



St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy

2023/24 Newsletter – Issue 29

Week Commencing – 29 April 2024

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School uniform deadline reminder

As per the letter sent out on Dojo, a reminder that the deadline for ordering school uniform from Logo Leisurewear for school delivery is

16 June 2024.

The last guaranteed date for Online Orders for home delivery or collection is **31 July 2024.**

Y4 Residential to Kingswood Information

Please find information about what students should bring to the Y4 Residential within this newsletter

After School Clubs Cancellations

A reminder that all after school clubs are cancelled next Thursday (9 May) due to whole school Safeguarding training. This also includes Mrs Ash and Mrs North's after school clubs.

Fun Facts about Penguins!



Some male penguins give females rocks as presents. They use these gifts to build their nests!

A group of penguins is called a Waddle. Penguins cannot fly, but they can jump up to 2m high out of the water and on to ice or land!

Important Dates:

Monday 6 May 2024

Bank Holiday – School Closed

Friday 17 May 2024

Y1 Walk to Library @ Parson Cross

Monday 20 May 2024

Y5 Sports Summit @ EIS Sheffield

Please arrive at school by 8:30am

Monday 20 May – Wednesday 22 May 2024

Y4 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture)

Friday 24 May 2024

Inset Day – School Closed

Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024

Half Term – School Closed

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Y3 Derby County Football @ Derby County Training

Please arrive at school by 8am

Wednesday 12 June 2024

Y6 Rounders @ Yewlands

Tuesday 18 June 2024

Y5 Water Polo @ Graves Places for People

Please arrive at school by 8:20am

Monday 24 June – Wednesday 26 June 2024

Y6 Residential to Whitby

Thursday 27 June 2024

Y2 Trip to William's Den

Friday 28 June 2024

Y5 Netball District @ EIS Sheffield

Tuesday 9 July 2024

Y2 Walk to Library @ Parson Cross

Tuesday 9 July 2024

Y4 trip to Padley Pilgrimage

Thursday 11 July 2024

Y2/Y6 EIS Sports Day @ EIS Sheffield

Please arrive at school by 8:20am

Tuesday 16 July 2024

Y5 Tag Rugby @ Mount St Mary's

Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you."

At St Thomas More our Mission is to love and to become the wonderful person God created us to be



Whole School Information



We ask that parents/carers please remind their children not to ride bikes, scooters, etc on school grounds. These guidelines are in place to help keep all members of our school community safe.

The space is particularly limited while we are all using the small footpath due to the building work onsite and children riding their bikes or scooters on the paths is a significant problem.

Earlier this week a child ran into, an adults ankles due to riding their scooter on the footpath.

The children must push their bikes/scooters up and down the footpath, between the gate and the bike shed, when arriving and leaving school.

Thank you for your help and support, we appreciate your cooperation with this issue.

School Finish Time

Can we remind families that school finishes at 3:20pm and children should be collected at this time.

During COVID, to reduce the volume of people on site we gave a 10-minute pick up window to 3:30pm, but this ended some time ago.

Families should aim to collect children at 3:20pm.

Children who have not been collected by 3:25pm will be taken back into school and placed in after school club and charged accordingly, until a parent/carer arrives.



After School Club Information

The club has the children participating in different and fun activities each day. The club is split into three different sessions which are listed below:

Bookings can be made via [Parent Mail](#) up until **3pm the previous day**. After this time bookings can be made by contacting the school office. For the parents whose children attend after school club, please don't hesitate to get in touch and leave any feedback!

15:20 - 16:15	The children will take part in a different activity until it is time to be collected (£3)
15:20—17:00	The children will take part in a different activity and will be given a choice of either a hot or cold food followed by a snack such as fruit or a sweet treat. (£6)
15:20—18:00	The children will take part in a different activity and will be given a choice of either a hot or cold food followed by a snack such as fruit or a sweet treat before either starting a new activity or carrying on with the previous one. (£8)

Please note: **NO After School Club on Thursday 9 May 24 and Wednesday 5 June 24**





What we've been up to in After School Club!





