ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

‘Do all that you do with Love’

Friday 23rd October 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we come to the end of a very busy half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support since the beginning of the school year. There is not a week that goes by when I don’t feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a wonderful school community. Your support, encouragement and partnership mean so much to us, and I am truly grateful.
Following the half-term break, we would love to get our PTA up and running and extend its membership across the school. We are fortunate to have a number of steadfast parents who have done, and continue to do, a wonderful job supporting our school, and we would like to build on this fantastic work by welcoming more families into the group.
We are hoping to appoint a parent class representative for each year group to help us strengthen our school community and bring new ideas and opportunities to life. If you are interested in getting involved, please let the school office know after the half-term break. Please don’t feel daunted by the idea! We will always work around your availability and certainly don’t expect everyone to attend every meeting. We will also ensure that future meetings have an online link for those who find this more convenient. Every little bit of support makes a difference, and we would love to hear from you!
It has been a busy and exciting week, with lots to celebrate. We are delighted to welcome our Year 6 children back from their Beacon Residential today. Mrs Machin has reported that the children have had an amazing time and behaved beautifully throughout. I am sure they will have lots of wonderful memories to share with you!
On Tuesday, our Year 5 children performed in an ABBA tribute at Oxford Town Hall as part of the PFMAC concert. They were absolutely amazing! It was a long day for them, but they truly shone and did themselves proud. We were particularly pleased to hear comments from some of the other schools about how polite and well-mannered our children were. Their performance was excellent, and we are incredibly proud of each and every child who took part. Well done, Year 5!
As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable week, with plenty of time to relax and spend time together. Thank you once again for your continued support and for playing such an important part in our school community.
I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 3rd November, ready for another exciting half term and all the magic and excitement that the Christmas period will bring!
Wishing you all a wonderful half-term break.
Every Blessing
Julieann

Dearest Lord,
teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.
Amen

CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Pupil-Led Prayer Service: Faith, Hope and Love 💗

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Pupil-Led Prayer Service this morning. We know many more of you would have loved to attend, and we understand that this is not always possible.

We enjoyed a beautiful and prayerful service, and we are incredibly proud of the children. They read with confidence, showed great reverence and shared their prayers with thoughtfulness and reflection.

During the service, we offered our prayers to Mary, asking for her guidance as we continue to grow in the virtues of faith, hope and love.

The children also set us all a special mission for the week:

🙏 Help someone without being asked.

💛 Show kindness to someone who needs encouragement.

✨ Take a quiet moment to pray and thank God.

We invite all our families to join us in putting these small but meaningful acts of faith, hope and love into practice throughout the week.

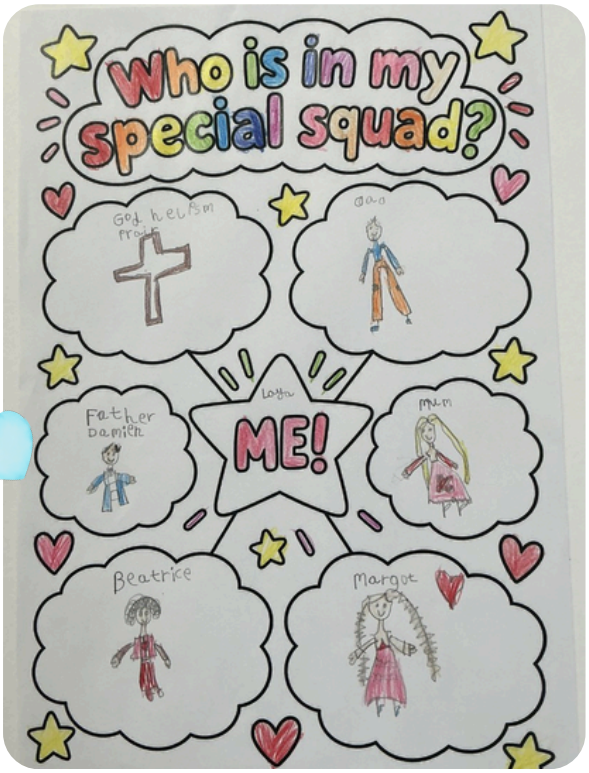




Our Special People ❤️

Year One explored the topic of 'Special People' with the children. We talked about the special people in our lives who care for us, support us and help us when we need someone to talk to. The children shared their own ideas and chose a range of special people, including God, Father Damien, their friends and family.

