



Dates for the Diary (This Term)

Tue 6 Oct	Open Morning 9.30 – 11.30
Thurs 22 Oct	Open Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 30 Oct	Half Term break
Mon 2 Nov	INSET day
Mon 9 Nov	Open Morning 9.30 – 11.30
Tue 24 Nov	Year R (Autumn born) height/weight
Thurs 12 Nov	Flu Vaccination Day (whole school)
Tue 2 Feb	Year R (Spring born) height/weight
Tue 2 Feb	Year 6 height/weight
Weds 9 Dec	Year R Nativity
Mon 14 Dec	KS1 Nativity 1:30pm



Attendance

Jellyfish	100.0%
Jupiter	98.7%
Mars	98.3%
Delphinus	97.7%
Phoenix	97.3%
Angelfish	96.4%
Lyra	96.0%
Columba	95.0%
Aquila	92.7%
Orion	92.7%
Neptune	90.7%
Pre-School	87.3%

Governor Vacancy

Could you be our new school governor?

The role of governor is a vital one to schools and can be very rewarding. We currently have a vacancy for parent governor on our Board of Governors. There are at least six meetings per year which are currently held on Monday evenings at 17:30.

Induction training is available from Hampshire Governor Services along with further specialised training opportunities. DBS checks will need to be conducted before anyone can join a school Governing body.

If you would like to apply to be our new parent governor, please return an expression of interest to Paul Baker, Chair of Governors via the school office by Friday 2nd October.

Expressions of interest should state why you would like to join the Governing Body, what skills you believe you could bring and confirm that you have a child currently attending our school.

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.





Mr Sendall Says...

Ready. Respectful. Safe.

This year we have reviewed and refined our school rules. They are three simple words to help make them easy to remember, and all positive behaviours can be linked to one of them. The words are READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE.

Children should be ready for their learning; ready to participate.

They should be respectful - towards themselves, others, their school environment, and all that God has created.

And finally, they must always be safe - ensuring that they are making safe choices, and the actions they take are keeping both themselves and others safe.

We have also streamlined the consequences which occur should these rules not be followed. It is hoped that this will help the children develop a clearer understanding of logical and natural consequences to the choices they make.



Financial support

We are very aware of the rising cost of living faced by families, and as a school we do not want to add to that burden. So, as we are setting dates for things, we try to space things out across the year. We are currently putting together a payment plan for parents so that you have the option of spreading the cost throughout the year, should you so wish.

Some parents have mentioned about the donation requests here and there and whether they can make a one-off payment. However, we couldn't find a practical way around that, especially as these things tend to relate to the charities that different classes support throughout the year, or PTFA events which does not go in to the school budget.

If at any point you are finding things particularly difficult financially, please do make contact, particularly with Mrs Webster, as there are sometimes things we can do to support you and your family.

Dates

From the survey which went out before the holidays, one thing which divided opinion was school communications. Some found there were too many, some found them too short notice, and others felt we had got things just right. Reflecting on this, we want to try and give more notice for key events during the school year and so we are putting as many of these key dates together in one document and will share that with you next week. We will also then continue to put key dates in the newsletter for that term.

The downside of this is that when we earmark dates so early, it does mean that things may have to change, but feedback seemed that parents would prefer to have an idea of dates further in advance anyway. Usually, most things go ahead as planned, it is only when there are things beyond our control, that can mean we have to make date changes. We will also add to the year dates calendar as and when events and opportunities are organised and send an updated version at least half termly.

We have scheduled all bar one of the INSET dates for the year, as it is beneficial to have one date to be able to move as the development needs of the school change across the year.

So please do look out next week for our new year dates information.

You will also find key events in the diary on the school website <https://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk/calendar/>.

Mr Sendall



FAQ...

If your child is absent from school

Please call 02392 475909, select option 1 and leave a clear message stating your child's name, class and reason for absence before 9am. This applies to both Pre-School and School children.

Do not send a message to class Dojo, tell the teacher at the door or email the school office.

If your child arrives at school at 8.45am, you are late!

You must escort them to the main office and sign them in at the front desk. They will also need to give their dinner order. Try to arrive onsite at 8.30am so when the doors open at 8.40am your child can go into class without being late.

If your child has an appointment which means they will arrive late into school

You must notify the office by emailing adminoffice@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk (with a photo of the appointment card/letter/text if you can) at least 48hrs before the appointment, if not sooner. You will also need to confirm your child's lunch arrangements by stating which option they wish to choose.

If your child has appointment and will need collecting from school during the day

You must notify the office by emailing adminoffice@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk (with a photo of the appointment card/letter/text if you can) at least 48hrs before the appointment, if not sooner.

You will also need to confirm at what time you will be collecting so we can let the teacher know and have your child ready for collection by you.

