



Our vision is that everyone will leave our school feeling they have achieved more than they ever thought possible, and they will make a difference to the world by serving God by helping others.

Dates for the Diary

- Thurs 19 Mar Jupiter Liturgy, parents invited 1.45pm
- Thurs 19 Mar Neptune Liturgy, parents invited 2.10pm
- Fri 20 Mar Red Nose Day – wear a red accessory with your uniform
- Fri 20 Mar Year 1&2 Time Machine dress up day
- Mon 23 Mar Lenten Reconciliation for KS2 1.30pm
- Tue 24 Mar Palm Sunday Liturgy, Year R parents invited 2.30pm
- Wed 25 Mar Last Supper Mass (Mars class), Mars parents invited 10am
- Wed 25 Mar Year 6 SATS Meeting at 5.30pm, at School
- Wed 25 Mar Lenten Liturgy, Aquila & Orion parents invited 2.30pm
- Thurs 26 Mar Lenten Liturgy, parents of Phoenix class invited, 1.30pm
- Thurs 26 Mar Lenten Liturgy, parents of Delphinus class invited, 2pm
- Thurs 26 Mar Garden of Gethsemane, Columba parents invited, 2.30pm
- Fri 27 Mar Crucifixion, parents of Lyra class invited, 9.30am
- Sat 28 Mar Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt begins
- Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays
- Wed 15 April Nethercott Farm Meeting at 5.30pm for parents
- Sat 25 April Community Colour Run Event
- Fri 8 May Friends of STMS Adults' Quiz Night
- Mon 18 May Class and Year 6 Photographs
- Mon 15 June INSET Day for School and Pre-School
- Sat 20 June School Summer Fair

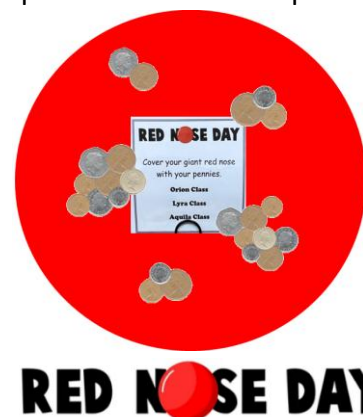
Attendance

Phoenix	98.0%
Delphinus	97.1%
Orion	97.0%
Jupiter	96.6%
Lyra	95.8%
Mars	95.5%
Pre-School	95.4%
Aquila	93.9%
Neptune	93.3%
Columba	93.3%
Angelfish	93.2%
Jellyfish	91.7%

Save your Pennies!!!

Remember on Friday 20th March we are asking the children to bring in any loose change for Red Nose Day.

Wear a red accessory and bring in loose change to cover the giant red noses in the "outer space" area outside Apollo.



To enhance the spiritual life of the school community, our Spiritual Leaders will be sharing scripture which is personal to them and our school.

My name is Freya. I am the spiritual leader in Neptune. My favourite scripture is when Jesus healed the little girl. I like it because it made her family happy again. "The little girl got up at once and began to walk."

(Mark 5:42)



“Colour Run” – Booking Now Open!!

If you wish to take part, please ask at the office or email adminoffice@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk.

There are several run time slots to choose from and before every run is a safety briefing which must be attended.

Spaces are limited and are charged at £4 per person, cash or card can be taken at the school office. If you don't usually visit the school office, please call or email adminoffice@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk for assistance.

If your child is over 6yrs and is running the course, we would advise that an adult signs up to run with them, but it is your responsibility to decide if you wish to or not.

Be advised, we cannot provide personal chaperones for them. The marshals situated on the course are to ensure safety and maintain their station position.

Groups/time slots are as follows:

PINK Group (under 6yr olds with supervising adult) 10.15am safety brief, running 10.30-10.45am

YELLOW Group (adults and children) - 11am safety brief, running 11.15-11.30am

BLUE Group (adults and children) - 11.45am safety brief, running 12.00-12.15pm

PURPLE Group (adults and children) - 12.30pm safety brief, running 12.45-1pm

GREEN Group (adults and children) - 1.15pm safety brief, running 1.30-1.45pm

WHITE Group (adults and children) - 2pm safety brief, running 2.15-2.30pm

Just a reminder that all children will need to attend this event with a responsible adult, children will not be allowed entry to school premises without their adult.

