Year 1/2 Newsletter
Autumn 1 2026
Mars Class
Jupiter Class
Neptune Class

Ensuring success

Providing opportunity

Fostering stewardship



Welcome to Key Stage 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. Although it may already seem like it was ages ago, we hope you all had an enjoyable summer break with your family and friends.

We are so proud of how the children have started this academic year and settled into their new classes, adapting well to new classrooms, new staff, new friends and routines. We are also impressed with how they have been entering school so independently in the mornings.

This newsletter will hopefully provide you with some key information about KS1 but please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff should you have further questions.

<u>KS1 Topics/Themes - Autumn term 2026</u>



Dinosaur Detectives



Snap, Crackle, Pop!



In the Toy Box



We will send home curriculum information topic flyers and knowledge organisers for each topic so that you are informed of your child's learning.

<u>Important dates for your diary</u>

Not many confirmed dates as yet but we will keep you informed as things arise…

Meet the KS1 team - Weds 9 Sep 3.30pm Hall

HALF TERM HOLIDAY - 26 Oct - 30 Oct

Flu nasal immunisation - 12 Nov

KS1 Nativity - Mon 14 Dec

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - 21 Dec - 1 Jan

The children are looking very smart in their uniforms, thank you. Just a few reminders …

<u>Earrings</u>

Staff cannot remove children's earrings for PE lessons, so if your child cannot remove their own earrings, please ensure they are not worn on PE days (see opposite). In the case of newly pierced ears, the earrings will need to be covered by tape for 6 weeks please.

<u>Hair accessories</u>

A reminder that hair accessories should be simple and plain and reflect the school colours, i.e. navy or white.

<u>KS1 PE days/information</u>

In order for us to maximise available teaching time, on PE days, KS1 children will wear their PE kits into school. This can be their navy PE shorts and white t-shirt, or in the colder months, this will be plain navy-blue jogging bottoms/ leggings and plain navy-blue sweatshirt. Trainers or plimsolls for footwear please. PE days are Wednesdays and Fridays.





If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering in school, to hear readers or play maths games please speak to a member of staff - we would love to hear from you!

<u>Need to speak to a member of staff?</u>

Our teaching assistants are on the playground every morning to take short messages, but if you wish to speak to a class teacher, then please contact us either by catching us in person, using the ClassDojo messaging facility, sending an email to the school office or calling the school office. If your message is about absence, it is important that the office are informed — you may of course inform your class teacher too.



In our first Newsletter we thought parents may appreciate some information about home learning tasks and expectations in KS1.

Reading



By the end of this week your child should bring home their home reading book (colour sticker), a phonics book (labelled phonics) and home reading log. In the home reading log, we would like you to record each time you read or share books with your child. Please take time to look on the back of the reading log as there is some very useful information and questions based on some reading dog characters. Ensuring that your child understands, can retell and talk about the book is as important as being able to read the words. Fluency when reading aloud is also a key requirement of reading at KS1, so it is recommended that adults also read to children to demonstrate this and allow them to read books several times to improve their fluency.

We encourage you to read with your child as frequently as you can. It makes a huge difference to their confidence and success in reading and in other subjects. Our school readership award scheme encourages your child to read and share books at home on at least three days of the week. Don't forgot to record when you read together in their reading log.

Book changing days are twice a week, your class teacher will let you know when. Each week we will use the reading log to determine how many days your child has read or shared books, and each class records the percentage of children that have read at least three times that week. Each half term the class that has the highest number of children reading each week receives a Cosy Read treat!



Key Words - reading and spelling (also included in back of reading log)

Any children who needs to learn to read and/or spell the keywords for their year group, will be sent these home to learn and practise. Please spend a little time every week helping your child to learn these words. If you need any ideas on how to do this please see your child's class teacher. Key words will be checked fortnightly.



Maths Number Fact Fluency and Quickfire



Being able to quickly recall mental number facts is a key skill to master in KS1. In Year 1 and Year 2, the children work their way through two schemes - Number Fact Fluency and then KS1 Quickfire. Year 2 children should have a Fact Fluency/Quickfire pack already and we will send out Year 1's packs after the half term.
Children will be tested on these usually fortnightly. You can find out more by looking on the school website -
https://st-thomas-mores-catholic-primary-school.secure-primarysite.net/ks1-number-fact-fluency/

Learning and Enquiry Topic Flyer/Homework

For all topics we will send out a flyer which shares with you the learning that your child will be undertaking across a half term and also explaining our Learning and Enquiry homework tasks. Many of the tasks will allow your child (and you!) to be as creative as possible.
All homework will be proudly displayed in our classrooms.

Religious Education



Our RE topics for the first half of the Autumn term are as follows …

Exploring our school Vision statement - Creation and Covenant

Along with the rest of the school, we will be attending Mass for the New School Year and Harvest festival.





There are lots of way to keep in contact with what is happening in school… Our Class Story pages on our Class Dojo accounts will keep you up to date with daily and weekly goings on. If you have not yet linked with your child's Class Dojo account, please speak to a member of staff.



If you need information about topics, homework etc, visit our page on the school website -
https://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk/year-1-2-mars-jupiter-neptune/