



ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

'Do all that you do with Love'

Friday 11th September 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to see all of our children back in school this week. I have been incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes and routines. There has been such a positive atmosphere around school, with children showing kindness, enthusiasm and a real willingness to learn. As a Catholic school, we want our children to grow not only in their knowledge and understanding, but also in the way they treat one another. It has been wonderful to see our Gospel values being lived out through the children's friendships and their care for others.

We have already seen some amazing artwork across the school, and it is fantastic to see our classrooms and corridors beginning to showcase the children's creativity and talents. Every child has something special to offer, and we want to celebrate those gifts.

There has also been lots of excitement this week as our children begin to take on student leadership roles. Children have been eagerly applying for roles including Eco Council, Librarians and Catholic Ambassadors. Next week, each class will also vote for their School Council representative.

How fantastic, to see children showing courage and confidence by putting themselves forward and wanting to make a positive difference to our school community. These opportunities are an important part of helping our children to develop as young leaders who understand that we all have a responsibility to care for one another and our common home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school and for working with us to ensure that our children flourish. Together, as a school family, we can help our children to grow in faith, confidence, kindness and a love of learning.

I hope you all have a lovely and restful weekend. May God bless you and your families, and I look forward to seeing all of our children back in school on Monday morning, ready for another wonderful week.

Every blessing,
Julieann



Pope's Prayer for September-Care for Water
Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of water, which brings life to all living things.

Help us to use water wisely, protect our rivers, seas and oceans, and care for our common home.

Teach us to be responsible stewards of your creation and to ensure that everyone has access to clean, safe water.

May we work together to protect our planet and share its gifts with others.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of Creation, pray for us.

Pope Francis, pray for us.





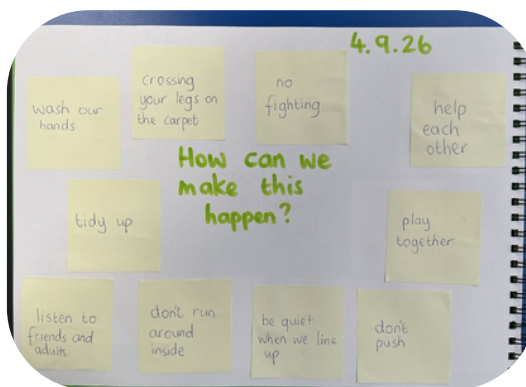
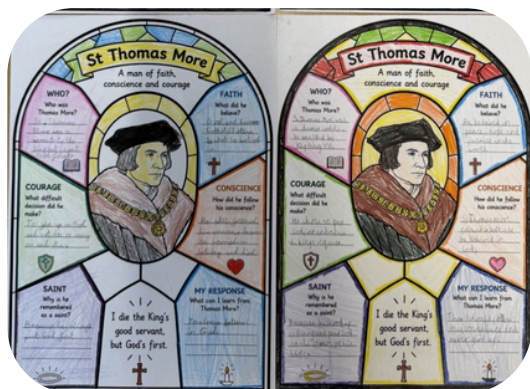
A Faith-Filled Start to the Year

What a wonderful way to begin the new school year! We spent our first day back at school learning about our patron saint, St Thomas More, and reflecting on the inspiring example he set through his faith, courage and commitment to doing what was right.

The children explored the values that St Thomas More demonstrated throughout his life and considered how they can live out these values in their own daily actions, both in school and at home.

We were delighted to see the enthusiasm, creativity and thoughtfulness shown by the children throughout the day. They produced some fantastic pieces of work and engaged in meaningful discussions about what it means to follow in the footsteps of St Thomas More.

We are incredibly proud of all they achieved on their first day back. Take a look at some of the wonderful work completed by the children!



CAFOD National Assembly

Our KS2 pupils joined schools across the country for the CAFOD National Assembly, exploring Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of helping those in need. The children learned how schools can make a positive difference through charitable action and supporting communities around the world.

Following the assembly, our Catholic Ambassadors will be leading mini fundraising activities throughout the term to support people who do not have access to clean water, including communities in Zimbabwe. This global initiative forms part of our ongoing LiveSimply journey and commitment to living out our faith through action.