Whole School Information



After School Club Information



STM MONDAY SPORTS ACTIVITIES 3.20PM - 4.15PM

FROM FOOTBALL TO BASKETBALL
& EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Mondays

Every Monday 3.20pm - 4.15pm we will be doing a sport activity at the ASC.

We are hoping to get onto the field in the warmer weather.

We have a range of activities planned we try to take into consider what the children would like to do.



STM WEDNESDAY NATURE GARDEN 3.20PM - 4.15PM

PLANTING, GROWING, BUG HOUSE MAKING & MORE.

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday at the ASC we will be in the nature garden, weeding, planting, making bug houses and more.

Please bring wellies on this day.

We have some waterproofs if needed already in school.

Every week we will be maintaining the nature garden, weeding, planting, making bughouses and more.



STM FRIDAY DISCO 3.20PM - 4.15PM

*Enjoy musical games, dancing,
popcorn, fruit & juice.*

Fridays

Friday Disco 3.20pm - 4.15pm

Popcorn, fruit & juice.

Enjoy musical games, dancing & more!



Y4 Residential Information – What to Pack

ATTENTION Y4 PARENTS!

Please read the following information with regard to your child's upcoming visit to Kingswood on 20-22nd May 2024.

Below is a list of things that we would like you to pack:

- Toiletries (no Aerosols)
- Old warm clothes for activity sessions - long-sleeved t-shirts/shirts, long trousers and closed toe shoes. Bring plenty.
- Waterproof clothing (jacket, wellies and trousers if possible)
- Large Plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Disco Clothes/Party Outfit
- A bath towel
- Gloves, hat and scarf
- Sunglasses, sun cream and hat (dependent on weather forecast)
- Pyjamas and slippers or indoor shoes
- A named water bottle
- A book or other quiet activity
- A torch
- Money for snacks or souvenirs from the shop (£5-10 is plenty)

Below is a list of things that your children must not bring:

- Electronic devices and mobile phones
- Too many sweets and treats – 2 packets maximum.
- Jewellery

Any jewellery, watches or valuables that children bring to school on the morning we leave, will be left in school. Please come and speak with me if you are concerned about piercings.

Thanks in advance,

Mrs Butterworth



Ordering School Uniform



April 2024

Dear School

Summer Ordering School Uniform

In order for us to offer a high level of service, we ask that any orders required for school delivery before the summer break are received online by **16th of June 2024** for GUARANTEED delivery to School. We will try to fulfil any orders received after this date as far as is reasonably possible.

Orders placed after 16th of June 2023:

We still accept orders after this date! We will aim to deliver these orders to school before the summer break, where reasonably possible. All Our Schools are set up for Online Ordering.

The last guaranteed date for Online Orders for home delivery or collection from our premises is 31st July.

We will try to process what we can after that date to cover late places etc. Please see our QR code to access online shop or go to www.logoleisurewear.com/product-category/schools/schools-st-thomas-more-primary/



We can arrange a delivery into school during the summer break by prior arrangement. Please email team@logoleisurewear.com to set this up.

We ask that parents are made aware of the time scales, to allow them time to place their orders in sufficient time. This will also allow for any exchanges to be made if wrong colour or size is ordered. Orders can take up to 3 weeks during peak season.

Yours Faithfully
Annette McSherry

Logo Leisurewear Limited
team@logoleisurewear.com



Our Chicks in F2!

Children in F2 have enjoyed watching the eggs hatch and seeing the chicks grow day by day! So much language has been used and so much new vocabulary has been learnt.

Welcome to the world baby chicks!





A Culture of Safeguarding at St Thomas More

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.



Parent & Carer Coffee Morning in Sheffield



PARENT & CARER COFFEE MORNING

PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND FOR ADULTHOOD

Guest Speaker:
Nigel Beatson
from the
DWP



Friday 17th May



**Sharrow Community Forum, The Old Junior School,
South View Road, Sheffield, S7 1DB**



10am - 12noon



Scan our QR Code to register your attendance or
visit the **Sheffield SEND Facebook Group** for
further information.



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities who's preparing for adulthood?

Join other parents and carers in a similar situation at **Sharrow Community Forum on Friday 17th May from 10:00am-12:00pm** for a Parent & Carer Coffee Morning.