As with the Summer Fair and Christmas Fair, parents remain responsible for their own children at all times and please remember to bring an asthma inhaler if needed as the school building will be closed on this day.

**ST THOMAS MORE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**COLOUR
FUN RUN**

**Obstacle course with
added messy colour!!
Family fun - run together
Everyone receives a medal
Refreshments too!**

SAT 25 APR
Slots available from 10 - 2
Pre-booking essential

**£4 per entry - 50p spectators
Book your slot with
the school office
Exclusive slots for younger
participants**



Giant Easter Egg Raffle – Tickets on sale NOW!!!

As of Monday 9th March, you will be able to purchase your raffle tickets for our giant chocolate Easter Egg.

To give you an idea of size, the egg measures
35cm high and 25cm wide.

Tickets will be sold from the school office or Tommy's Childcare at £1 per ticket.
Card payments can be accepted for purchases over £2 from the school office only.

Tickets can be sold to staff, parents and families of St Thomas More's and outside.

Draw will take place on Friday 27 March. Winner wins the egg!!



Red Nose Day – Friday 20 March

Children and staff are welcome to come to school wearing a red accessory along with their uniform - for example... a red ... nose, headband, hair accessory, boppers, wristband, hat, belt, even socks and ties.

(Socks and ties are the only exception to uniform clothing)

For Red Nose Day, we are asking for monetary donations but as there will CAFOD collection buckets on the front playgrounds on this day, we have decided to collect the money a different way.

In what was the school IT suite, now called Outer Space, we will be placing four huge 4 red noses (4 round tables covered in red table cloths) for the children to bring in coins to try and cover the surface of the noses.

There will be a huge red nose (table) for each phase... who will complete theirs first?

For Year 1&2 children, please read the email sent to you regarding Time Machine Event which is on this day also.

RED NOSE DAY

Year 1 & 2 Time Machine Day – Friday 20 March

To celebrate the end of our new history focussed topic, 'The Time Machine', we thought it would be fun to invite the children to come to school for the day dressed in clothes and fashion that were typical of a decade within living memory OR maybe even what they think might be fashionable in the future!

On Friday 20 March, which is also Red Nose Day, KS1 children may wear something red or bring a Red Nose in to wear with their chosen Time Machine dress up. Alternatively, they are able to just wear their Time Machine outfit or their school uniform.

An email was sent out on 26th February which explains this event in more detail.



Catholic Schools attend Saint Carlo Acutis Relics Mass at St John's Cathedral

On Thursday, 12th March, all Catholic schools in the Portsmouth Diocese were invited to join in a very special mass of a visitation of Saint Carlo Acutis' relics. We were reminded of this inspiring young Saint who was a firm believer in living saints. STMS was especially blessed as one of our own pupils was able to carry up one of two of Saint Carlo Acutis relics for mass. Another of our own, was able to altar serve this service as well! Saint Carlo's particular closeness with our school is proved by this personal experience.

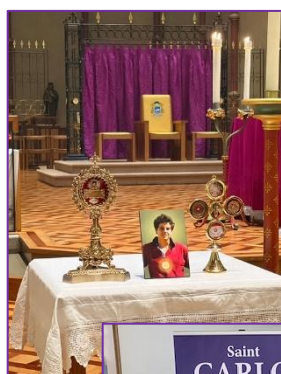
Saint Carlo Acutis was born in London in 1991 and later grew up in Milano. He loved computers and used his skills to help others learn about faith. He created a website that showed different miracles from around the world. From a young age, Carlo went to mass regularly and loved receiving Holy Communion. Carlo once said that, "The Eucharist is his highway to heaven." Carlo also cared deeply about others. He helped the poor, defended children who were bullied at school and tried to live like Jesus by showing kindness every day.

