St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School and Pre-School

Newsletter – Friday 19th December 2025

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

Fri 19 Dec	Last day of Autumn term
Mon 5 Jan	INSET Day
Wed 4 Feb	INSET Day
Thurs 5 Feb	INSET Day

Mr Sendall says…

These past few weeks, the children and staff have helped us all to prepare for celebrating Christ's birth, reminding us of the importance of reflection, hope, and preparation.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has worked so hard to support the children this term - all the staff, parents, grandparents and volunteers who give up their time to help in many different ways.

Looking ahead, please remember that we have an INSET day scheduled for Monday 5th January, which will support our continued professional development. School will resume for pupils on Tuesday 6th January - the feast of the Epiphany!

I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas, and may this time be an opportunity to enjoy precious moments with family and recharge for the year ahead.

Tax Credit Checker

Follow the link below to see if you qualify for tax free credits. 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

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 will need to be booked in advance. No last-minute bookings on a Thursday.

Attendance

Orion	95.7%
Aquila	95.4%
Mars	94.8%
Columba	94.3%
Delphinus	93.5%
Jupiter	93.3%
Phoenix	91.6%
Neptune	90.3%
Lyra	90.0%
Jellyfish	89.1%
Angelfish	88.5%
Pre-School	85.7%

attendance MATTERS

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

Luke 9:57. As they went on their way, a man said to Jesus,
I will follow you wherever you go.

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Lyra Class – Faith in Action

For their Faith in action project this month, Lyra class collected donations for a local food bank.

Lyra class would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who donated.

These items have been delivered to the Beacon Foodbank to be shared with families in need.

PE Kits

Please can we remind you that PE kits should be a plain white T-shirt (or one with the school logo on), and navy blue shorts. **Football kits are NOT permitted.**

For outdoor PE, a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms are allowed, and these should preferably be navy blue.

Thank you for your support on this.

Elf Scavenger Winners

Winners of the Elf Scavenger Hunt were:

Zayden J (Pre-school/Year R)
Freddie R (Year 1/2)
Edith J (Yr3/4)
Noah R (Yr 5/6)

End of Autumn term Pupil winners

Well done to all of our children on a successful Autumn term, but special congratulations go to the following children who were selected as Pupils of the Term…

Penelope L
Tymone Z
Max T
Isabel A
Ashton W
Donald R
Paige W
Riann M
Isabelle F
David A
James W

Chapel News

There continues to be daily prayer in our chapel from **8:15-8:40 Monday to Wednesday** with Miss 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

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Support For Families

Particularly at this time of year, supporting your family can be challenging. Connnect4communities run events to support us all in these times, and as well as running free holiday clubs for pupils eligible for Free School Meals, they also run information events. The next ones coming up are about getting help with energy bills and the cost of living and will be held at local libraries.

At any time during the year, if you could use some additional support, please reach out to us. There may be things we can do to help. Seeking support during difficult times is part of being a good parent and providing the best for your family, so please use our Family Help Button on the website to get in touch. All support is confidential.

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Jesus Prince of Peace Parish

Mass Schedule as of Saturday 6th September

Day	Time	Church
Saturday	12:00pm	St Michael's
Saturday Vigil	5:00pm	St Thomas'
	6:00pm	St Colman's
	6:15pm	Sacred Heart
Sunday	9:00am	St Thomas'
	9:00am	St Edmund's
	9:30am	St Colman's
	9:30am	St Michael's
	11:00am	Sacred Heart
	11:00am	*St Patrick's (From 5th October)
	11:00am	St Joseph's
	11:30am	St Paul's
	1:00pm	St Joseph's (Polish)
	4:00pm	Queen Alexandra Hospital
	5:30pm	Sacred Heart
Monday	7:00am	Sacred Heart
	1230pm	Queen Alexandra Hospital
Tuesday	9am	St Colman's
	6:30pm	St Edmund's
Wednesday	9:30am	St Joseph's
	10:15am	St Michael's
	10:30am	St Patrick's
	12:00pm	Sacred Heart
Thursday	10:00am	St Thomas'
	10:00am	St Edmund's
	10:30am	St Patrick's
Friday	9:30am	St Joseph's
	10:30am	St Patrick's
	12:00pm	Sacred Heart
	6:30pm	St Colman's
	7.30pm	St Joseph's (Polish)

Class PE Days

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:	Wednesday and Friday
Delphinus:	Tuesday and Friday
Phoenix:	Tuesday and Wednesday
Aquila:	Thursday
Lyra:	Wednesday

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School Lunches from January 2026