If you are taking your child on holiday

Please be honest. Ask at the front office for a holiday form and return completed at least a week before the holiday. Even though you believe the holiday to not be approved, the form is used as a confirmation of absence which gives staff the permission to insert an absence mark into the register without chasing parents for daily absence updates.

If your child needs medicine during the school day

An adult/parent will need to sign the medicine into the front office as they drop off the medicine. Do not put it in your child's bag, do not give it to the teacher. If handing into Tommy's childcare, the team will ask you to complete the paperwork and then they will pass it to the office at 8.30am.

Medicine will not be given by school staff before 12pm, you will need to ensure you give the morning dose at home before they come to school.

If you have a question about scopay, finance, school trip payments, water bottles

Email finance@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk

If you have a question about Tommy's childcare (breakfast and afterschool club)

Email tommys@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk. But if you wish to book or cancel childcare, try to advise at least a week in advance to avoid being charged.

If you have a question about the Pre-school, email psadmin@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk

Any other queries can be sent to adminoffice@st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk or call 02392 475 909.



Faith Corner



Daily Prayer: Monday-Wednesday 8:15-8:40

All families are welcome to join Ms Cryer in the school chapel every Monday-Wednesday. This is an inspiring opportunity for families to gather in Our Lord's name before school starts. We will start this group on Monday, 5th October with rosary for Our Loving Queen of Heaven in her month of Rosary.

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

Please be assured in our praying for all school intentions



Teach me to Pray

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 meet on Mondays at 2:45 in the chapel and children 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.



St Thomas More's Open Days/Evenings

Please find below a list of our upcoming open days and evenings. You are welcome to come anytime between the times listed. There is no need to book, just turn up!

Tuesday 6th October 9:30am-11:30am

Thursday 22nd October 4pm-7pm

Monday 9th November 9:30am-11:30am

Polite Request

Please can we ask that, for safety reasons, children (including siblings) are not riding bikes, scooters and/or balance bikes around the playground at drop off and collection times.

This also applies to collections from after school clubs and Tommy's.



CM Sports Clubs

CM Sports will be running the following clubs this year.

Permission letters will be sent to the appropriate year groups the week before a club is due to start.

	Sport	Start Date	End Date	Year Group
Autumn 1	Tag Rugby	18th September	23rd October	Year 3/4
Autumn 2	Tag Rugby	13th November	18th December	Year 5/6
Spring 1	Basketball	8th January (first Friday after hol)	12th February	Year 5/6
Spring 2	Tennis	26th February (first Friday after hol)	19th March	Year 1/2
Summer 1	Athletics	23rd April	28th May	Year 3/4
Summer 2	Cricket	11th June (first Friday after hol)	16th July	Year 5/6

peep

Learn, play and grow together.



Peep supports parents and carers to make the most of everyday moments, helping your child grow in confidence and get ready for school.

Fun, friendly sessions with songs, stories and simple ideas to try at home.

Peep Stay & Play for 3-4 year olds

Fridays 2, 9 and 16 October, 1:30pm-2:30pm
Best Start Family Hub in Leigh Park Library

FREE, no booking required

Peep Learning Together course Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 November and 2, 9 December 1:30pm-2:30pm
Booking required, available at stay and play sessions.

www.peeple.org.uk/parents-area



Starting school in September 2027

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2027, they can start school in September 2027

Applications open for Hampshire residents on 1 November 2026

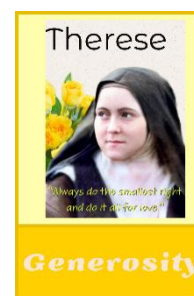
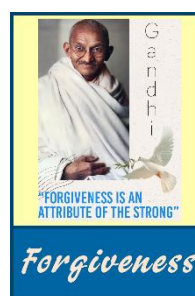
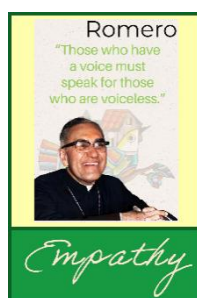
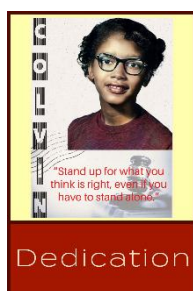
THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027
DON'T MISS IT!



For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions



hants.gov.uk



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**.

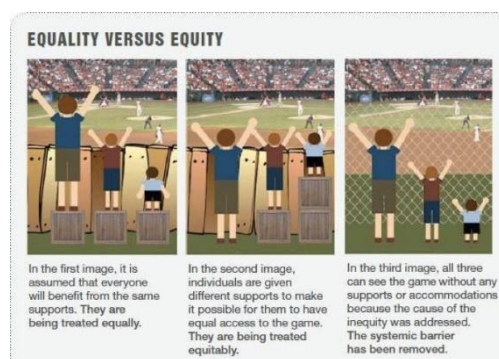
Our values are qualities which we endeavour to show in all we do. They are;

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.