ST. THOMAS MORE NEWSLETTER

‘Do all that you do with Love’

Friday 20h November 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MRS EXLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful donations you have already sent in for our Christmas tombola, we are truly grateful for your generosity! To help us gather a few more prizes, we will be holding a couple of additional non-uniform days soon (dates to follow). A special thank you goes to **Tiffany Nails** for their very generous donation. If you know of any other local businesses that might be able to donate a prize, we would greatly appreciate their support.

Our Christmas Fair will take place straight after school on Friday 11th December. All classes are currently busy rehearsing a Christmas song to provide you with some wonderful festive entertainment! Please keep an eye on next week’s newsletter for the exact performance times for each class.
We wish our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils the very best of luck as they head off on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight this Monday. We look forward to hearing all about their exciting adventures when they return!

As we enter a very busy time in the school calendar, we are looking forward to preparing for Advent and celebrating the birth of Jesus together. We also recognise that this time of year can bring extra financial pressure for some families. If you are struggling financially, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office. Any information you share will be treated in the strictest confidence, and we will do our very best to support you
Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend.

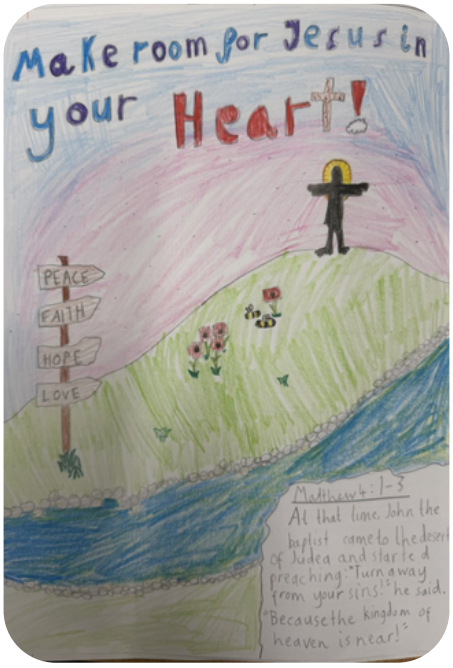
Every Blessing
Julieann

Lord Jesus Christ,
You strengthened St. Francis Xavier Can Nguyen to serve Your Church with courage as a faithful catechist and witness to the Gospel.
Through his intercession, grant us a steadfast heart that never wavers in times of trial. Help us to profess our faith boldly in word and deed, to forgive those who oppose us, and to remain loyal to You until the end of our lives.
St. Francis Xavier Can Nguyen, pray for us.
Amen.

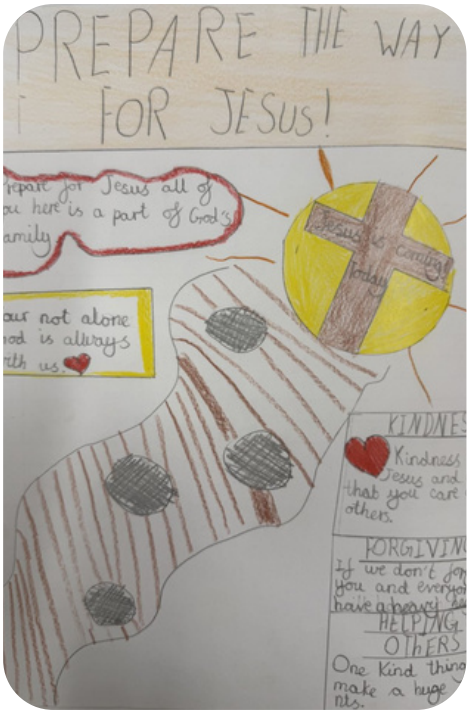
CATHOLIC LIFE

LiveSimply Award
CAFOD The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Preparing Our Hearts for Jesus ❤️



In Year 4 RE, we explored the prophets Elijah and John the Baptist and how they shared God's message. We learnt how John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus, encouraging them to change their ways and seek forgiveness.
The children created wonderful posters showing how we can follow Jesus through kindness, helping others and making good choices. ❤️



Parish Mass – Growing Together in Faith 🙏

Our children had a very special opportunity to come together in faith on Thursday as pupils from Years 3, 4 and 6 attended Parish Mass.
We could not have been prouder of the way they represented our school. Every child listened attentively, prayed thoughtfully and participated so beautifully throughout the celebration.
During the reflection on today's Gospel reading, Father invited the children to consider how they can hear God in their everyday lives. The children shared some wonderful and thoughtful responses, suggesting that we can hear God through prayer, by showing kindness to others and by reading the Bible.
As a Catholic school, coming together in prayer and worship with our parish community is a very special part of our school life. These opportunities allow us to deepen our faith, strengthen our sense of belonging and live out our Catholic values.
A special well done to our Year 6 altar servers, who carried out their responsibilities with such reverence and confidence.
We are incredibly proud of all the children. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school, truly living out our motto:

'Do all that you do with Love.'

ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

St Nicholas

🐾 A Special Visit from the Guide Dogs! 🐾

Today we had a very special visit from two wonderful guide dogs, Velvet and Florence! The children were fascinated to learn how guide dogs are trained and how they support people who are blind or have a visual impairment, helping them to navigate the world safely and independently. We had lots of fantastic questions and discovered just how clever, caring and hardworking these amazing dogs are. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Velvet and Florence and learning all about the important jobs they do.

Ask your child tonight what they learnt about guide dogs and see how much they can tell you! 🐾💛

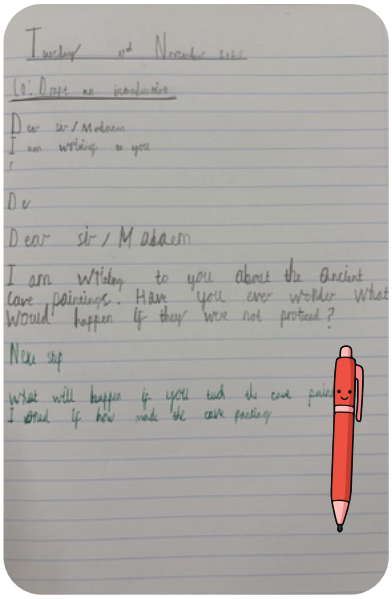






St Josephine Bakhita

Persuasive Letter Writing



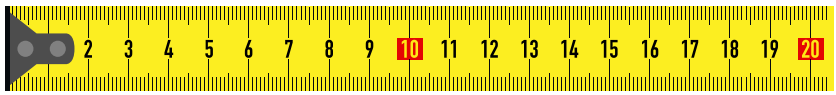
In Year 3, we began writing persuasive letters to help protect the cave paintings that feature in our focus reading text. We focused on writing a formal greeting and introduction, carefully choosing persuasive language and maintaining a formal tone to make our arguments clear and convincing.

The Trinity

How Tall Are We? Measuring Fun! 📏



We had lots of fun taking turns drawing around each other to create life-size outlines! We then worked together to measure how tall we were, comparing our heights and discovering who was taller or shorter. It was a fantastic hands-on activity, helping us develop our measuring skills while learning more about each other!



Noah's Ark

A Fun-Filled Day of Learning and Play!

What a busy and exciting day we have had! We enjoyed lots of fun activities, including counting inspired by our story, solving penguin puzzles, getting creative with role play and building towers through stacking.

There were plenty of opportunities to explore, learn, develop our number skills and, most importantly, have lots of fun! 🐧❄️

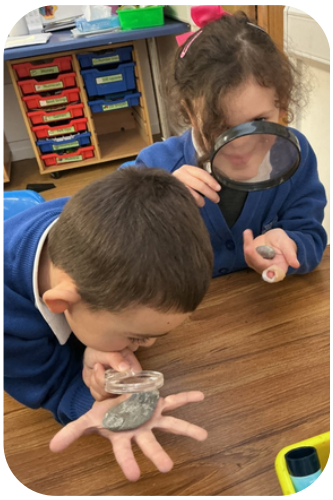


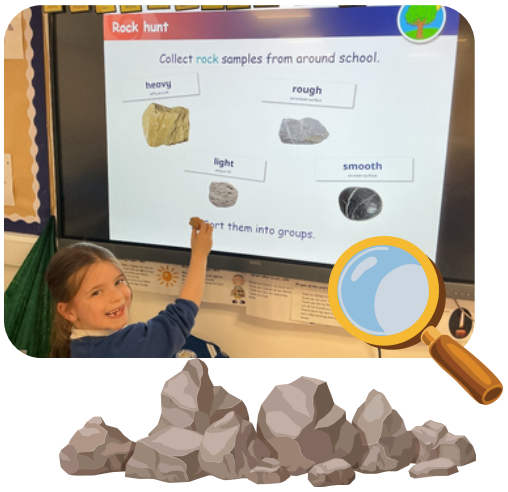
ST THOMAS MORE IN ACTION!