Sadly, Carlo became very ill and died in 2006, when he was only 15 years old. Many Catholics believe he lived a holy life even though he was very young. In 2020, the Catholic Church declared Carlo Blessed and then in 2025, he was declared a Saint. Today many people look up to Carlo as a role model because he showed that you can follow Jesus, go to mass, pray and still enjoy modern things like computers and technology.

Saint Carlo Acutis is very inspiring to everyone out there, especially our young ones - we are all called to be Saints. Our children can lead a life like him, close to Jesus, kind to other, show acts of goodness, all while still having the fun that children deserve!

Official prayer for the intercession of Saint Carlo Acutis

"O God, our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo, a model of life for young people and a message of love for all. You made him fall in love with your son Jesus, making of the Eucharist his 'highway to heaven'. You gave him Mary as a beloved Mother, and you made him, through the Rosary, a singer of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us. Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted. Grant STMS too, through his intercession, the strength and guidance we need. And make our joy full, raising Carlo among the saints of your Church, so that his smile shines again for us and to the glory of your name."





Faith Corner



Chapel News

As we enter into the season of Lent, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross to commemorate Jesus' passion and death on the cross through art, prayers and reflections.

Please join Ms Cryer in the chapel Mon-Wed 8:15-8:40. All families are welcome. This is an inspiring opportunity for parents to accompany their children for prayer and preparation.

If you are joining, please meet Ms Cryer at the infant playground gate 8:10 and she will walk you into the chapel.

Please be assured in our praying for all school intentions.



Teach me to pray

This week, we were so pleased to welcome new children, our group really is growing. We have moved onto the Sorrowful Mysteries and meditated on Agony in the Garden. The children offered prayer intentions:

Rupert- my mummy and all her hard work

Fletcher- poor and the sick

Freya C- mummy

Freya H- nanny

Jax- God's creature's and pets

Tiggy- Mrs Tyler and also my dad

Eliza- teachers

Missy- those who have passed away

Grandparents Association pray for all STMS children and an increase in faith



Teach me to Pray is a beautiful opportunity to bridge our older and younger children to grow spiritually, share wisdom and pray together as one community. Through the Rosary, Scripture reflection, and shared intentions, we hope to nurture our faith and pass on the rich traditions of our Catholic faith to the next generation.



All children from year R to 6 are welcome to join. We will meet on Mondays at 2:45 in the chapel and children will return to class before the end of day for normal end of day collection.

If you would like your child to join Teach me to Pray, please let your teacher know or message them on dojo. All children who join will receive a rosary which has been blessed by Papa Leo.



Aquila Faith in Action – The Big Lent Walk

This year, Aquila Class will be supporting CAFOD for the Big Lent walk, for their contribution to our School's Faith In Action Incentive. It's a national campaign which is working to stamp out hunger one step at a time. This campaign is called **Walk Against Hunger**.

Children from Aquila class will each take a turn holding donation buckets in the playground to collect donations throughout the Lenten period. If your child wishes to bring their donation into school, they can hand it to the teacher or school office.



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

To read more about the campaign you can look at CAFOD here:

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/about>



Tommy's Childcare

Breakfast club Sessions:

7:45am - 8:45am £5.00

8:00am – 8:45am £4.00

Afterschool Club Sessions:

3:15pm - 4:30pm £6.00

3:15pm - 5:45pm £11.00

3:15pm - 6:00pm £12.00

For bookings, cancellations and queries, please contact tommys@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk.

In emergencies call:
07719 920 572

Sessions need to be booked in advance.

No last-minute bookings on a Thursday.

Donations Needed

To assist with our Colour Run Obstacle Course, we are looking for the following items. If you are able to gift the following, please email or speak to the school office to arrange delivery/collection...

X4 Scaffold Boards

Windbreaks (we need approx 4 so every donation helps)

Blow up paddling pool (approx. 2m x 1.5m)

Football goal, net not needed (approx. 6ft x 4ft)

St Thomas More's Pre-School

Hooks Lane, Bedhampton, Havant PO9 3DR

Tel: 02392 475 909

Email: psadmin@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk

St Thomas More's Pre-school is a teacher led pre-school situated in the grounds of St Thomas More's School

Childcare is available from 7.45am to 6pm (term time only)

PLACES AVAILABLE



Sports Young Leaders

On Friday afternoon, some of our Year 5 children began their training as Young Leaders. Working alongside CM Sports coaches, they learned a range of games and activities that they will be able to lead with younger pupils across the school.

