St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

CHRIST IS THE CENTRE OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY
WHERE WE LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN TOGETHER

Horse Shoes Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3HU

Tel.: 0121 743 3289 Email: enquiry@stthommor.bham.sch.uk

LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN TOGETHER

EXCELLENCE AND FUN…

PRINCIPAL: Mrs K Madia

Dear parents, children and parishioners,

Since returning this week, we have:

- **Year 6 received the Sacrament of Confirmation**



- **Learnt much about caring for our common home in our laudato Si week**
- **Been busy interviewing for new staff to join our brilliant STM family**
- **Year 5 have been to Mass**
- **Prepared our GIFT and Caritas Ambassadors to deliver a presentation for our School of Sanctuary award on Friday**
- **Done lots of pupil voice!**
- **Presented our children with beautiful new books**
- **Presented our children with Saint Thomas More book marks**



- **Conducted an RE learning walk to check on the quality of the lessons**



Commonwealth Games Sports Day

I am delighted to invite you all to attend our Commonwealth Games Sports Day Spectacular that will be taking place on **Monday 4th July for REC and KS1** and on **Thursday 7th July for Y3/Y4 and Y5/6** respectively, all subject to the British summer weather of course.

Parents & Guardians will be invited to seat or stand if you so wish on our artificial grass bank. Younger siblings are also invited but we do ask that they are supervised at all

times for their own safety and for the safety of all taking part and competing at our Commonwealth Games Sports Day.

Further communication will be sent out nearer the time reminding the children as to the School House that they belong to and therefore the respective colour that they will need to wear on their allocated Sports Day **(Please see timetable below indicating your child's/children's respective Sports Day.)**

Commonwealth Games Sports Day Timetable

Day	Year Groups	Welcome from Time
Monday 4th July	Rec	9:10
Monday 4th July	Y1/Y2	1:10
Thursday 7th July	Y3/Y4	9:10
Thursday 7th July	Y5/Y6	1:10

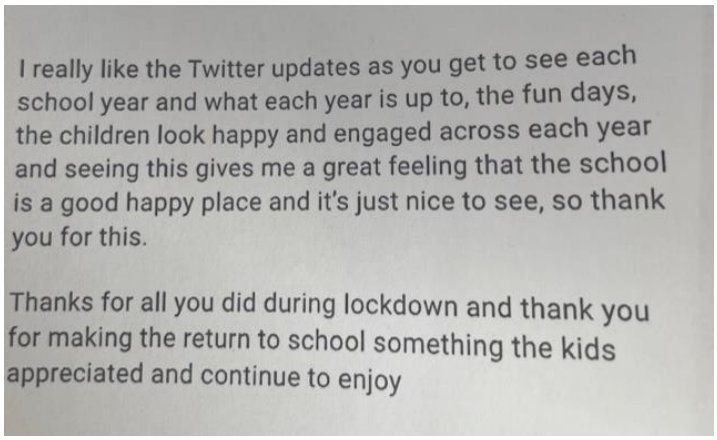
I would like to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that no photo/video footage is taken of the day; in order to help us safeguard and protect all of our children.

Those children with social media consents may have their photo taken by staff members throughout events and will be uploaded onto our social media channels.

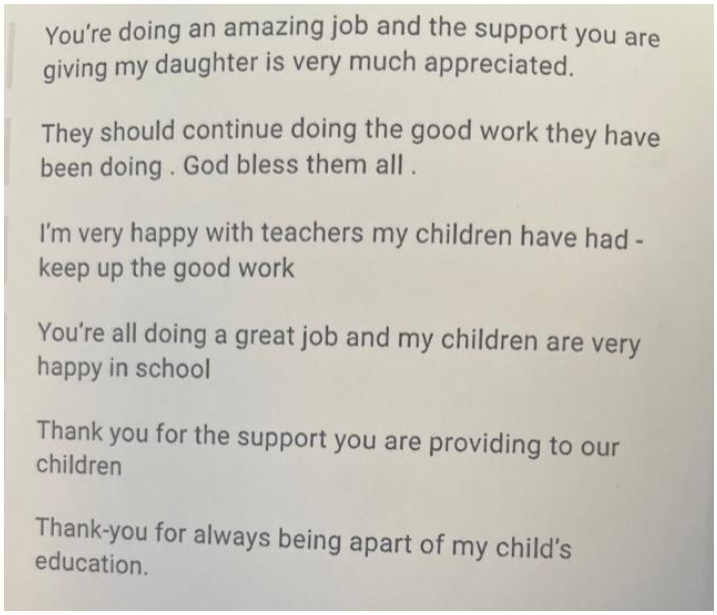
At St Thomas More we are all extremely proud of our British Values and see the Commonwealth Games Sports Day as a wonderful opportunity for all competitors, Sports Leaders, staff and parents/guardians to demonstrate mutual respect and sportsmanship.

