ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

‘Do all that you do with Love’

Friday 6th November 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to school following the half-term break. They have settled back into their routines incredibly quickly, and it has been wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces around the school.

Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time at The Beacon on their residential visit. The feedback we received was absolutely wonderful! We were told that the children were beautifully behaved, slept very well and demonstrated excellent teamwork throughout their stay. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They were fantastic ambassadors for St Thomas More and should be very proud of themselves.

This week, all of our children also had the opportunity to experience Indian dance as part of our learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. What a wonderful occasion it was! The laughter, excitement and enjoyment could be felt throughout the school. It was a joy to see the children embracing a different culture with such enthusiasm, and the experience provided a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the traditions of others.

Some of our Key Stage 2 children were also fortunate enough to visit the theatre to watch Matilda. Once again, the feedback was extremely positive, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Experiences such as these are so valuable in bringing learning to life and creating wonderful memories.

Next week, we will be taking time to reflect on Remembrance, remembering those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts, and thinking about the importance of peace, kindness and looking after one another. We will help the children understand, in an age-appropriate way, why we remember those who have made sacrifices so that others can live in peace. On Wednesday, the whole school will come together to observe a two-minute silence, giving us a special opportunity to pause, reflect and remember.

It has certainly been a busy and enjoyable first week back, and I would like to thank all our staff for the wonderful opportunities they continue to provide for our children.

I hope you all have a lovely, restful weekend

Every Blessing

Julieann

Dear Lord,

Today we remember all those who have died in wars and conflicts, especially those who gave their lives so that we may live in peace.

We pray for their families and loved ones, and for all those who are suffering because of war today.

Help us to be peacemakers in our world, showing kindness, forgiveness and love to everyone we meet.

May those who have died rest in Your eternal peace, and may we never forget their sacrifice.

Amen

CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

November: A Time for Remembrance, Reflection and Peace

As we enter November, the Month of All Souls, we have been taking time to remember and reflect on those who are no longer with us. We have also explored the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and the Common Good, thinking about how we can support one another, show compassion and come together as a caring and loving community.

The children have written some truly beautiful and thoughtful prayers in memory of loved ones who have passed away. We have also spent time reflecting on Remembrance Day, remembering all those who have lost their lives in conflict and offering our prayers for peace throughout the world. As part of this special reflection, the children created their own painted poppies, a meaningful symbol of remembrance, gratitude and respect.

These moments have given us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of remembering others, showing kindness and looking after one another. Through our prayers, reflections and creative work, we continue to live out our school values, remembering that even the smallest acts of love, compassion and understanding can make a difference.











ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

St. Maximilian Kolbe

⚡ Year 6 Get to Grips with Electricity! ⚡

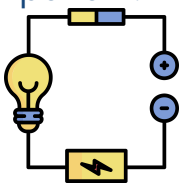
Year 6 have started their new Science unit on Electricity, building on their learning from Year 4.

The children enjoyed creating simple electrical circuits using bulbs, buzzers and motors. They explored how to add switches to their series circuits and learnt how to use the correct scientific symbols to draw and represent each component.

A fantastic start to their new topic

Well done, Year 6! 👏





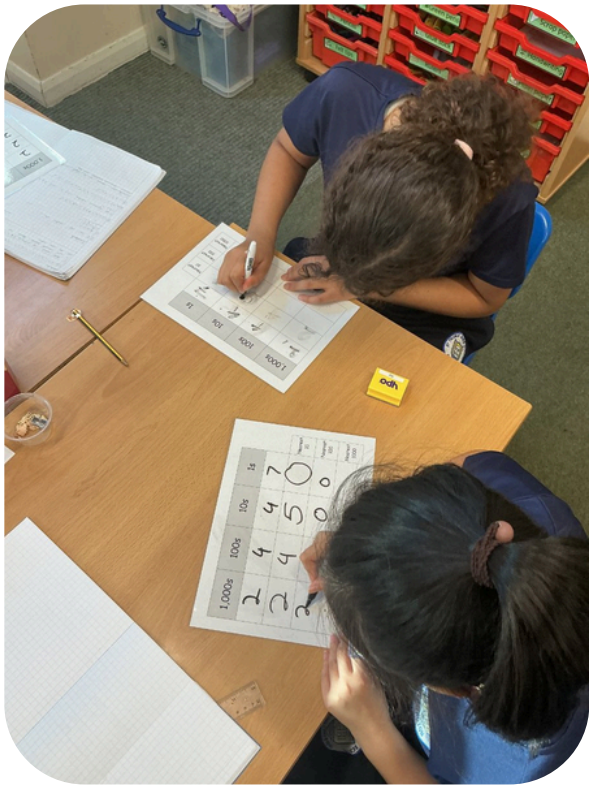
Year 4 – Rounding Numbers: Thinking Like Mathematicians!

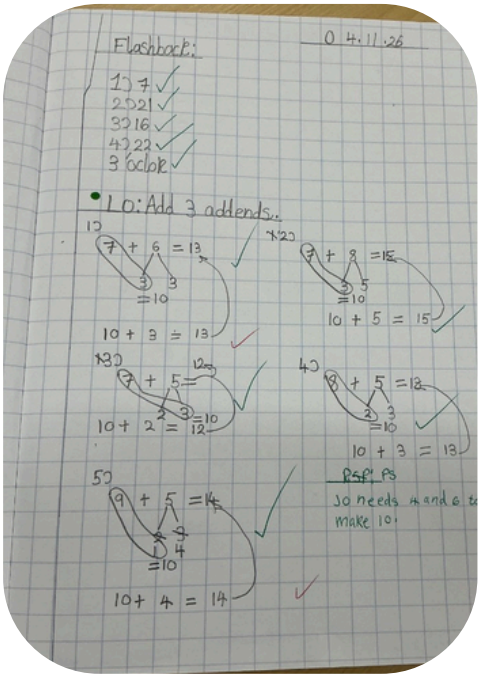
In MathsYear 4 have been developing their understanding of rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000.