We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker, **Nigel Beatson, Disability Employment Advisor Lead** for the **DWP**. Nigel will be on hand to answer offer advice and answer questions.

If you would like to attend, please register your attendance for free at the link below.
[SEND: Post-16 Parent/Carer Coffee Morning Tickets, Fri 17 May 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Please direct any questions regarding the event to maria.swift@sheffield.gov.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to **Sharrow Community Forum** on Friday 17th May!



Free Wellbeing Course for Parents

FREE WELLBEING COURSE FOR PARENTS

**ONLINE ON WEDNESDAYS 6.30–7.30PM
STARTING 8TH MAY**

A free six-week course for a happier and more relaxed you.

Join us to explore;

- Emotional Self-care – Emotional self-care allows us to take time for the benefit of our health and well-being.
- Thinking about putting your own needs first - building your resilience.
- Being more assertive and setting boundaries – so that you can communicate better and more effectively at home and work.
- Stress and relaxation techniques – learning new skills for a more relaxed you.
- Build resilience and recover from trauma – To move forward in our life.

Come and join us for these relaxed, friendly and supportive sessions!

What previous participants have said about the course:

"This has been a great opportunity for me to think about how I manage stress in my life. I've learnt new strategies and skills to cope better"

"I've really enjoyed being a part of this group, all the other members were great, I learnt a lot from them!"

"I would recommend this course to anyone who wants to think about looking after themselves better, it's been great, particularly in improving my communication skills"

"This course has helped me to say 'No' which has had a big impact on my mental health and wellbeing"

For more information and to book in please contact
Janet Kent on 07927657462 or
email jkent@hallam-diocese.com





Issabelle's Appeal Ball – 8 June 2024

ISSABELLE'S APPEAL BALL 

8th June 2024

at OEC, Penistone Rd, S6 2DE

7pm – late

DANCE / EAT / RAISE MONEY

Tickets: £40 pp

Includes a 3 course meal,
live music, raffle and lots of fun.

{ issabelle's
Appeal }



Join us for the Annual *Issabelle's Appeal Ball* on 8 June 2024!

Please speak to Mrs Futter in the office if you would like a ticket, or contact us on our website here: www.issabellesappeal.co.uk / facebook group: www.facebook.com/issabellesappeal



Celebration Winners

W/e 3 May 2024



F2	Anika	For	Your amazing reading! You have blown us away with your speedy reading and are becoming much more fluent. You are relying less on sounding out and can quickly read words you know, well done Anika! ☺
	Quinn		Concentrating hard and always trying your best! You have shown you are eager to learn and want to be the best you can be. You have been listening so carefully this week and have been determined with all your learning, well done Quinn ☺
Y1	Adrianna	For	Your excellent reading this week! I have noticed you are beginning to read with speed and confidently decode words! Well done.
	Rory		Working incredibly in Maths this week. You showed perseverance when finding the tens and ones in a two- digit number even though you found it tricky at first. Well done.
Y2	Eli	For	Being an incredible attitude in our history lesson this week. You worked brilliantly with your partner and you used sources to help you write lots of great facts about the Crimean War. Well done!
	Ezme		Having a fantastic attitude in lots of your learning this week. You have been making big improvements in your reading and we are really proud of you. Well done!
Y3	April	For	A fantastic start to your extended writing. Your plan met the brief, you worked hard on your draft and had a great lesson editing yesterday. I can't wait to read the final story opener. ☺
	Rosi		Being a fantastic team player! At our tag rugby tournament last week, you shone like a star. You listened to instructions, encouraged others and played out of your skin! You should be so proud. ☺...
Y4	Jake	For	Your brilliant drafting in our English lessons. You have carried out your own research into a topic of your interest and now you are putting together a formal letter for Rishi Sunak! ☺
	Jeremy		The brilliant predictions you've made in our English lessons this week related to our class text. You made suitable predictions and explained these well. You've also been working hard over the last couple of weeks to improve your handwriting and presentation. Keep it up Jeremy ☺
Y5	Oliver	For	Really impressing the Bikeability instructors with your kindness. They loved how you supported your classmates! ☺
	Emmanuella		Having a good attitude to learning and being determined to improve her learning when working with Miss Bridges. Keep up the good work! ☺
Y6	Olivia	For	Your hard work and perseverance this week with your maths. You showed that with effort and determination, you can keep improving your maths knowledge. Well done, Olivia! ☺
	Myles		Your brilliant drafting in our English lessons. You have carried out your own research into a topic of your interest and now you are putting together a formal letter for Rishi Sunak! ☺