What you say we do well – I will keep drip feeding these as there are so many to share!

You are very happy with how we keep the children safe, how we provide engaging lessons, how approachable we are and you would recommend our school to others 😊 thank you, this means the world…Here are a few comments:


I really like the Twitter updates as you get to see each school year and what each year is up to, the fun days, the children look happy and engaged across each year and seeing this gives me a great feeling that the school is a good happy place and it's just nice to see, so thank you for this.

Thanks for all you did during lockdown and thank you for making the return to school something the kids appreciated and continue to enjoy


You're doing an amazing job and the support you are giving my daughter is very much appreciated.

They should continue doing the good work they have been doing . God bless them all .

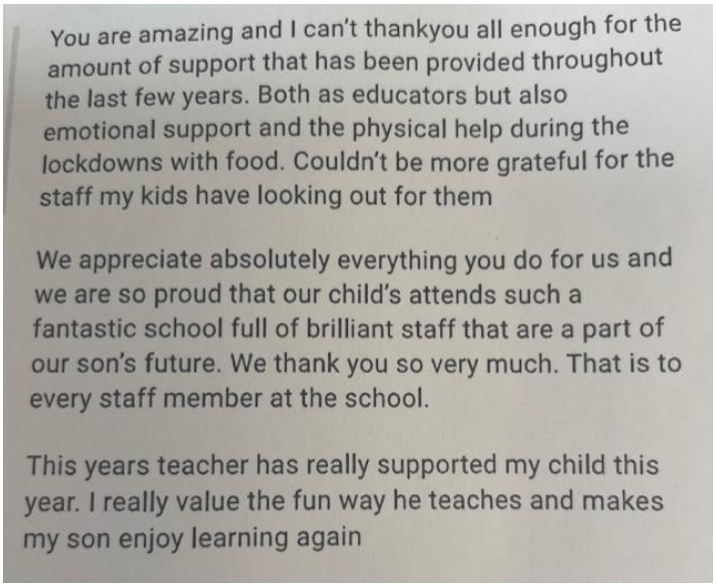
I'm very happy with teachers my children have had - keep up the good work

You're all doing a great job and my children are very happy in school

Thank you for the support you are providing to our children

Thank-you for always being apart of my child's education.




You are amazing and I can't thankyou all enough for the amount of support that has been provided throughout the last few years. Both as educators but also emotional support and the physical help during the lockdowns with food. Couldn't be more grateful for the staff my kids have looking out for them

We appreciate absolutely everything you do for us and we are so proud that our child's attends such a fantastic school full of brilliant staff that are a part of our son's future. We thank you so very much. That is to every staff member at the school.

This years teacher has really supported my child this year. I really value the fun way he teaches and makes my son enjoy learning again

What we need to do better! - Communication

Following our recent parent survey, the one area that seemed to come up as an area that parents would like STM to improve on, is our communication with you. I will always try my best to listen and act on feedback and want you to know that I take your feedback very seriously because I want you to have the best possible experience at STM.

A number of parents found the texting service frustrating and found it last minute or found that they were not able to read them until after work, leaving not much time to prepare for events etc. All of this I can appreciate. On the other hand, 80% of the parents who

responded preferred the texting method of communication over other forms.

Currently, we mainly use the texting service as reminders of communication that has previously gone out, either by letter or newsletter. The issue here of course is that if these forms of communication haven't been read, a text will seem like the first time you have heard about something.

At the moment, the main dates for the year go out at the beginning of the year and are also uploaded onto the school website. These include things like opportunities for parents to engage with the school and class assemblies etc. There is then a layering approach to our communication – the newsletter talks about events that have taken place and also gives a 'next week at a glance' section. Then we have the texting service for the reminders. The main reason for this latter layer is that I am aware that many parents do not read the letters or newsletter, so I am trying to 'catch' as many of you as I can in formats that suit you.

What I will do moving forward, is that on top of all of the above, I will also send home dates at the beginning of each term, reminding you of the dates coming up for that

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particular half term. I do appreciate how busy you all are, how things are easier missed and how you need time in advance if you are to get to these events.

I always try my very best not to move or cancel dates. Sometimes though these are out of my control. I realise the frustration that this may cause, and like I say, I really do not want to make this a habit.

I do hope that this helps. As always, your feedback is so valuable! Thank you.

