally, as we approach SATs week, we want to wish all our Year 6 children the very best of luck. They are an amazing class who have worked incredibly hard, and we are very proud of them.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Every Blessing
Julieann Exley



In this special month of May, we remember Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary loved God very much and always showed kindness, courage and care for others. We pray that we can follow her example by being loving, helpful and thoughtful every day in our school and at home.

Dear Mary,

Help us to be kind friends, loving children and caring members of our school family. Watch over us and guide us to make good choices each day.

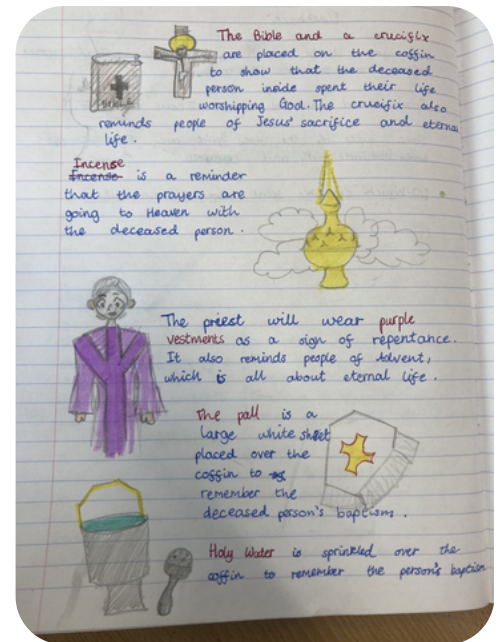
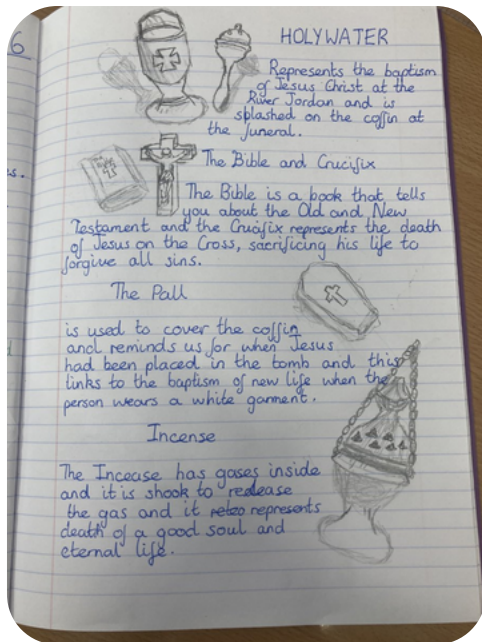
Amen.



Year 6:

Eternal Life – Understanding Christian Beliefs

In our recent learning, Year 6 explored the Christian belief in eternal life. We looked at the symbols used during a funeral Mass and discussed how these connect to baptism and the resurrection of Jesus. We also considered why funerals are important to Christians and linked our discussions to key virtues.



YEAR 5 PRAYER SERVICE



Year 5 led and planned a beautiful prayer service. The service focused on Mary and the significant moments in her life. The children led a decade of the Rosary and reflected on how they could follow Mary's example in their daily lives. Their mission was to be more like Mary by showing the virtues of being grateful and generous.

Year 6 SATS preparation checklist

The tests start Monday, but the fun starts NOW! See how many of these you can tick off before the weekend is over.

Sunshine Hunter: Spend at least 30 minutes outside in the fresh air. ☀️

Laughter Session: Spend time with your friends or family and find something to giggle about.

The Big Chill: Watch your absolute favourite film (popcorn is optional but recommended!).

Treat Yourself: Enjoy a delicious ice cream (pick your favourite flavour!)

Brain Break: Do something creative draw a picture, build something, or play a game.

Early Bird: Get tucked into bed early to give your brain plenty of rest. 💎💎

Mirror Mantra: Look in the mirror and remind yourself:

I am more than a score and I am amazing!



A Poem for the weekend before SATS

The weekend is here, let the revision books rest,
You've worked through the year and you've given your best.
But before Monday starts, there is one thing to know,
You're already brilliant, you've got so much to show!

