ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

‘Do all that you do with Love’

Friday 18th September 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear parents and carers,
It has been another wonderful week at St Thomas More, and it has been lovely to see our school community continuing to settle into the new academic year with such enthusiasm and positivity.
This week, we celebrated our first whole-school Mass of the year, and it was a particularly special occasion. It was wonderful to see our Year 6 children take on such an important role in leading the Mass. They showed great confidence, reverence and maturity, and I was incredibly proud of them. A huge thank you to our staff and families for supporting the children as we continue to nurture and celebrate our Catholic faith together.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all our parents and carers for your understanding and cooperation with the new allergy rules and restrictions around food items coming into school. I appreciate that changes to familiar routines can take some time to get used to. As I have said previously, these rules are not punitive; they are in place to help keep every child in our school safe. We all have a responsibility to look after one another, and your support in helping us do this is greatly appreciated.
If you would like advice or guidance about putting together a healthy and safe lunchbox for your child, please do speak to us. We will be very happy to support you and offer practical suggestions.

It was also wonderful to see our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children bringing home our Values Teddies. I have really enjoyed reading about the adventures and fun activities they have been getting up to with their families over the weekend. These opportunities are such a lovely way of helping our children understand and live out our school values both in school and at home.

As we begin our Harvest celebrations, we will soon be asking families to support us with donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. These donations will be given to our local food bank and will help families within our wider community. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to put our Gospel values into action by thinking about others and sharing what we can. We will keep you updated with our progress and the difference your generosity is making.
Finally, please remember to keep checking the dates for your diaries over the coming term. As always, there is lots happening at St Thomas More, and we would hate for anyone to miss out on the many opportunities, celebrations and events taking place across our school.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our St Thomas More family.
Every Blessing
Julieann

Loving God,
Thank You for a busy and successful week of learning. We are grateful for all we have achieved and for the opportunity to come together in Mass to celebrate our faith.
Help us to continue learning, showing kindness to others, and doing all that we do with love.
Amen.

CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

A Faith-Filled Start to the School Year

We gathered in church to celebrate our Start of School Year Mass. Year 6 led the readings, bidding prayers and offertory beautifully, and Father Damian was very impressed with their participation.

It was also wonderful to welcome our Reception children to Mass for the first time. They listened carefully, joined in with the hymns and represented the school brilliantly.

A big thank you to Harvey and Annika for leading the music and technology, and to our Year 5 and Year 6 altar servers for their support.

In today's Gospel (Luke 7:36–50), Jesus reminds us of the importance of forgiveness. As we begin this new school year, let us follow His example by showing kindness, forgiveness and love to others.





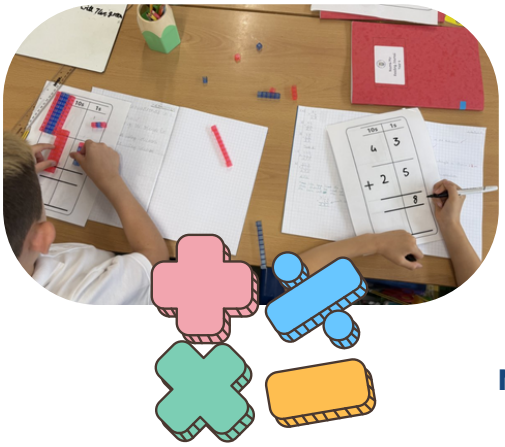
Caring for God's Creation



This term, we have begun Branch 1, Creation and Covenant, as part of our new Discerning Disciples RE Curriculum. From Nursery to Year 6, pupils are learning about God's gift of creation and how we can care for our world by making positive choices every day.

To support this learning, we have created a beautiful whole-school display in the hall. It serves as a special reminder of our responsibility to look after God's creation and to care for others through our actions. The display provides a wonderful focus when we gather together as a school community

ST. THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!



St. Oscar Romero

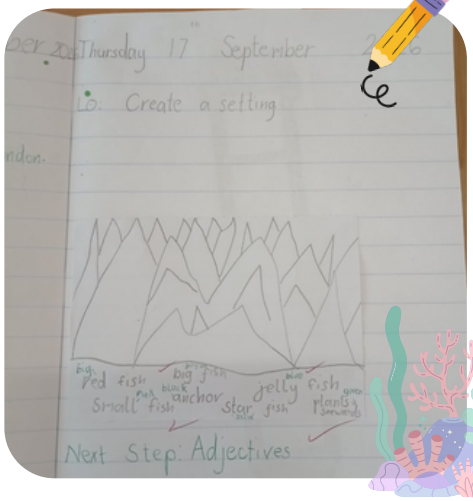
Year 4 continued their work on column addition today, creating and solving their own calculations using Dienes equipment. Great teamwork and mathematical thinking from everyone!



Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark have had lots of fun this week reading Dear Zoo! The children have been learning about different animals and their features. They enjoyed a guessing game, using colour and sound clues to work out which animal was hiding in each crate. Well done, Noah's Ark! 🦁🐘🦒

St. Charbel



In Year 2, we used our imaginations to think about what we might find under and around the Black Rock in the sea. The children shared lots of fantastic ideas, including sea creatures, shells, hidden treasure and other mysterious objects beneath the waves. We then expanded our vocabulary by adding descriptive adjectives to our ideas. The children enjoyed discussing their discoveries and using exciting words to bring their ideas to life.

