ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

‘Do all that you do with Love’

Friday 2nd October 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy week we have had at St Thomas More!

We began the week with a very exciting visit from the WonderDome. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and fascinated by the experience as we quite literally brought the stars into school! The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring space and the night sky, and their enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement were a joy to see.

As you will all be aware, last Monday we were also notified that our Catholic School Inspection would take place on Wednesday and Thursday. While I am unable to share the outcome of the inspection with you at this stage, I can say that we felt the inspection process was very fair and positive, and we are currently very pleased with the feedback we received from the inspection team. We now look forward to receiving the final report, which we will of course share with our school community when we are able to do so.

Once again, your children were an absolute credit to you and to our school community. The inspectors commented repeatedly on how well behaved, polite and respectful our children were, as well as the positive way in which they spoke about their school. We could not have been prouder of them.

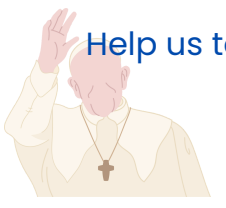
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff team for their continued hard work, commitment and dedication to the children of St Thomas More. An inspection is very much a whole-school experience, and I am incredibly grateful for the way everyone worked together and supported one another throughout the week.

Most importantly, the inspection gave us an opportunity to reflect on what makes St Thomas More so special: our children, our families, our staff and our shared Catholic faith and values. Our school mission calls us to “live the Faith, not simply profess it,” and it is in the kindness, respect, care and love shown each day that this mission truly comes alive.

What a privilege it is to be the Headteacher of our wonderful school. I am incredibly proud of our children and of the whole St Thomas More community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school family.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful weekend.



Loving God,

We pray for all those who are struggling with their mental health. Fill them with your peace, hope, and strength.

Help us to be kind, understanding, and welcoming to everyone we meet. May our schools, homes, and communities be places of love, support, and compassion.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Harvest Assembly

Today we gathered together to celebrate Harvest and learn about our Catholic Ambassadors' mission to support CAFOD.

Hugo in Year 6 shared the inspiring story of Tayla, a 12-year-old girl from Zimbabwe whose life has been transformed through CAFOD's work, giving her access to safe water and the opportunity to attend school.

Next week, we will be raising money to help children like Tayla. Our goal is to raise £35, which can help provide a child with enough food and safe drinking water at school, giving them the chance to learn and pursue their dreams.

The Catholic Ambassadors will be promoting this fundraising initiative throughout the week. If your child is able to bring a small donation, it would be greatly appreciated and will help support this important cause.

Thank you for your generosity and support.





Pupil Led Prayer Services

This week, our classes took part in beautiful pupil-led prayer services, providing a special opportunity for children to gather in faith, reflection and worship.

The children thoughtfully planned and led their prayer services, sharing scripture, prayers and reflections linked to our Catholic values and the teachings of Jesus. It was wonderful to see them growing in confidence as they led their peers in prayer and created a calm and reverent atmosphere for all to enjoy.

These prayerful moments are an important part of our Catholic life, helping our children to deepen their relationship with God, develop their faith, and live out our Gospel values in their daily lives. We are incredibly proud of the respect, reverence and enthusiasm shown by all the children as they embraced this opportunity to lead others in prayer.



ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!





The Ark are going on a Bear Hunt!

This week in The Ark, the children will be bringing the much-loved story We're Going on a Bear Hunt to life! Through imaginative play and storytelling, they will be recreating the adventure by acting out the different parts of the story.

The children will be swishing through long grass, squelching through thick mud, stumbling through a snowstorm, and following mysterious paw prints to see where they lead. This exciting activity will help develop their communication, language, movement, and imaginative skills while having lots of fun along the way.

We can't wait to go on a Bear Hunt together and see where our adventure takes us!

St. Maximilian Kolbe









This week in Maths, we have been learning about place value in numbers up to 8 digits. The children have been exploring the value of each digit and discussing what numbers are made up of. We used counters to represent numbers visually, helping the children to see how each digit contributes to the whole number. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence as they deepen their understanding of place value.

Afterschool Club

🌱 **Our After School Club has been busy in our new vegetable growing area beside the school, preparing the space for planting.**

The children have been working hard to get everything ready, and we look forward to sharing updates on our progress over the coming weeks.

If we have any parents, grandparents or family members with gardening experience who would be willing to help, we would be very grateful for any support. Please get in touch with the school office if you can lend a hand.







TIME TO CELEBRATE....

WINNING HOUSE

FATIMA

KNOCK

LOURDES

MEDJUGORJE

ATTENDANCE AWARD



ST Thérèse of Lisieux

CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS-

ST. JOSEPHINE

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX-

ST. OSCAR ROMERO-

ST. CARLO ACUTIS-

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-

SEE NEXT WEEK DOUBLE CELEBRATION

YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY

Our Year 6 children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Bikeability this week. They learned valuable road safety skills, including how to ride safely, communicate with other road users and make sensible decisions when cycling on the road.