The children worked hard to think about how each game could be adapted and made sure they had a clear understanding of the rules so they can confidently support others.

We look forward to continuing their training over the coming weeks and supporting them as they take on their leadership roles and help run sporting activities and events throughout the school.



This week's free guide from National Online Safety explores how viral trends and violent content on social media can influence young people's safety, wellbeing and behaviour.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glorify gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportharmfulcontent.com.

ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



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See full reference list on our website

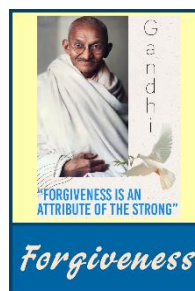
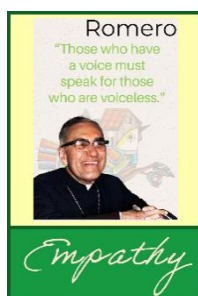
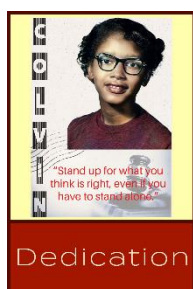
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We have recently updated our School Mission and Vision Statements.

For us, the **Mission** of the School is for the staff and states:

Our mission is to inspire every child by ensuring SUCCESS, providing OPPORTUNITY and fostering STEWARDSHIP within a loving, Catholic community.

The **Vision** is what we want everyone in our school community to strive towards. It states;

Our vision is that everyone will leave our school feeling they have **achieved** more than they ever thought possible, and they will **make a difference** to the world by **serving God by helping others**.

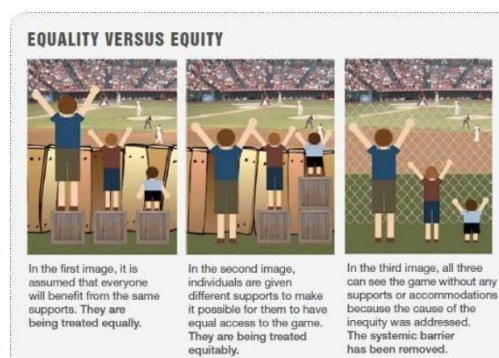
Our values are qualities which we endeavour to show in all we do. They are;

Dedication, **Empathy**, **Forgiveness** and **Generosity**.

Our House Patrons are role models of these values:

Claudette Colvin - Nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, Colvin did the same. She wasn't being rude or selfish (as there was a seat free across the aisle from her), but this was a stand for all humans to be treated with dignity and respect during segregation in 1960s America. Colvin was only 15 when she took her stand against racism, and so she is an excellent role model for our pupils - to be dedicated to what is right, even if it means standing alone.

Oscar Romero - Catholic Social Teaching calls us to give preferential treatment to the poor - not just those who are poor in monetary value, but those who are disadvantaged in any way. Oscar Romero spoke out for the voiceless, which ultimately cost him his life. He serves as a reminder to us to be that voice for those who can't make themselves heard, to empathise with how they may be feeling and take action to put things right. We teach the children that equity is more important than equality.



Mahatma Gandhi - The Indian political ethicist is often quoted as saying "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - a motto which fits so well with the teachings of the Catholic faith. However, Gandhi is our patron for the value of Forgiveness. He said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong." We teach children to forgive, but it is important that they also recognise forgiving shows great strength. It isn't always easy to do, but forgiving is something Christ taught us; therefore, we must strive to do this.

St Therese of Lisieux - St Therese struggled in many ways, something which we all do, but she lived her life doing random acts of kindness for people, calling people to love Jesus. This is something very simple for the children to understand and emulate. We teach the children to be stewards of all that they have been given - their time, their talent, their treasures, and to be generous with all of these things, just like St Therese.