



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 5 Mar	World Book Day – dress as a book character
Mon 9 Mar	Easter Egg Raffle Ticket Sales begin
Tues 10 Mar	Parents' Evening (All classes)
Wed 11 Mar	Parents' Evening (Lyra class only)
Thurs 12 Mar	Parents' Evening (All classes, except Lyra)
Fri 20 Mar	Red Nose Day (info to follow)
Fri 20 Mar	Year 1&2 Time machine dress up day
Wed 25 Mar	Year 6 SATS Meeting at 5.30pm, at School
Sat 28 Mar	Easter Egg scavenger Hunt begins
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

Jupiter	100.0%
Delphinus	97.7%
Phoenix	96.0%
Mars	95.9%
Angelfish	95.5%
Aquila	95.0%
Lyra	94.5%
Neptune	94.3%
Orion	93.7%
Jellyfish	91.7%
Pre-School	90.7%
Columba	90.0%

attendance
MATTERS

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.

Year 6 SATs Meeting

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents about SATs on
Wednesday 25th March at 5.30pm.
Please arrive at the office and a member of the team will
collect you from there.



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 Lwazi. I am the spiritual leader in Jupiter. My favourite scripture is the story of the Wise Men and Epiphany. I like the gifts the kings brought, but it also teaches us to give gifts of kindness and love to others. "They bowed down and worshipped him, and they offered him gifts."
(Matthew 2:11)



Parents' Evening - Booking Appointments

Parent Teacher Meetings will be running on Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March (depending on your child's class). You will be offered a 10-minute appointment with your child's class teacher, face to face. Please book an appointment by accessing your online Scopay account and selecting the option for parents evening. Please only make one booking per child.

Please note for parent meetings' week only, the Year 5/6 Tuesday SPAG Booster session and Thursday Maths Booster session will be cancelled (that's Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th March). In addition, the Tuesday 10th After school KS1 phonics club will not be running.

The booking system will go live on Friday 27th February at 11am and will close on Friday 6th March at 10am. Any problems, with booking appointments can be referred to the office on 02392 475909 before the cut-off date.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Children and staff are invited to dress as their favourite book character on this day. If children would like to bring in a favourite book from home, please do so.

If your child does not want to dress as a book character, they should wear their school uniform.

The school office will be putting out the costume clothes rail, you are most welcome to borrow a costume for the day and then return it after.

Competition Time!! Design an egg for the school's Egg Scavenger Hunt

Friends of St Thomas More's are organising an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt which will be running over the Easter Holidays. In preparation for this, we are offering children the opportunity to design one of the Easter Eggs that we will be placed outside houses for our hunt.

Entry forms can be collected from 2nd March, from the office or Tommy's. Completed entries will need to be handed in by 13 March 2026.

Maps for the actual Egg Scavenger Hunt will go on sale Wednesday 18 March 2026 from the school office or Tommy's, and completed scavenger Hunt forms are due in after Easter and winners will be announced on Friday 17 April 2026.





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.

To read more about the campaign you can look at CAFOD here: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/about>



Year 6 Residential Meeting

If your child is attending the Year 6 Residential in June, there will be a meeting for you to attend on Wednesday 15th April at 5.30pm.

Please arrive at the office and a member of the team will collect you from there.

Tax Free Childcare

Follow the link below to see if you qualify for tax free childcare. This can apply to any parents and be used for any type of childcare, providing the childcare provider is signed up too.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker>



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





Faith Corner



Chapel News

There continues to be daily prayer from **8:15-8:40 Monday to Wednesday** with Ms Cryer. Your family are welcome to come and join us in praying the rosary, special devotions and hymns.

This is an inspiring opportunity for parents to accompany their children for prayer. Please meet Ms Cryer at the infant gate before **8:15am**. Be assured of prayers for our school's intentions.

Teach me to pray

Thank you to our group of children for joining our second meeting. It was lovely to see more children come along and join us. This week we focussed on the Glorious Mysteries and took turns saying prayers. Each child was given a rosary, a prayer book and some crayons to take away.

STMS are warmly inviting children in Year R to Year 6 to a weekly gathering where generations come together in faith, love, and fellowship with the Grandparents Association of St Michael and all Angels.

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.

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.

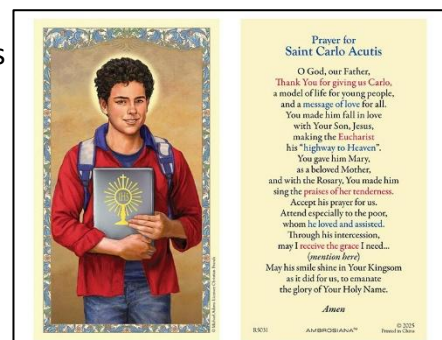
We look forward to praying together and building a stronger faith-filled family community.