St Therese of Lisieux

Rock Detectives!

In Year 1 Science, we explored different rocks as part of our learning about materials. Using our new scientific vocabulary and microscope skills, we investigated and classified rocks by their colours, textures, sizes and properties. We discovered rocks that were smooth, rough, hard, soft, shiny, dull, heavy and light. We were especially excited to spot some sparkly rocks! 🔎🪨



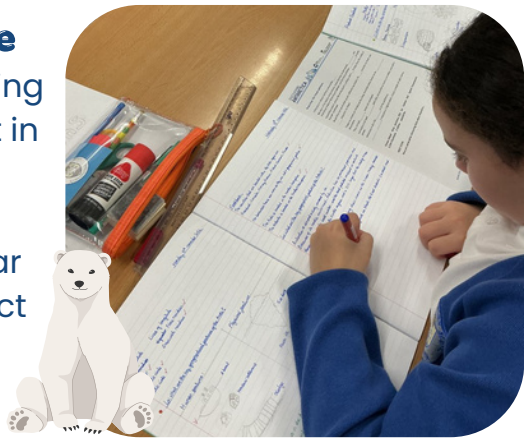


St Maximilian Kolbe

Discovering Antarctica and the Impact of Climate Change

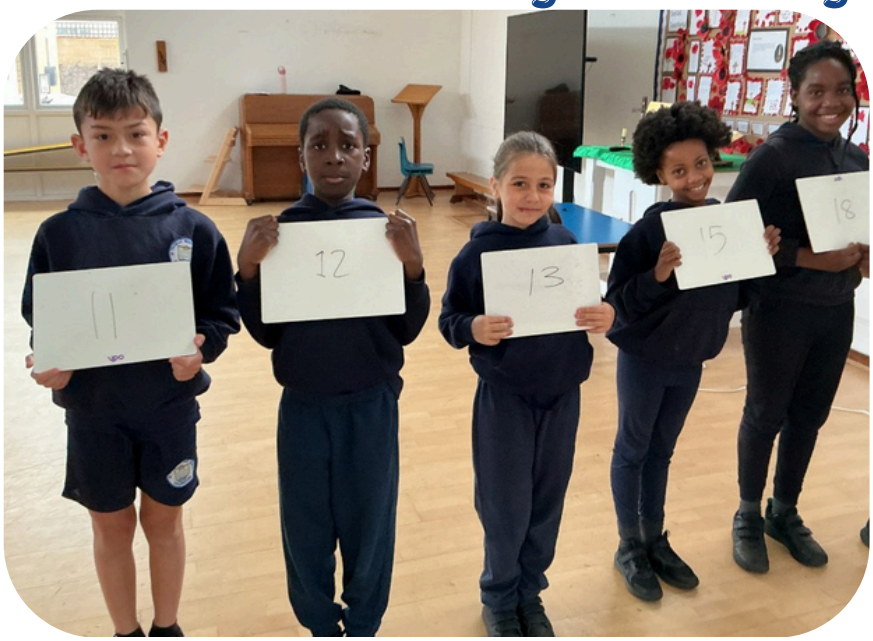
In Geography, Year 6 have been exploring Antarctica and learning more about this fascinating polar region. The children took part in a Polar Live Lesson with Steve Backshall, making notes and creating mind maps to capture their learning.

We have been exploring the impact of climate change on polar regions and considering our Big Question: Is it too late to protect our biomes?



St Carlos Acutis

➖Making Sense of Negative Numbers➖!





Year 5 continued their learning about negative numbers, exploring how numbers can be positioned above and below zero. They investigated real-life situations where negative numbers are important, including reading temperatures on a fridge-freezer gauge.

To bring their learning to life, each child was allocated a number between -25 and 25. With Borys taking centre stage as zero, the children worked together silently to organise themselves into the correct order, from the lowest to the highest number!

The photographs show our fantastic human number line in action. A fun and practical way to put their mathematical understanding to the test!

ST THOMAS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM !





Year 1's Wonderful Visit to Kidlington Library!

Year 1 had a fantastic time visiting Kidlington Library, where they enjoyed exploring the wonderful selection of books, sharing stories with their friends and discovering new and exciting reads. It was lovely to see the children browsing the shelves, chatting about their favourite books and developing their enthusiasm for reading. There were plenty of smiles, curiosity and excitement as they immersed themselves in the world of books!