We discussed how we can turn to these special people when we have something exciting to share, when we need help or when we want to talk about our feelings. The children reflected on how important it is to have people in our lives who love us, listen to us and help us feel safe and supported. ❤️



ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

St Therese of Lisieux



🦸 Science Superheroes!

Our Year 1 Science Superheroes have been on an exciting mission this afternoon! We explored our sense of touch and discovered that we use our skin, which covers our entire body, to feel different textures.

Armed with our superhero skills, we headed out onto the school playground to investigate the world around us, searching for objects that felt smooth or rough. We carefully observed, explored and recorded our findings like real scientists!

Mission completed! 🦸 What fantastic fun we had learning through exploration and discovery. Well done, Science Superheroes!

St Charbel

Adding Three Numbers Together! ➕

In Maths, Year 2 have been learning how to add three numbers together, such as 2 + 3 + 4. The children used colourful counters and ten-frames to help them visualise the calculations, group numbers and work out the totals. They did a fantastic job exploring different ways to combine numbers and find the correct answers. Well done, Year 2, for your brilliant mathematical thinking and enthusiasm! 🌟



Trinity

🐻 Goldilocks and the Three Bears: Making Porridge!

Reception enjoyed their very own Goldilocks and the Three Bears experience by making delicious porridge! The children followed the instructions they had written yesterday, putting their learning into practice. Many were excited to taste their porridge, too! 😋 Well done, Reception!



🐝 Trinity's Busy Little Bees! 🌼

🐝 The children in Trinity had a buzzing brilliant time creating their very own bees! They carefully followed an example, getting creative and bringing their little bees to life. We were so impressed with their fantastic creations! 🌼✨



St Nicholas

A HUGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! 💛📚

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful parents, grandparents and governors who have purchased items from our Amazon Wish List. Your generosity makes a real difference, helping us enhance our library and classroom resources and provide exciting learning opportunities for all our children.

All books and resources purchased through our Amazon Wish List are delivered directly to the school, helping us enrich our library and learning environments for everyone to enjoy.

If you would like to support our library and help us continue to build our collection, please follow the link below to visit our Amazon Wish List.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3ZK25D4PY3MX/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

Thank you for helping us inspire a love of reading and learning in every child! ❤️







LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

🚦 Reception and Nursery Road Safety Superstars! 🚗

Our Nursery and Reception children had a wonderful time learning all about the importance of road safety with Ride On Time! 🚗🚸

Through fun, engaging and interactive activities, the children explored how to stay safe near roads, recognise road signs and understand the importance of making safe choices when out and about.

Everyone had a fantastic time learning these important life skills, and to celebrate their achievements, the children were delighted to receive their very own driving licence at the end of the session! 🪪

We hope this valuable experience has helped our youngest learners develop their road safety awareness and will encourage them to put what they have learned into practice when walking near roads and travelling with their parents and carers.

A huge thank you to Ride On Time for such a fun and educational morning! 🌟



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

🧗 Year 6 Residential at The Beacon 🌲

💙 A Wonderful Week of Faith, Friendship and Adventure at Lee Abbey

What a wonderful week the children had at Lee Abbey! They enjoyed an action-packed few days filled with adventure, from climbing, archery and crate stacking to exploring the beautiful North Devon coastline and visiting the spectacular Valley of the Rocks.

One of the highlights was an evening hike around the Lee Abbey estate, where they admired the stars, listened to the waves across the Bristol Channel and finished their walk at the three crosses, offering a prayer of thanks to God for His wonderful creation. They also visited a tiny beach chapel, where they lit a candle for our St Thomas More school community. 🕯️🙏

Throughout the week, the children showed fantastic courage, kindness and teamwork, living out our school values and our school motto, "Do all that you do with Love." They also enjoyed sharing their talents at the much anticipated Beacon's Got Talent show!

We thank God for a safe and memorable week filled with faith, friendship, laughter and adventure. The children made precious memories, grew in confidence and made us incredibly proud! 💙

A very special thank you to Mrs Machin, Mrs Cutyar and Miss McLoughlin, who generously gave up their time to support the children during their stay. We are truly grateful for their kindness, care and dedication. 💗









TIME TO CELEBRATE....