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

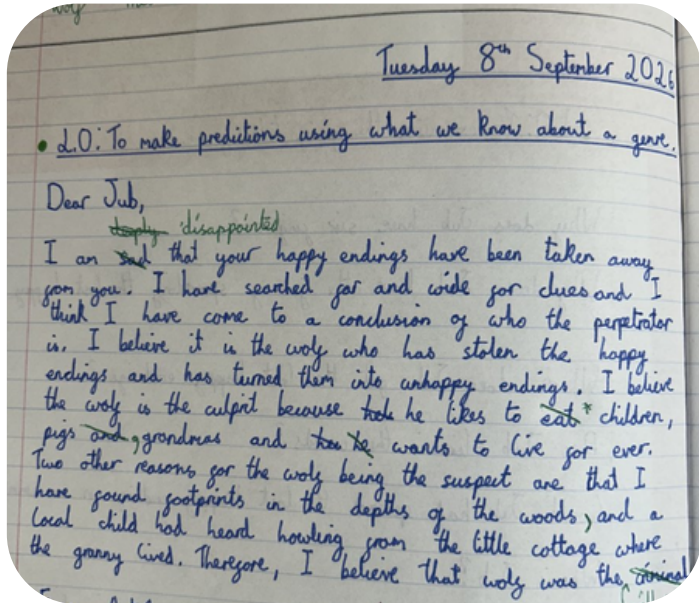
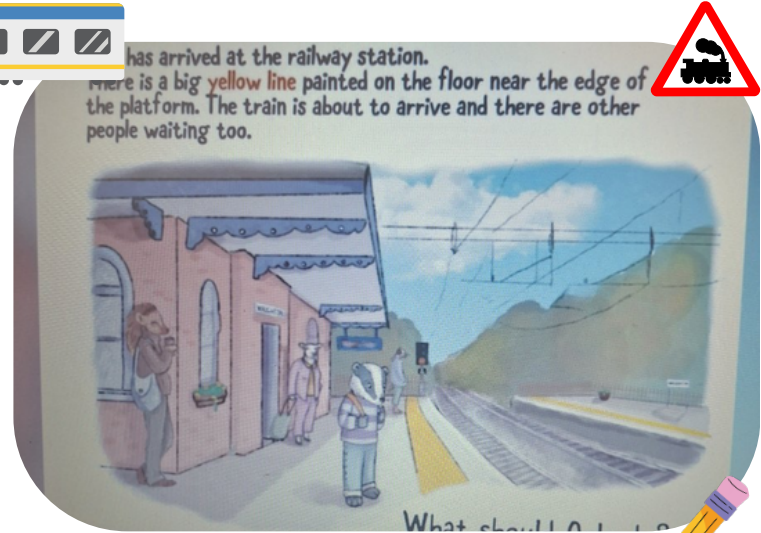


ST. THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

St. Thérèse of Lisieux



We learnt about rail safety this week by watching an interactive video and discussing different scenarios. The children thought carefully about how to stay safe and linked their learning to our school rules: Be Kind, Be Ready and Be Safe.



St. Carlo Acutis

The children revisited The Lost Happy Endings and made predictions about who may have stolen the story endings. They then wrote letters to Jub, explaining their theories while applying their Year 5 writing skills.



Noah's Ark and Trinity children have settled beautifully into their new routines and are already enjoying their time together. They have been busy exploring their learning environments, making new friends and getting to know one another through a range of fun activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they build relationships, develop independence and become familiar with daily nursery life. We are very proud of how well they have started the new term!



🍅 Whisking Up Success! 🍷👨🍳

A huge well done to Hugo, Nicole and Henry, who proudly represented our school in the Oxfordshire Primary School Junior Chefs of the Year Competition 2026.

The judges were extremely impressed with the imagination, creativity and careful thought that went into the design of your menu. You demonstrated fantastic teamwork and a real understanding of how to create a balanced and exciting meal.

Although our team did not make it through to the cook-off stage, we are delighted to have been awarded a selection of vegetable seeds as part of the competition. These will be used in our new vegetable garden area, giving children the opportunity to grow their own ingredients, explore seasonality and develop a greater understanding of where food comes from.

We are very proud of the effort, enthusiasm and commitment shown throughout the competition.

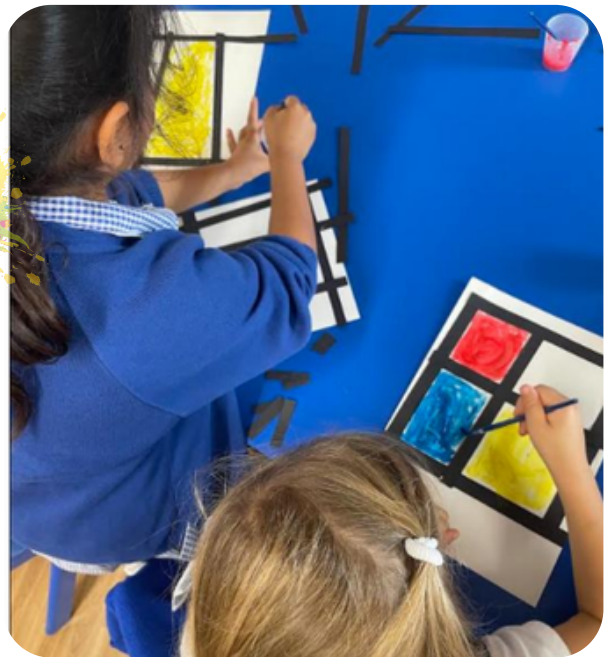
Well done, Hugo, Nicole and Henry!



