# ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

**‘Do all that you do with Love’**

**Friday 13th November 2026**

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,
Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who attended our Parents’ Evenings this week. These meetings provide an important opportunity to discuss your child’s attainment, celebrate their achievements and identify the next steps in their learning. The partnership between home and school is invaluable, and we greatly appreciate your continued support.
This week, we also came together for a very special Remembrance Assembly, where we reflected on the importance of remembering those who have lost their lives through war and conflict, and the sacrifices made by so many for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. We were privileged to have Daniel Pye play The Last Post, which was a beautiful and moving tribute. Daniel should be incredibly proud of himself. All children, from Reception through to Year 6, observed a two-minute silence with such respect and reverence. I was extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves and the maturity they demonstrated.
We also held anti-bullying workshops for children from Reception to Year 6. The children listened carefully, engaged positively and shared some very thoughtful reflections. It is so important that all our children understand what bullying is, recognise the impact that unkind words and actions can have on others, and feel confident in speaking to a trusted adult if they have any concerns. Our school rules, Be Kind, Be Ready, Be Safe, underpin everything we do, and these workshops provided another valuable opportunity to reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and looking after one another.
Looking ahead, we have an incredibly busy and exciting term ahead of us! Our Year 4 and 5 children will soon be heading off on their residential adventure to the Isle of Wight, and we have Nativity performances, Carol Services, our Christmas Fair and many other wonderful celebrations to look forward to.
So many of these special events are made possible through the generosity and dedication of our school community, particularly the Friends of St Thomas More (our PTFA). I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents and carers who have recently signed up to support the PTFA. Your time, enthusiasm and willingness to help make such a difference to the opportunities and experiences we can provide for our children. We are very grateful.
As always, our school motto, “Do all that you do with Love,” reminds us of the importance of working together as a caring and supportive school family.
I wish you all a peaceful and restful weekend.

Every Blessing
Julieann

A Prayer for Remembrance

Heavenly Father,
We remember all those who have lost their lives through war and conflict, and those who have sacrificed so much for our peace and freedom.
We pray for those who continue to suffer because of war, and for families who have lost loved ones.
Help us to be peacemakers in our world, showing kindness, love and forgiveness to others.
May those who have died rest in Your eternal peace, and may we never forget their sacrifice.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

# CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

## A Time to Remember, A Call to Peace

On Wednesday, we came together as a school family in the hall for a two-minute silence to remember all those who have lost their lives in war. Daniel played the Last Post, creating a moving moment of prayer, reflection and peace as we honoured those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Throughout November, we have been reflecting on how we are all part of God's one global family, exploring the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and the Common Good.

Solidarity reminds us that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, called to love, care for and support one another. We remember that this love extends beyond those around us, reaching across countries, communities and generations. Through our prayers for those who have died and those affected by conflict, we remember that we are all united in God's love.

The Common Good reminds us of our responsibility to help create a world where everyone is valued, respected and able to live in peace. By wearing our poppies, supporting the Poppy Appeal, showing kindness to others and praying for communities affected by war, our children are learning that we can all play a part in bringing hope and peace to the world.

As we remember those who have sacrificed so much, we are reminded of Jesus' call to love our neighbour and become peacemakers in our everyday lives.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children grow into compassionate, thoughtful and faith-filled citizens who live out our school mission.








### Remembering the Holy Souls

Our Year 6 children have written beautiful prayers for those who have lost their lives in war. Alongside their carefully decorated prayer pebbles, these are displayed in our school entrance, providing a special space for reflection and prayer.

In the Catholic Church, November is dedicated to the Holy Souls, when we remember and pray for all those who have died and gone to eternal life. Throughout the month, we have been saying the Eternal Rest prayer together in our classrooms, remembering our loved ones and entrusting them to God's loving care.



# ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

## St Nicholas



### Little Builders at Work! 🏗️

Our EYFS children became busy builders, using their creativity, imagination and problem-solving skills to construct some fantastic tall structures! They carefully selected and balanced the larger blocks, thinking about how to make their buildings strong, stable and tall without them toppling over. There was lots of teamwork, concentration and excitement as they experimented, adapted their designs and proudly admired their wonderful creations. What fantastic little builders!