Out of School Achievements



Congratulations to Tino F2,
Hugo, Gabi & Bobby Y1,
Faye Y2,
Mathaus Y4 and Emmie Y5
on your out of school
achievements!

"Well done and thank you to Carlos,
Y4 who gave up some of his own
time to cut the grass at Church"



GROWTH MINDSET AWARD WINNER

W/e 3 May 2024



This week's winner is Katie in Y1

You have earned this celebration award for:

Your commitment to your learning this term. We have seen some amazing progress in your reading and writing over the past few weeks. I can see the hard work you have put into your learning. Well done!



Attendance and Punctuality

W/e 3 May 2024



Class	Percentage	Lates
F2	98.6	8
Y1	94.3	1
Y2	98.0	3
Y3	98.3	0
Y4	96.8	1
Y5	92.0	2
Y6	86.7	7
School Total	94.9	22

Wow! Keep it up! F2 will receive an extra playtime for your great attendance and punctuality.

Our whole school attendance target for this academic year (23/24) is
95.5%

N.B. We are currently reviewing all children's attendance and punctuality so far this academic year. If your child's attendance is below 92%, and/or your child has a significant number of lates, then you may receive a letter for your information or be asked to attend a meeting in school to find ways to support you to help improve your child's attendance. Thank you for your support.



100% Attendance and Punctuality!
W/e 3 May 2024

F2	Rheya
Y1	Harry
Y2	Sean
Y3	Fergus
Y4	Finley H
Y5	Shayne
Y6	Kordell





Trips and Events








STM Sporting Events and Competitions 2024






Event	Year	Venue	Date/Time
Sports Summit	Y5	EIS Sheffield	20/05/24 - tbc <i>(please arrive at school by 8:30am)</i>
Derby County Football	Y3	Derby County Training Ground	11/06/24 - 9:30am - 12pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8am)</i>
Rounders	Y6	Yewlands	12/06/24 - 1pm - 3pm
Football District	Y6	Derby Country Training Ground	14/06/24 9:30am - 12pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8am)</i>
Water Polo	Y5	Graves Places for People	18/06/24 9am - 11:30pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8:20am)</i>
Netball District	Y5	EIS Sheffield	28/06/24 9:30am - 12:30pm
EIS Sports Day	Y2/Y6	EIS Sheffield	11/07/24 9:00am - 3pm <i>(please arrive at school by 8:20am)</i>
Tag Rugby	Y5	Mount St Mary's	16/07/2024 - 9:30am - 1pm
Kwik Cricket	Y4	Mount St Mary's	17/07/2024 9:30am - 1pm



Trips and Events








	<u>Y1 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park</u>
	Wednesday 10 July 2024
	8:40am
	<u>Yorkshire Wildlife Park</u>
	Coach
	The cost of the trip is <u>£21.50</u> per child. If we do not receive enough contributions, the trip may have to be cancelled
	<p>Y1 will be going on a trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Wednesday 10 July 2024. The cost of the trip per child is £21.50.</p> <p>Students will need to arrive in school at the earlier time of 8.40am for the coach to leave at 9am and then will need to be picked back up at 2.00pm to arrive back to school for around 3pm.</p> <p>Children will need a water bottle and pack lunch, or will need to order a school packed lunch.</p>






	<u>Y1 Walk to Local Library at Parson Cross</u>
	Friday 17 May 2024
	Normal time
	<u>Parson Cross Library</u>
	Walking
	No payment required
	<p>On Friday 17 May 2024, Y1 will be walking to the Local Library at Parson Cross.</p> <p>Students will be leaving school at 1.15pm to arrive at the Library for 3pm. The children will be able to explore the library and read books, supported by school staff, volunteers and the Librarians.</p> <p>Please let the school office know if you do not want your child to attend.</p>