A Masterpiece of a First Week

This week, St Thomas More has been buzzing with creativity as the children explored a range of artists, styles and techniques during our exciting Art Week. Year 6 have been learning about the life and work of Frida Kahlo, while other year groups have experimented with Pointillism, creating colourful masterpieces inspired by this unique style. In Nursery, the children listened to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and used his vibrant illustrations as inspiration for their own paintings, as well as creating beautiful butterflies using painting, folding and printing techniques. Reception have been learning about Piet Mondrian and producing artwork inspired by his distinctive use of colour and shape. These are just a few examples of the fantastic artistic experiences that have taken place across the school.

We look forward to showcasing the children's wonderful work at our Art Gallery Viewing today at 3:05pm. We hope you can join us to celebrate their creativity and achievements! 🎨✨

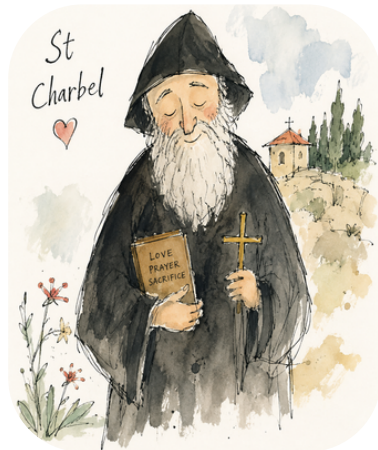


TIME TO CELEBRATE....

WINNING HOUSE



ATTENDANCE AWARD
ST.CHARBEL



CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS RUBY AND AHMED

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA-VIOLA AND DAVID

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX-RITA AND MATHIAS

ST. OSCAR ROMERO-NAOMI AND WILLIAM

ST. CHARBEL ISAAK AND MAKAYLA

ST. CARLO ACUTIS EILAH AND PATRICK

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE HENRY AND FRANKIE

This summer, Rita set herself an exciting hiking goal: to explore as many valleys, caves, and peaks in the Tatra Mountains as she could.

She started the year by hiking to several beautiful mountain valleys and also explored a cave called Dziura. One of her biggest achievements was reaching Hala Stoły at 1,340 metres above sea level.

At the end of the summer, Rita took on an even bigger challenge and completed a 6-hour hike by herself to Przełęcz Kondracka (Kondracka Pass), at 1,725 metres above sea level!

Rita was very proud of herself for reaching these goals. Her summer adventures showed great determination, independence, and a real love of exploring the mountains. 🏔️❤️



Proud of Our Pupils





DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM



September

Tuesday 15th	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 16th	The Ark and Nursery Open Morning for new admissions
Thursday 17 th	Whole School Start of Term Mass 09:30 (Year 6 Lead)
Friday 25 th	Non School Uniform fro Sobell House £1.00 donation
Tuesday 29th	Year 6 Bikeability all week
Wednesday 30th	The Lion King Theatre Trip (Years 3,4 &5)

October

Thursday 1 st	Year 3 & 5 Parish Mass 09:30am
Tuesday 6 th	Reception Open morning for September 2027 applicants
Thursday 8 th	Fan the Flame (Year 5) details to follow
Thursday 15th	Year 4 & 6 Parish Mass
Monday 19th–Friday 23 rd	Year 6 Residential to The Beacon
Friday 16th	Road Safety Visit with ride on time for Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 20 th	PFMAC Concert (Year 5) Details to follow

Monday 26–Friday 23rd Half Term

November

Monday 2nd	Inset Day–School Closed to children
Tuesday 3 rd	EYFS Open Morning (For The Arc and Age 3 Nursery admissions)
Thursday 5th	Year 3&5 Parish Mass 09:30
Tuesday 10 th	Parents Evening 3:30pm–6:00pm
Thursday 12 th	Parents Evening 3:30pm–6:00pm
Wednesday 18th	SEN Parents Evening 3:30pm–6.00pm
Thursday 19th	Year 4&6 Parish Mass
 December 	
Wednesday 9th	Whole School Panto
Friday 11th	Christmas Fayre 3:15pm–17:00
Tuesday 15 th	Marlborough Lodge Choir Carols
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Dinner in school KeyStage 2 Carol Service in Church 3:30pm
Thursday 17th	Advent Mass 09:30 (Year 5 lead)
Friday 18th	School finishes at 1:00pm (No afterschool club)