Oh, and as a reminder – please follow us on social media! Not only is it a wonderful window into our school, it is also really useful for reminders of events coming up!

Not got Twitter? Don't worry – pop onto the front page of our website and you can scroll through twitter that way.

Father's Day PTA Sale

The PTA are hosting a Father's Day Gift shop on Friday 17th June and every child will have the chance to choose a gift for someone special.

Children will be offered the chance to visit the shop throughout the day to choose from a variety of gifts. They will be given a gift bag and sticker and write out a little message ready to be brought home.

If you would like your child to take part, please provide them with a maximum of £3 each to bring in on Friday 17th June.

Jess Phillips MP visit

We are excited to welcome, once again, MP Jess Phillips to our school on Friday 17th June. She is coming into talk about the Anti-Refugee Bill that was passed by parliament recently, and the work that the government are doing currently to support those seeking a place of sanctuary.

School of Sanctuary Award

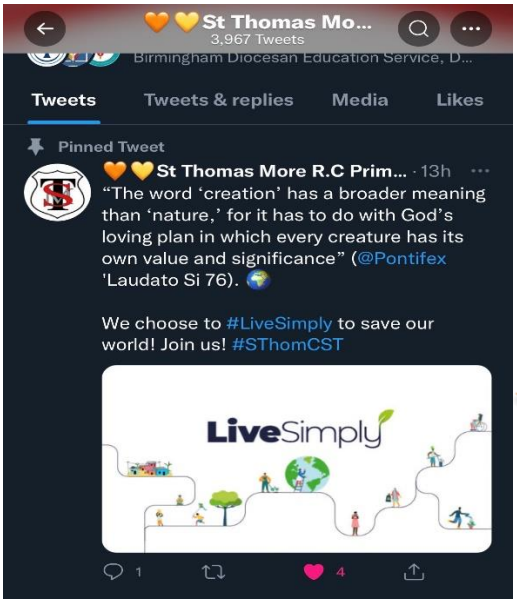
Today was a proud day for TeamSTM! We received our School of Sanctuary Award! We are so passionate here about welcoming all and ensuring our school is a place of sanctuary; and that everyone is educated into understanding what is must be like to flee somewhere that you love because you do not feel safe or welcome.

I would like to say thank you to our GIFT and Caritas Ambassadors for representing our school in preparing and leading our presentation and to Barbara Forbes, from the School of Sanctuary, for awarding our certificate.

We will continue to work hard to ensure we are doing all we can in this important area of Catholic Social Teaching. Our children know that they are not too small to make a big difference in this world!

School Photos – Monday 15th June

We are smart at STM! It is school photo time again! Please ensure that your child is wearing correct uniform, that hair is neatly tied back and that shoes are worn. If your child normally wears PE kit on this day, please ensure they DO NOT. We will move the PE to another day, ensuring you know when this is, if this affects you.



Lates

Your children MUST be in school between 8:35 and 8:50. No later. The amount of lates yesterday were unbelievable. Even worse, parents were dropping children off and getting them to walk down to the office by themselves! You will be held to account for any lates. If you are late for a good reason, you MUST buzz the buzzer, walk down to the office with your child and sign them in. If you fail to do this, a follow up phonecall will be made. Please note, staff leave the late at 8:50, and the gate closes. Please do not just drop your children off without walk them down. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Happy Retirement!

Miss Delaney is a teacher who many of you will know, as she has been at STM for a many, many years, as a decated teacher and governor. Miss Delaney is now retiring and so this will be her final term with us. We will be planning some lovely events for her to celebrate her time with us, including a celebratory Mass, which you are invited to and which we will give you the details of once firmed up. In the meantime, I am sure you would like to join me in wishing Miss Delaney all the happiness in the world as she starts a new chapter in her life, and in thanking her for her service at STM. We will miss you, Miss Delaney.

Trips & Payments

There are lots of trips coming up, especially with our Multi-Faith Week! Please do read the letters we send to you. We haven't sent out physical letters for a long time now. All letters are uploaded to the school website (Parents > Letters) and text to you in a link. Please make sure you are reading what we send to you! You can always re-read letters on the website too.

ParentPay should be logged into regularly to check for updates and new payments. If you're having trouble, let us know.

KS1 SATS tests, Phonics and Year 4 Multiplication testing

Our Year 2s have completed their SATs testing now and have done us all proud – the catch up lessons following covid have really worked! We will be reporting on these soon so that you know how they have done.

Our Year 1s have almost finished their phonics and once again, Mrs Madia is delighted with their progress and results. Parents, will we report on whether your child has passed or whether they need more support in this area as they move into year 2.

