

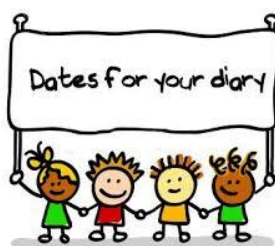


Our vision is that everyone will leave our school feeling they have achieved more than they ever thought possible, and they will make a difference to the world by serving God by helping others.

Dates for the Diary

HALF TERM Monday 16th – Friday 20th February

Thurs 5 Mar	World Book Day
Tues 10 Mar	Parents' Evening
Thurs 12 Mar	Parents' Evening
Fri 20 Mar	Red Nose Day
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

Neptune	98.0%
Orion	97.3%
Jupiter	96.9%
Delphinus	96.5%
Aquila	95.7%
Columba	95.7%
Phoenix	95.3%
Angelfish	95.0%
Lyra	92.3%
Pre-School	91.0%
Jellyfish	90.0%
Mars	89.7%

attendance
MATTERS

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.



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.



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>



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 Raphi. I am the spiritual leader in Aquila class. My favourite scripture is the Good Samaritan. I like it because it teaches us to be kind, empathetic, and fair to everyone, even people who are different from us.

"Love your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27)



School Building Fund

Catholic Schools are only funded 90% by the Government. We are required by law to raise the other 10% of the cost of developing and maintaining the school buildings to pay for building projects.

For those families who do contribute to our school building fund, we thank you for your donations.

For families who have not yet signed up to donate, please ask at the school office for a short form to complete.

The link below will give you more information about the fund:

<https://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk/building-fund/#:~:text=Catholic%20Schools%20are%20only%20funded,th e%20higher%20rate%20of%20tax.>

Sadly only 100 out of our 358 families have signed up so far. When parents choose a Catholic school for their child, they are asked to contribute, however, most do not, meaning that this 10% (around £9,522 each year – approximately £9.20 per pupil, per term) has to come from school funds.

Class PE Days - Changes

Please note there are changes for Year 3/4

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



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**



School Council Update

The School Council have met this week to discuss school clubs. Children from all classes shared suggestions for clubs they would like to see running. Marnie and Alex will be writing to staff to see if they are able to offer support in running these clubs. If any parents or carers would like to share their skills by helping to run a club, with staff support, this would be greatly appreciated.

The School Council have had a successful meeting with Mr Harrison to discuss a better system for using the toilets during lunchtime. This new system will be implemented after the half-term break.

Our Year 5/6 representatives have reported improvements in transitions around the school since this was addressed at our previous meeting. The Year 5/6 School Councillors have also been feeding back when they have observed exemplary behaviour during lining-up times.

Kwabena and Evie have organised a meeting with Mr Sendall to discuss further ideas raised by the School Council.

We continue to encourage your child to share any suggestions with their School Council representative.

INSET Day

Our final INSET Day for Pre-School and School will be on Monday 15 June 2026.

Half Term

Remember it's half term next week, running from Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February.



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)

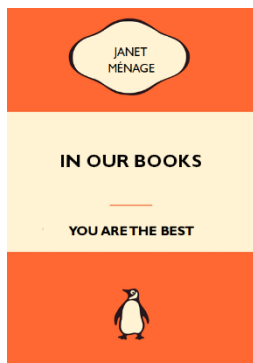
PLACES AVAILABLE





Thank you, Janet!

Sadly, this week, the wonderful Janet Ménage, hung up the STMS library scanner for the last time. She has volunteered for many, many hours over many, many years in our school library, keeping the stock fresh and organised, issuing library cards, helping children and staff choose books and helping our children develop a love of books. We thank you Janet for your generosity and kindness, and please know that you will be missed.



Ash Wednesday mass

On Friday the school celebrated mass together to mark the beginning of the Lenten season, which starts next week. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the 40-day Lenten season, focusing on repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. During the Mass, foreheads were marked with ash crosses.



Ash Wednesday



Come Together To End Domestic Abuse

Coming together across society and communities to **end domestic abuse**

Does your partner:

- isolate you from friends and family?
- deprive you of food or heating?
- monitor your time?
- check up on what you do online?
- take control over aspects of your everyday life, telling you where you can go, who you can see, what you can wear and when you can sleep?
- stop you from getting medical help or support?
- repeatedly put you down, such as saying you're worthless?
- humiliate or degrade you?
- control your money and access to your home?
- make threats or intimidate you?



It can be easy to miss the signs of a coercive, abusive relationship. I didn't know the signs, but I want to make sure that other women do. Please know there is help if you need it.

Mel B, patron of Women's Aid

Support is available at:
www.womensaid.org.uk

You are not alone.

#EndAbuseTogether

women's aid
until women & children are safe

Giant Easter Egg Raffle

The Rotary Club have very kindly gifted Friends of St Thomas More's a giant chocolate Easter egg which we will be raffling in the run up to Easter.

Raffle tickets can be purchased after half term, from the school office & Tommy's childcare.

Raffle tickets cost £1 each and can be purchased with cash and/or card.

The draw will be held at School during assembly on Friday 27th March 2026.



This week's free guide from National Online Safety explores WhatsApp, outlining key features and the main online safety risks parents and educators should be aware of.

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 WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

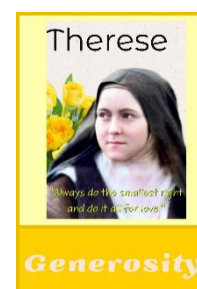
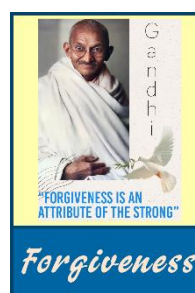
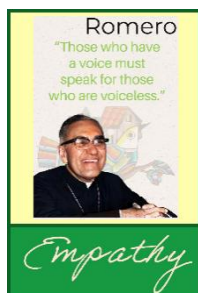
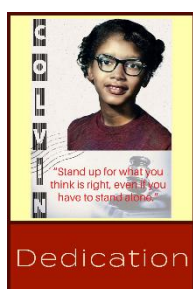
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We have recently updated our School Mission and Vision Statements.

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**.

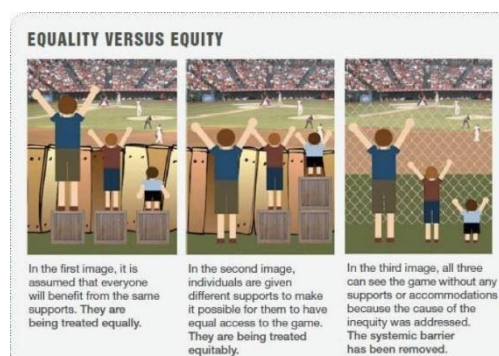
Our values are qualities which we endeavour to show in all we do. They are;

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.