## St Josephine Bakhita



### Year 3 explored representing numbers up to 1,000!

Using just six counters, the children became number detectives, experimenting with hundreds, tens and ones to discover how many different numbers they could make. Lots of fantastic mathematical thinking and problem-solving! 🌟

## St Carlos Acutis

### Year 5 Step Back in Time – Victorian Classroom Experience!

Year 5 travelled back in time for a fascinating Victorian classroom workshop, discovering what life was really like for pupils during the Victorian era!

The children experienced a very different style of education, taking part in arithmetic lessons, practising their handwriting using traditional ink pots and dip pens, and learning about the strict rules and expectations Victorian schoolchildren had to follow.

There were drills to master, plenty of discipline and a real taste of just how formal school life used to be!

It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their History learning to life, immerse themselves in the past and appreciate just how much education has changed over the years.

We think the children were very pleased to return to the classrooms of today! 😄

Well done, Year 5, for embracing the challenge and stepping into the shoes of Victorian schoolchildren!





## St Oscar Romero

### 🧪 Year 4 Get Hands-On with Oobleck!

In Science, Year 4 continued exploring states of matter by making their very own Oobleck! The children investigated this fascinating non-Newtonian fluid, discovering how it can behave like both a solid and a liquid depending on how it is handled. There were plenty of exciting experiments, curious questions and some wonderfully messy discoveries along the way!





# ST THOMAS MORE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## Anti-Bullying Week 2026

## Kind Words, Kind Hands & Kind Voice, Kind Words

Our pupils took part in engaging anti-bullying workshops exploring the importance of kindness, respect and positive communication.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a workshop entitled 'Kind Words, Kind Hands', reminding us all of the importance of being kind to others, both through the words we use and the way we treat one another. Older pupils also took part in an interactive workshop focusing on 'Kind Voice, Kind Words', using drama and activities to explore how we can make a positive difference.

As we mark Anti-Bullying Week, we will continue these important conversations in our RHE lessons, exploring what bullying is, how it affects others and what we can all do to prevent it.










This year's theme is 'The Power of Good Communication-Break the Silence'. It reminds us how important it is to speak up, listen to one another and support anyone who may be experiencing bullying. At school, we encourage all our children to follow our motto:

**Be Kind, Be Ready, Be Safe**

showing kindness through our words and actions, being ready to listen and help others, and keeping ourselves and others safe

https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

# TIME TO CELEBRATE....

## WINNING HOUSE





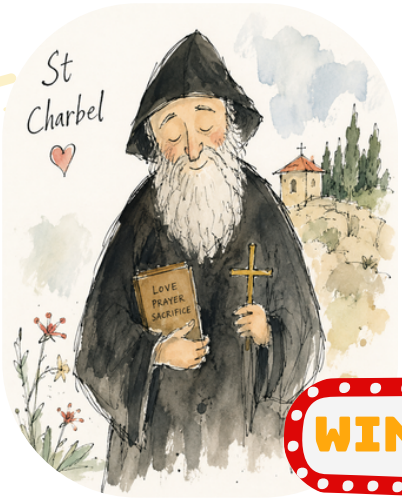








## ATTENDANCE AWARD




## CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS-

ST. [illegible] DAKHITA-

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX-

ST. OSCAR ROMERO-

ST. CHARBEL-

ST. CARLO ACUTIS-

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-

**Certificate Presentation Postponed Until Next Week**

## ⭐ 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 make sure you apply before the deadline, as late applications may mean you miss out on your first-choice school.**

IMPORTANT!

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# DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

| November | |
|---|---|
| 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 Parliament week |
| Wednesday 25th | Year 1 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 |
| Wednesday 16th | Christmas Dinner and Christmas Hat competition<br>KS2 Carol Sevice 15:30-16:30 at St Thomas More Church |
| Wednesday 16th | Christmas Dinner in school<br>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 |