The children worked brilliantly, using mathematical vocabulary and stem sentences to explain their thinking and justify their answers. Through lots of paired activities, they shared their methods, explained their reasoning and discussed how they arrived at their answers.

It was wonderful to see such fantastic teamwork, confidence and enthusiasm, with the children supporting one another and sharing their mathematical ideas.

Well done, Year 4! What fantastic mathematical thinking! 🌟





Bridging Through Ten!

In Year 2, the children have been developing their addition skills by learning how to add two numbers that bridge through ten. They used their knowledge of number bonds to ten to help them work out calculations, recognising how to partition numbers to make adding easier. Using counters and ten frames, the children explored practical ways to represent their calculations and build confidence in their mathematical thinking.

Well done, Year 2! 🌟

St Charbel

ST THOMAS MORE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Celebrating Diwali Through Dance

A Whole School Bollywood Workshop!

The whole school was lucky enough to take part in a fantastic Indian Dance Workshop as part of our learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights!

The children had a wonderful time meeting our dance teacher and learning a range of Bollywood dance moves, using their hands, feet and bodies to express themselves through movement.

As part of the workshop, we explored the connection between Indian culture, music and dance, discovering how Bollywood dancing brings together a wonderful mix of different dance styles from across India and beyond. We also learnt more about Diwali, an important festival celebrated by millions of people around the world, which symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Every class had the opportunity to get involved, learn new moves and put them together into a dance routine. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, confidence and energy, and it was lovely to see everyone joining in and giving it their best.

A huge thank you to our dance teacher for sharing their knowledge, energy and passion with us. What a wonderful way to celebrate and learn more about Diwali!











HAPPY DIWALI

ST THOMAS MORE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

🎭✨ Matilda the Musical – A Day Full of Magic, Music and Mischief! ✨🦎

What an absolutely wonderful day! Today, the children had the exciting opportunity to step into the magical world of Matilda the Musical, and what an unforgettable experience it was! 🌟
From the spectacular singing and incredible dancing to the fantastic costumes, larger-than-life characters and magical moments, the children were completely captivated. There were smiles, laughter and plenty of excitement as we watched Roald Dahl's much-loved story come to life on stage.
Thankfully, there were no Miss Trunchbulls lurking in the corridors, no visits to the Chokey and nobody needed to put their telekinetic powers to the test!
Beyond the wonderful performance, we were particularly proud of the way our children conducted themselves throughout the trip. They were an absolute credit to our school, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, impeccable manners and enthusiasm from beginning to end. It was lovely to see them enjoying such a special experience together and creating memories that we hope they will treasure for years to come. ❤️

A very special thank you to Mrs Knight, Mrs Cutyar and Miss Travers for accompanying the children and giving up their time to make this trip possible. Your support, care and enthusiasm helped make the day so special, and we are incredibly grateful.

At our school, we love making sure our children have opportunities to experience the world beyond the classroom. Experiences like these bring learning to life, inspire creativity, build confidence and, most importantly, create wonderful memories. We are already looking forward to planning more exciting theatre trips and opportunities for our children in the New Year, so watch this space! 🎭✨





As Matilda reminds us, sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty… but our children were nothing short of AMAZING!
A truly magical day filled with music, laughter, excitement and memories to last a lifetime! 🌟❤️



TIME TO CELEBRATE....

WINNING HOUSE

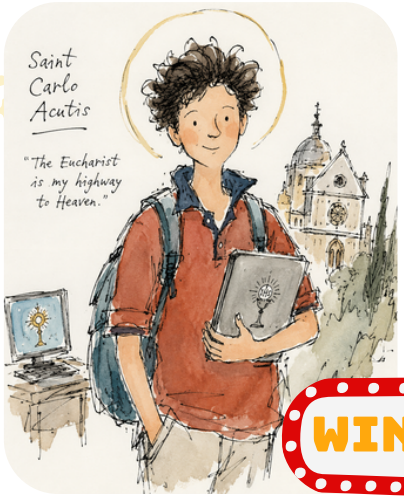
LOURDES

KNOCK

FATIMA

MEDJUGORJE

ATTENDANCE AWARD



WINNER

CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS- MIHAI AND NATHAN

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA-MIRYAM & ALEX

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX- MARGOT & ANDRES

ST. OSCAR ROMERO- NYARADZO & ELLA

ST. CHARBEL-JASMINE & JONATHAN

ST. CARLO ACUTIS- BORYS & IMAN

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-JACK & GABRIEL

⭐ Reception Admissions – September 2027 Now Open! ⭐

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, it's time to apply for their Reception place!

📅 **Key Dates: Applications open: Now**

Closing date: 15 January 2027

National Offer Day: 16 April 2027

Please remember that parents/carers must submit applications directly through Oxfordshire County Council.

Please ensure you apply by the deadline!

IMPORTANT!

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DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

November	
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
Monday 23rd	Visit from Callum Miller MP For Parliamnet week
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
Friday 8th	Fire and Rescue Safety Assembly and Road Safety: Y5 and 6
Monday 18th	Parents evening for The Ark, Trinity and St Nicholas
Wednesday 20th	Parents evening for The Ark, Trinity and St Nicholas