The children showed great enthusiasm and maturity throughout the training, and the instructors were very impressed with their positive attitude and determination.

Well done, Year 6, on developing such important life skills and helping to keep yourselves safe on the roads!





Learning beyond the classroom

THE WONDERDOME

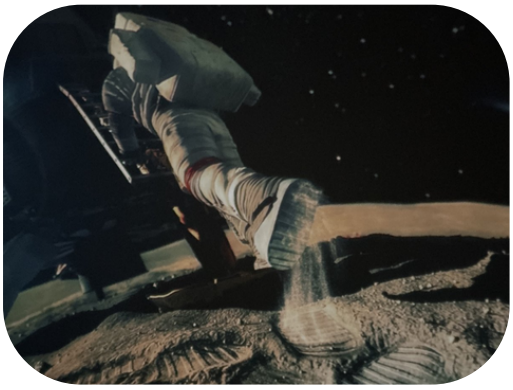
This week, the children at St Thomas More had an exciting visit from the WonderDome Planetarium. The immersive experience gave pupils the opportunity to travel through space without leaving the school hall!

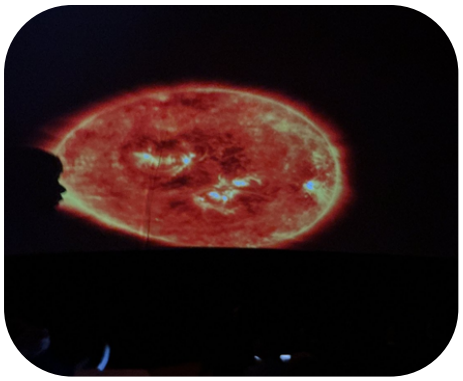
During the session, the children learned about the planets in our solar system, stars, constellations, astronauts, and the fascinating wonders of space. They explored how the Earth moves around the Sun, discovered interesting facts about different planets, and gained a deeper understanding of our place in the universe.

The interactive presentation sparked curiosity and encouraged the children to ask thoughtful questions about space and science. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they journeyed through the galaxy and experienced the wonders of the universe up close.

A huge thank you to the WonderDome team for providing such an engaging and memorable learning experience. The visit has inspired many of our pupils to continue exploring and learning about space.







THE LION KING

Our children had a truly wonderful day visiting the Lyceum Theatre in London to watch The Lion King. The performance was absolutely spectacular, with incredible music, costumes and performances that captivated everyone from start to finish.

This fantastic trip provided a valuable opportunity for learning beyond the classroom, allowing the children to experience world-class theatre and bring their learning to life in a memorable way. The excitement and enthusiasm shown throughout the day was wonderful to see, and the children represented St Thomas More brilliantly.

A huge thank you to Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Knight and Miss McLoughlin for organising and supporting this amazing experience. Their hard work made this opportunity possible for our children.

What an incredible opportunity for our pupils to enjoy such a special cultural experience. The children had a fantastic time and created memories that will stay with them for years to come.







First Holy Communion Preparation

The First Holy Communion Service will take place on

Saturday 8th May at 12.00pm

Children will need to be in the school hall at 11.00am.



All children are expected to attend the following Preparation Masses and Retreat:

Thursday 15th October	– First Confession	at 3.30pm
Sunday 18th October	– Preparation Mass	at 11.00am
Saturday 7th November	– Preparation Mass	at 6.00pm
Sunday 17th January	– Preparation Mass	at 11.00am
Saturday 27th February	– Preparation Mass	at 6.00pm
Sunday 21st March	– Preparation Mass	at 11.00am
Saturday 24th April	– Retreat Day followed by Preparation Mass	at 6.00pm

The registration deadline for Holy Communion in May 2027 is

Friday 9th of October.

Please ensure you have submitted the form to the School reception by this time.

Confirmation

PREPARATION

A journey of faith, friendship and the Holy Spirit





The Sacrament of

Confirmation

has been confirmed by the Bishop as

Saturday 15th May at 12.00pm

at St Thomas More Church

Children will need to be in the school hall for 11.00am.



Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit ♥

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Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. ♥



Grow in faith ♥ Be inspired ♥ Make a difference

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

October	
Tuesday 6th	Reception Open morning for September 2027 applicants
Thursday 8th	Fan the Flame (Year 5) details on Parent Hub
Thursday 15th	Year 4 & 6 Parish Mass
Friday 16th	Road Safety Visit with ride on time for Nursery and Reception
Monday 19th-Friday 23rd	Year 6 Residential to The Beacon
Tuesday 20th	PFMAC Concert (Year 5) Details to follow
Monday 26th- Friday 31st Half Term	
November	
Monday 2nd	**Inset Day-School Closed to children**
Tuesday 3rd	EYFS Open Morning (For The Ark 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)