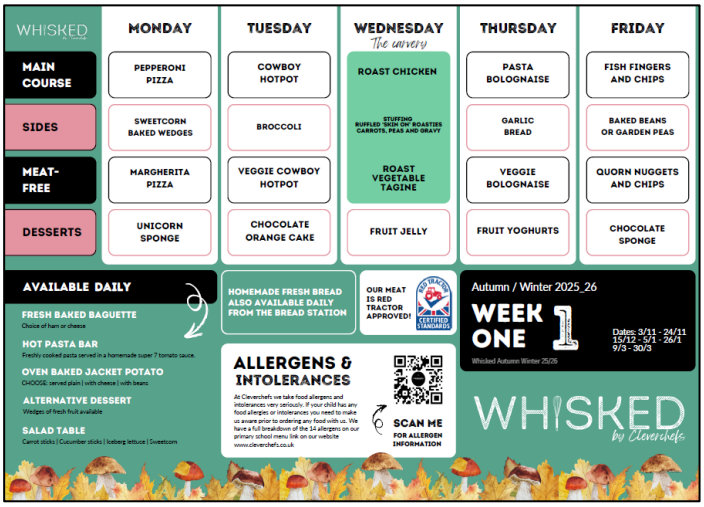
As of January we will be using our new catering company, Cleverchefs. Please see below the 3 weekly menus to use as of Tuesday 6th January 2026 - these have also been emailed to you today.

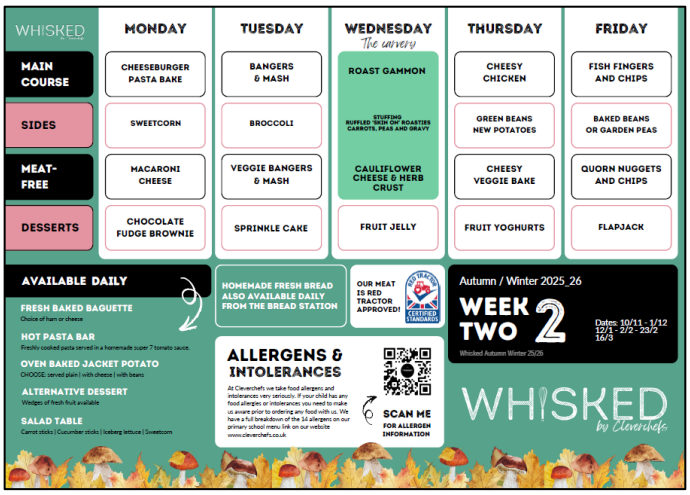
There will be five choices for the children to choose from (ordered in school during registration time) and billing will remain the same on Scopay.

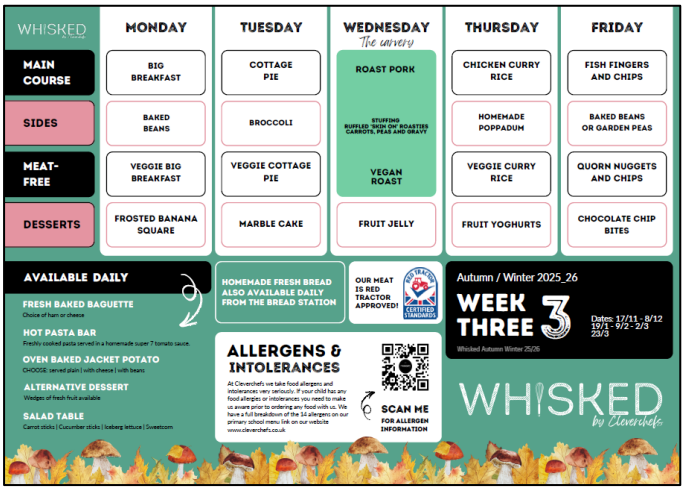
RED - Meat Option
GREEN - Vegetarian Option
WHITE - Baguette
YELLOW - Jacket Potato
BLUE - Pasta

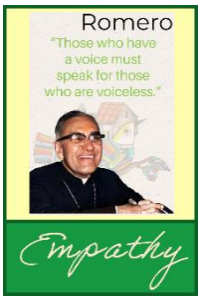
If your child has a special dietary menu, you would have applied for this through the Cleverchefs link sent to you last week, so they will email this to you over the next few days.

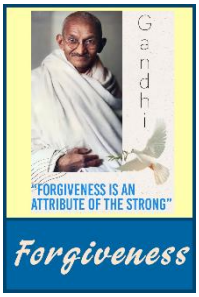
School will also have a copy so if you don't receive it, please do ask at the school office.











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;

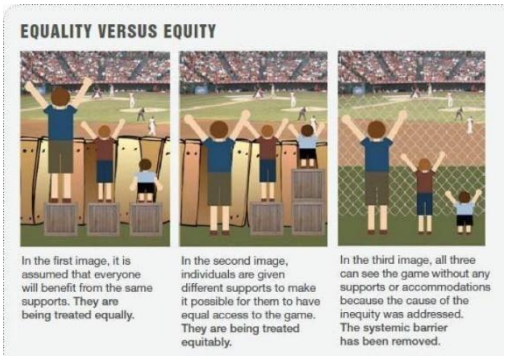
Our vision is that everyone will leave our school feeling they have **achieved** more than they ever thought possible, and they will **make a difference** to the world by **serving God by helping others**.

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.