We were particularly proud to receive a special mention from both members of the public and the library staff, who commented on the children's exceptional behaviour throughout the visit. What a wonderful reflection of our school and the values we promote every day!

A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to accompany us. Trips like these simply wouldn't be possible without your support, and we are incredibly grateful for your help in making these experiences possible for the children.

Well done, Year 1! You were fantastic ambassadors for our school, showing kindness, respect and enthusiasm throughout. Remember,

"Do all that you do with Love." ❤️













BREAKING THE SILENCE ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

As part of our Anti-Bullying Week activities, the children have been busy designing and creating their own colourful posters to spread the important message of kindness, friendship, respect and standing up for one another.

They have thought carefully about the impact bullying can have and how we can all play our part in making sure everyone feels safe, happy, valued and included. Their posters share positive messages about speaking out, supporting others and remembering that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

We linked our work to our Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity and the Common Good, reflecting on the importance of looking after one another and standing together as a school community.

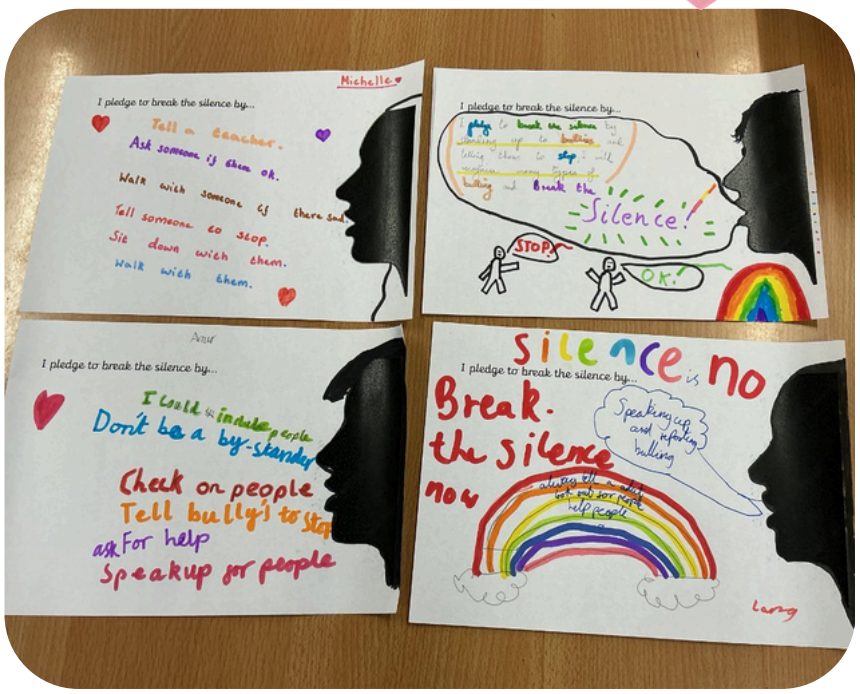
Above all, we were reminded of our school motto, 'Do all that you do with love'. By treating everyone with kindness, compassion and respect, we can help create a school where everyone belongs and where bullying has no place.





Together, let's break the silence and make kindness count!





TIME TO CELEBRATE....

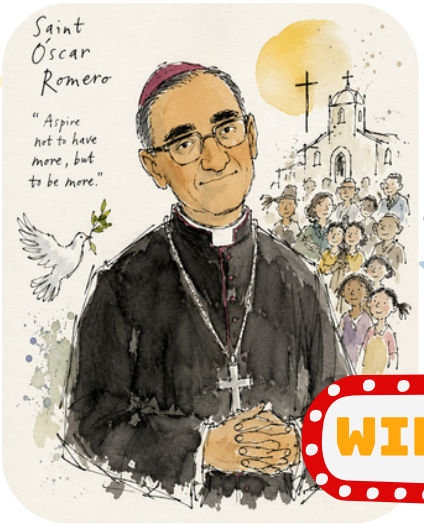
WINNING HOUSE

LOURDES

KNOCK

FATIMA

ATTENDANCE AWARD



WINNER

CERTIFICATES

ST. NICHOLAS- OLIVER GM & TADHG

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA-KAYAN & DHAVID

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX- ENZO & ETHAN

ST. OSCAR ROMERO- NANCY & THOMAS R

ST. CHARBEL- ANTONELLA & SHALINA

ST. CARLO ACUTIS- SEBBY & IFECHUKWU

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE-ADONA & SOSUKE

⭐ 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 WINTER TERM



November

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 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 Re-opens 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