Trips and Events



	<u>Y2 Walk to Local Library at Parson Cross</u>
	Tuesday 9 July 2024
	Normal time
	<u>Parson Cross Library</u>
	Walking
	No payment required
	<p>On Tuesday 9 July 2024, Y2 will be walking to the Local Library at Parson Cross.</p> <p>Students will be leaving school at 9:45am to arrive at the Library for 10am. The children will be able to explore the library and read books, supported by school staff, volunteers and the Librarians. Students will be back in time for their school lunch.</p> <p>Please let the school office know if you do not want your child to attend.</p>

	<u>Y2 Trip to William's Den</u>
	Thursday 27 June 2024
	Normal time
	<u>William's Den</u>
	Coach
	The cost of the trip is £23.00 per child. If we do not receive enough contributions, the trip may have to be cancelled
	<p>Y2 will be going on a trip to Williams Den on Thursday 27 June 2024. They will be going on a nature walk to support their learning in science and they will also be making use of the amazing playgrounds as a reward for all their hard work this year!</p> <p>The cost for this trip will be £23.00 – which includes the full day at Williams Den and return coach.</p> <p>We will be leaving at 8:45am so we are asking that children are dropped off at school by 8:20am on this day please. Hopefully, the weather will be great so please ensure your children are given sunscreen to apply themselves.</p> <p>Please indicate if you would like your child to have packed lunch provided through school or if they will be bringing one from home.</p>



Trips and Events








	<u>Y4 Trip to Padley Pilgrimage</u>
	Tuesday 9 July 2024
	Normal time
	Padley Pilgrimage
	Coach
	N/A
	<p>Y4 will be going to Padley Pilgrimage on Tuesday 9 July 2024. Students should arrive at school at the normal time. The Coach will leave school at 10am and will arrive at Padley Pilgrimage for 11am.</p> <p>Please ensure students bring a packed lunch with them, for any free school meals packed lunch orders, please contact the office.</p> <p>The trip is free, with cost of the coach kindly covered by the Friends Association.</p>

	<u>Y4 Residential to Kingswood (Peak Venture)</u>
	Monday 20 May 2024 - Wednesday 22 May 2024
	Normal school time, the children leave around lunchtime on Monday.
	<u>Peak Venture Yorkshire Outdoor Education Kingswood</u>
	Coach
	The cost of the trip is <u>£235.00</u> per child
	<p>Exhilarating Adventure Park with apparatus including a zip wire, 3G swing and leap of faith, plus specially designed bush craft sessions and nature walks.</p> <p>Flexible indoor space for all weather activities including fencing and indoor initiatives.</p> <p>Located adjacent to our water sports area, situated on the Scout Dike Reservoir, offering exciting activities including canoeing and raft building.</p> <p>Other facilities: Diner, shop, social hubs, party leader lounges, indoor classroom spaces.</p> <p>Offering each child an opportunity to increase their resilience, grow their confidence and develop their character. Here is a link to the Peak Venture website:</p> <p><u>Peak Venture Yorkshire Outdoor Education Kingswood</u></p>



Trips and Events



	<u>Year 6 Trip to Whitby</u>
	Monday 24 June until Wednesday 26 June 2024
	TBC
	<u>YHA Whitby Abbey Hostel Accommodation Whitby</u>
	Coach
	The total cost of the trip is <u>£180</u> . Once confirmed, please make the deposit of £20 and provide consent on ParentMail .
	<p>We are pleased to announce that we are offering a 2-night residential to this year's class six pupils on Monday 24 June 2024 until Wednesday 26 June 2024. The children will be staying at the Youth Hostel in Whitby next to the Abbey.</p> <p>The stay will include all accommodation, including 3 meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner, and refreshments during the stay. The cost to parents will also include the coach to and from Whitby. The cost for the transport and accommodation including all meals and supervised activities per child is <u>£180</u>.</p> <p>We will be offering an information session for parents to attend in the near future to find out more about the activities the children will be participating in and further information on the YHA Whitby Centre. We will also be giving you information on clothing and footwear the children will need for the trip.</p>