Year 4 are starting their multiplication testing. This will be happening over the next few weeks. We will inform you of their scores in due course – in the meantime, please keep practicing!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Moynihan

Both Mr and Mrs Moynihan have to travel a long way to get to our school! And so, with this in mind, we are both happy and sad that they have found jobs closer to home. It is too soon to be saying our goodbyes and our fond farewells, but we wanted to let you know so that we could tell the children.

House Point Winners

Housepoint toals this week are…

1st = John Cadbury 160
2nd = Emeline Pankhurst 141
3rd = James Brindley 133
4th = Mary Seacole 132

This Week's God's Gifts

Well done to the following children for showing excellent effort and resilience this week.

Year R	Kacper	For having a positive attitude towards his learning.
	Parker	For having a can-do attitude and persevering when faced with a challenge.
Year 1	Chris	For amazing reading and writing skills. You have made so much progress. Well done.
Year 1 and 2	Esmae	For a super improvement in her reading and writing.
Year 2	Theodore	For trying hard in his writing this week
Year 3	Patryk	For always trying his best and concentrating hard in all lessons
	Martyna	For excellent RE work
Year 4	Maisy	for brilliant narrative writing
Year 5	Leo T	For producing excellent work in all his books.
	Leo T 5CG	For making more positive choices and effort in his work
Year 6	Joyce	For always going out of her way to make others happy 😊
	All of Year 6	We are so proud of how well you conducted yourselves through your Confirmation

Thanksgiving Masses for Year 3 and Year 6:

Year 3 will have a thanksgiving Mass on the feast of Saint Thomas More - 9:30 on Wednesday 22nd June. Parents are welcome to attend.

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Year 6 will have a thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 26th June. All children will be receiving a special gift following their Confirmation. It will be lovely to see all the children there.



Next week at a glance:

Monday 13th June
Mission Assembly
Class photos – all in school uniform please

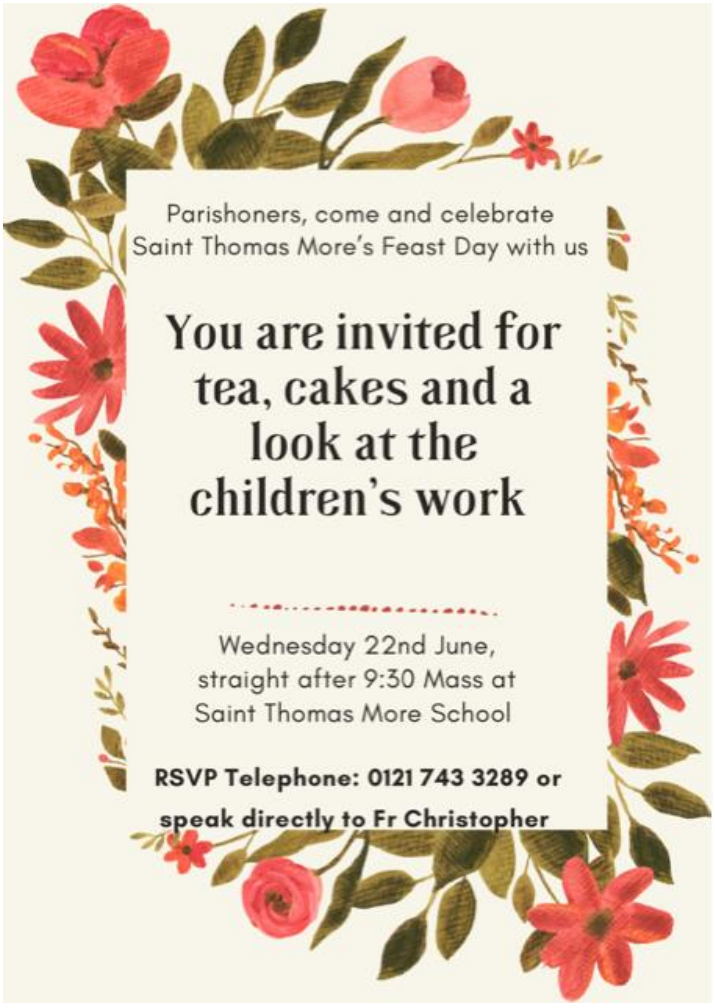
Wednesday 15th June
We welcome our link governor for safeguarding and RE in to look at the work we doing

Friday 17th June
God's Gifts Celebrations
Jess Phillips, MP visiting
Father's Day PTA gift sale - £3

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate Madia

An opportunity for our Parishioners to feel part of our school:





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