What's happening in our Diocese?

The relics of **St Carlo Acutis** will be visiting our beloved Catholic Cathedral of St John's on **Wednesday and Thursday 11th/12th March**. There will be a mass celebrated by **Bishop Philip on Wednesday 11th March at 6:00pm**.

This is an incredible opportunity to foster a tangible connection with St Carlo Acutis and seek intercession as relics act as a reminder of Saint Carlo's life, virtue and closeness to God.





Class PE Days

Children can come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE Day

Year R: Monday

Mars: Wednesday and Friday

Jupiter: Wednesday and Friday

Neptune: Wednesday and Friday

Columba: Tuesday and Friday

Delphinus: Tuesday and Wednesday

Phoenix: Wednesday and Friday

Aquila: Thursday

Lyra: Wednesday

Orion: Thursday



Tub2Pub scheme

Thank you everyone for collecting up your sweet tubs to donate them to this year's Tub2Pub scheme - we collected a fair few this year!!! These tubs will be recycled and the proceeds from recycling goes Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you to Myla, Freya, Winnie and Robyn for helping load them up in the car too!

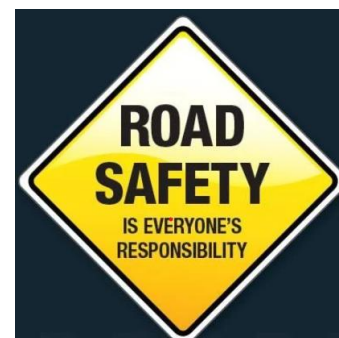


JRSO update and plea

The Junior Road Safety Officers were out on their road safety duty last Friday and many of them were sadly witness to unsafe driving and parking. They saw parents park on or over the yellow lines, park near to the crossing thereby obstructing clear view for the children and parents crossing, park across drives of our neighbours, park on grass verges churning up the grass, drive at unsafe speeds, drive up onto pavements too close to pedestrians and perform three point turns in a busy road.

Our school cannot take responsibility for the sometimes dangerous and irresponsible parking and driving that often is witnessed around our school, however the Junior Road Safety team do want to promote safe parking and driving, and ensure safety for pedestrians. So, the children have asked again that we ask all of our adult drivers to keep everyone safe by –

- Parking considerably and safely
- Driving at reduced speeds in roads near to school
- Not parking over yellow lines
- Not stopping on the yellow zig zags to drop children off
- Avoiding parking on grass verges
- Not parking near to the pedestrian crossing so that it obstructs clear vision



Finally, please remember that our Junior Road Safety Officers are demonstrating stewardship, giving up their time to help others...so if they ask you to consider where you have parked, please respond positively and politely to them.

With World Book Day next week, this week's free guide from National Online Safety contains ten practical, creative strategies to help children rediscover the joy of reading and build lifelong literacy habits.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyino and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

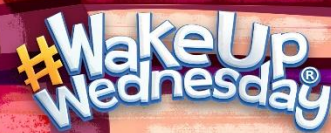
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

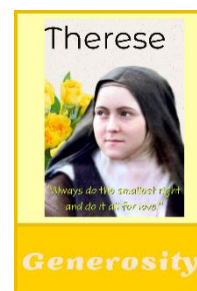
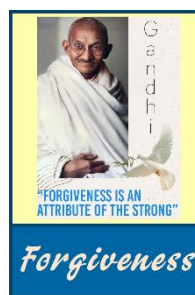
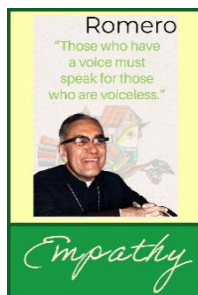
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We have recently updated our School Mission and Vision Statements.

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**.

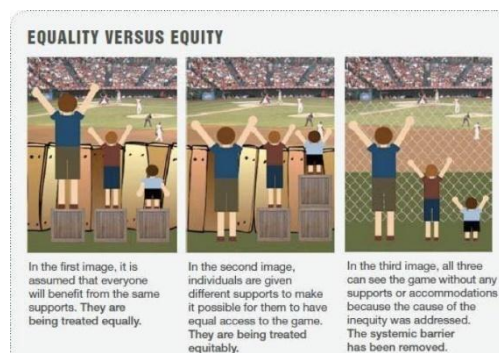
Our values are qualities which we endeavour to show in all we do. They are;

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.