WINNING HOUSE

MEDJUGORJE

KNOCK

LOURDES

FATIMA

ATTENDANCE AWARD

WINNER



CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS-

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA-

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX-

ST. OSCAR ROMERO-

ST. CARLO ACUTIS-

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-

CELEBRATIONS AFTER HALF TERM

THANK YOU FROM THE FOODBANK

A huge thank you to all our wonderful pupils and parents at St Thomas More for the amazing donations collected on Friday! Your generosity is truly appreciated and will make a real difference to individuals and families in our local community.

A special thank you also goes to the pupils who gave up their time to help Bryan and David fill the van when they came to collect the donations. Your kindness, enthusiasm and willingness to help are greatly appreciated.

We are now beginning to refill our empty storeroom in preparation for the coming months. Some of your generous donations will be stored ready for future use, while others will soon be used to create food parcels for those who need a little extra support.

A food parcel can make such a difference to a person or family going through a difficult time, providing not only essential supplies but also reassurance that their community cares. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed and helped make this wonderful act of kindness possible!

KIDS EAT FREE !



KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE
Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN
Kids Eat Free October 9th - 31st via Perks App

BANANA TREE
Kids eat free this october with an adult

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat for £1 with any adult main

BILLS
Kids Eat Free Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

BREWDOG
Kids eat free this Oct with **KIDS EAT FREE** bookings

CAFE ROUGE
Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO
Kids eat FREE during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE
Kids eat free Sun 18th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 2026

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES
Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

FARMHOUSE INNS
2 Kids eat free during the October Half Term

FLAMING GRILL
1 Kid eats free weekdays this October half term

FRANKIE & BENNYS
Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HARVESTER
Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

HUNGRY HORSE
2 Kids eat for £1 this October Half Term

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS
Kids eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE
Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MARSTON PUBS
kids eat for £1 during the october half term

MORRISONS
Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM
Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PREMIER INN
2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PUREZZA
Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult mea

SA BRAINS PUBS
Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS
Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TESCO
Kids Eat free weekdays with an adult purchase

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TOBY CARVERY
Kids eat for £1 until November 1st 2026 via App

TRAVELODGE
2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY
Kids eat free with a £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS
Kids eat free via the village app

YO! SUSHI
Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holiday

ZIZZI
Kids eat free weekdays in school holidays

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

FALLING INTO HALF TERM!

Half Term

Autumn Activities

Go on an autumn walk



Collect leaves and conkers



Make autumn crafts



Visit a local park or woodland



Bake something delicious



Read a good book



Have a cosy movie day



Try a nature scavenger hunt



Get outside and be active



Try something new



Help at home



Enjoy time with family and friends



Rest • Have fun • Make memories

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

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)
Wednesday 4th	Matilda Theatre Trip (No Tickets available) Indian Dance Crew in school
Thursday 5th	Year 3&5 Parish Mass 09:30
Tuesday 10th	Parents Evening 3:30pm-6:00pm
Wednesday 11th	Individual School Photos Full uniform to be work to school Victorian Workshop-Year 5
Thursday 12th	Anti-Bullying Workshop in school Parents Evening 3:30pm-6:00pm
Wednesday 18th	Year 2 Prayer Service (Time to be confirmed)
Thursday 19th	Year 4&6 Parish Mass
Monday 23rd-27th	Isle Of Wight Residential
Wednesday 25th	Year 2 Prayer Service (Time to be confirmed)



December



Wednesday 2nd	Nativity Performance for Year 1 and 2 9.30am
Thursday 3rd	Nursery and Reception Nativity 14.30pm
Friday 4th	Nativity Performance for Year 1 and 2 9.30am
Friday 9th	Whole School Pantomine-Oxford Playhouse 10:00am
Friday 11th	Christmas Fayre 3:15pm-17:00
Tuesday 15th	Marlborough Lodge Choir Carols
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Hat competition KS2 Carol Sevice 15:30-16:30 at St Thomas More Church
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)**

January 2027

Monday 4th	School Closed-Inset Day
Tuesday 5th	School Reopens at 08:45