St. Carlo Acutis

Year 5 had a fantastic time during their hockey lesson this week. Building on the skills they learned last week, the children focused on sending and receiving the ball with greater control and accuracy. They practised recognising clear passing opportunities and learned how to position and point their hockey sticks in the direction they wanted the ball to travel. It was wonderful to see their confidence and teamwork developing as they put these new skills into action.





St. Maximilian Kolbe

Mexican-Inspired Art Week Creations
Year 6 have a colourful display of Year 6 artwork from Art Week proudly displayed outside our classroom. Inspired by Mexican art, the children produced some fantastic pieces and showed great creativity, care and attention to detail. We certainly have some talented artists in Year 6 this year! Well done to all the pupils for their wonderful work.

Harvest Donations 2026



"We must live the Faith, not only with our words but with our actions."
Pope Francis

As we enter the Harvest season, we are once again supporting the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank in Kidlington. This is an opportunity for us to put our faith into action by helping those in need within our local community.

We invite all families to donate what they can, no matter how small. Every contribution will be greatly appreciated and will help support local individuals and families facing hardship.

The Foodbank is currently in need of:

Tinned meat, tuna and vegetables
Rice and pasta
Breakfast cereals
Tea, coffee and sugar
Long-life milk and fruit juice
Biscuits, jams, spreads and chocolate treats
Toilet rolls and household cleaning products
Soap, shampoo, deodorant and other toiletries



Thank you for your generosity and for helping us live out our Catholic mission by caring for others.

Donations can be brought into school from Monday 21st September.



TIME TO CELEBRATE....

WINNING HOUSE

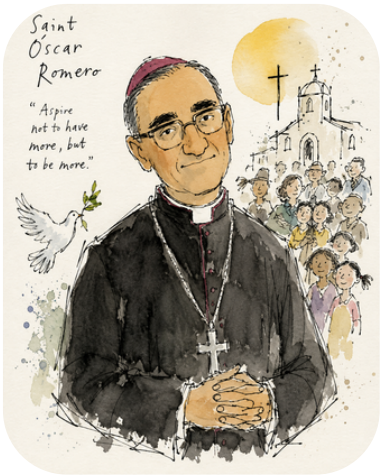
FATIMA

LOURDES

KNOCK

MEDJUGORJE

ATTENDANCE AWARD



WINNER

St. Oscar Romero

CERTIFICATES

- ST. NICHOLAS-MATEI & EVELYN
- ST. JOSEPHINE- ARVI & BERNARDO
- ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX- FATIMA & MARCO
- ST. OSCAR ROMERO-HANNA & EMRYS
- ST. CHARBEL- DAMIAN & JAMIE
- ST. CARLO ACUTIS- KHADIYA & ADAM
- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-BLAKE & MIGUEL

Congratulations to Borys on winning a tennis medal!
We are very proud of his hard work, dedication and determination.
Borys is a wonderful example of making the most of the gifts and talents God has given him.
Well done, Borys!



Well done to Jack on being named Coach's Player of the Year! 🏆
A fantastic achievement that reflects his hard work, dedication and team spirit.
Congratulations Jack! 🎉



Proud of Our Pupils

STM Leadership in Action

We would like to congratulate all of our pupils who have been selected for special leadership roles at St Thomas More. These important responsibilities allow them to use their gifts and talents in service of others, living out our Catholic faith and demonstrating our school expectations to Be Kind, Be Ready and Be Safe.

Catholic Ambassadors

Our Catholic Ambassadors help to lead prayer and worship, support liturgical celebrations and encourage others to grow in their faith. They help our school community to live out the Gospel message each day.

Congratulations to:

Gabriel S, Chibuike, Nicole, Saira, Franek, Gabriel Mc, Jimmy, Jonathan, Hanna & Frankie.

Librarians

Our Librarians promote a love of reading and learning. By helping younger pupils choose books and keeping our library welcoming and organised, they use their talents to support others and foster a love of knowledge.



Congratulations to:

Filip, Ioanna, Thomas & Annika.



Anti-Bullying Ambassador

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassador helps to create a school where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. They encourage kindness, compassion and reconciliation, reminding us that we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Congratulations to:

Blake, Khadija, Margot & Courtney



Eco Council

Our Eco Council Member cares for our common home by leading environmental projects and encouraging sustainable choices. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to care for creation, they help our school to protect and cherish God's world.

Congratulations to:

Nathan, Hugo, Augusta & Amber

School Councillors

School Councillors have been chosen to represent their classmates and help make our school an even better place. They will share pupils' ideas, support positive change and demonstrate our school values of Be Kind, Be Ready and Be Safe throughout the year.

Congratulations to

Leo, Emrys & William

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

September	
Friday 25th	Non School Uniform for 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 1st	Year 3 & 5 Parish Mass 09:30am
Friday 2nd	Fairtrade Cafe 09:00-10:00am School Hall
Tuesday 6th	Reception Open morning for September 2027 applicants
Thursday 8th	Fan the Flame (Year 5) details to follow
Thursday 15th	Year 4 & 6 Parish Mass
Monday 19th-Friday 23rd	Year 6 Residential to The Beacon
Friday 16th	Road Safety Visit with ride on time for Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 20th	PFMAC Concert (Year 5) Details to follow
Monday 26th- Friday 23rd Half Term	
November	

Monday 2nd	**Inset Day-School Closed to children**
Tuesday 3rd	EYFS Open Morning (For The Arc and Age 3 Nursery admissions)
Thursday 5th	Year 3&5 Parish Mass 09:30
Tuesday 10th	Parents Evening 3:30pm-6:00pm
Thursday 12th	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 15th	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)