So, step out the door for some sunshine and air,
Feel the grass on your toes and let go of each care.
Run around with your friends, have a laugh with your family,
Enjoy every moment and live life quite happily.

Put on a favourite film, grab a bowl and a spoon,
And eat ice cream while watching a cartoon.
Remember this clearly: you're more than a score,
A test can't begin to show all you've in store.

It won't see your kindness, your spark, or your grace,
Or the wonderful smile that you wear on your face.
So just do your best, that is all you can do,
Because we're already so proud of the amazing, great you!

TIME TO CELEBRATE

WINNING HOUSE



ATTENDANCE AWARD:
THE ARK



CERTIFICATES

RECEPTION ANDRES & MARGOT

YEAR 3 IRIS & ESARD

YEAR 1 JASMINE & GRISHA

YEAR 4 SEBASTIAN & RICHMOND

YEAR 2 NOAH & ARVI

YEAR 5 BLAKE & JIMMY



YEAR 6 XAVIER AND SHAUNA



Proud Moments at St Thomas More

Well done to Daniel, who has successfully showcased his talents on the cornet and took part in an Under 19s competition. What an amazing achievement we are so proud of him! 🎺👏



Dancing Success for Tahri! 🏆🌟 Well done to Tahri, who took part in a dance competition and won two trophies! What an amazing achievement we are very proud of her.



ST. THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

YEAR 5



Year 5 Fieldwork in Action

Year 5 explored fieldwork skills by revisiting surveys and questionnaires, then conducting a sample survey with help from Year 1. They used the data to create graphs and showed great teamwork, thinking carefully about how to make their survey inclusive for all pupils.



NURSERY

V is for Volcano!



This week in Nursery, we learnt all about the letter V for Volcano! The children had lots of fun exploring volcanoes through messy play, painting and small world toys. We enjoyed creating our own erupting volcanoes and using our imaginations during play.

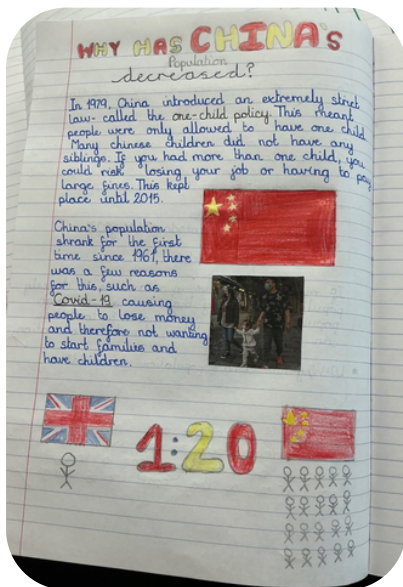


YEAR 6



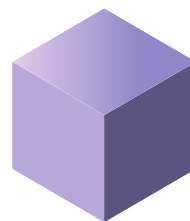
Population changes

Year 6 have been investigating how the population has changed world wide and what reasons there may be for this. The children researched China and presented the information they found on their decreasing population.



Year 2 Shape Builders
In Year 2, it was all "hands on deck" as the children enjoyed creating their own 3D shapes! The class showed fantastic teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills while exploring the properties of different shapes.

YEAR 2



SANDY SEASIDE FUN!



In our sensory tray this week, the children have been exploring wet sand and enjoying lots of seaside-themed fun! Using shells, pots, spoons, scoops and different shaped containers, the children have been filling, pouring and moulding the sand to create their very own sandcastles.

The activity encouraged imaginative play, creativity and lots of wonderful conversations as the children explored different textures and practised their fine motor skills. There was plenty of excitement as everyone became busy little builders!



THE ARK



DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

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
Sunday 21st June	Year 6 Confirmation
Wednesday 24th June	Year 4 Prayer Service

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

St Thomas More Academic calendar 2026/2027

September 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30							1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
35	30	31					

Inset Days	Bank Holidays
Half Term	

School Closes at 1.00 on Friday 18th December, Thursday 25th March 2027 and Friday 16th July