



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

18th September 2020

INTRODUCTION

Our thought for the week was "You must tell yourself, no matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets, I'm going to make it. A little progress each day adds up to big results".

This thought has been our focus for the week, as it is with these small steps each day, staying safe and being in school, that can lead to big results at the end of year.

I would like to thank you all for joining us on our Zoom meetings this week, where we could share with you all the measures we have put in place to keep your child safe and engaged in school life.

The meetings also gave us the opportunity to discuss the curriculum and study skills that are going to be so important for your child this year.

Your children have again shown their maturity in these very difficult circumstances, they are mindful of all the procedures we have put in place and this has contributed to the school being able to carry on as normal.

We will be entering our third week of school and I would like to ask for your support in helping your children with their organisational skills: please check that they have their relevant books and equipment for the day, and that they are writing their homework in their journals.

I must take this opportunity to remind you and your children that social distancing and hand sanitising are a priority. If your child shows any signs of COVID-19 symptoms then please keep them at home, apply for a test and inform the school immediately.

God bless,
Alex Rosen
Head of School

TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Please note that the school will be closed for pupils on **Friday 25th September** for a Teacher Training Day. The school will be operating as normal on Monday 28th September with school starting at 8:50 for 9am Registration.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 22nd September
Year 11 Careers interviews
Wednesday 23rd September
Y7 Parents' Zoom meeting with Form Tutors
Friday 25th September
School closed for pupils - Teacher Training
Tuesday 29th September
School closes early for Open Evening - no period 6 lessons or Prep
Wednesday 30th September
School starts at 9:50 for 10am Registration

LIBRARY

The library is open three sessions a week to each year group bubble, with each having a session before school, break time and lunchtime, where they can complete homework and borrow books.

SAM LEARNING SUPPORT

SAM Learning is an online learning resource that staff use for setting homework especially with year 7, 8 and 9. All students have now received their login details in the last week.

If your child is having difficulty with their login, please contact the school directly at parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk and we can quickly resolve the problem.

Sam learning is easier to use, can be competitive if you wish and can even be fun. At times, teachers may set specific tasks, but students are also free to explore it themselves. It is particularly helpful if you want to revise, catch-up or practise.

To get started, simply watch the video link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kLWtwdBCE>

EPRAISE

Congratulations to Giovanna Beja Foretia in 7DX1 for receiving Epraise points and making the first purchase from the Epraise shop. Pupils can be rewarded with Epraise points by demonstrating good manners, effort, achievements and book presentation. Completing extension homework and using the Word of the Day will also warrant Epraise points.



RE

Week Beginning 20th September 2020:

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20: 1-15:

Gospel Reflection: Workers in the Vineyard

Last week's parable of the master cancelling the servant's debt should have made us stop and think—today's parable of the labourers in the vineyard should do the same.

Read this story written by a wise man called Micah.
(Micah 6:8-9)

God our Father has told us what we must do: be fair and honest in all we do and say; be loving and caring towards others. If we do this, then our friendship with God will last forever.

Jesus often made up stories about vineyards to help explain about the way he wanted us to live. The vineyard was likened to the world, and the workers in the vineyard are ourselves.

Jesus is like a vineyard owner, looking for us, his workers, and giving us the chance to come and join him. Even if we arrive 'late in the day', and take a long time in our lives to come to know him, we will all receive the same reward, everlasting life with him in heaven.

Prayer:

During this Season of Creation, we pray for all those affected by drought, wildfires and floods, especially those who depend entirely on the land for their food. We pray especially for people in Yemen. May God grant us all the wisdom to care more for our common home the earth, and the courage to live more simply, taking only what we really need. Lord, you are always generous and kind. Fill us with the generosity of your love and make us more understanding. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Year of the word 'A God who speaks'

I Never Knew You:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Thought for the Week

If you are not willing to learn,
no one can help you.

If you are determined to learn,
no one can stop you.

GEOGRAPHY IN THE PLAYGROUND

Year 7s have been using the compass in the playgrounds to explore the school and to connect with positions on the compass rose.

North is not just a theoretical place - magnetic north is actually within the Arctic Circle, and moves!

It's quite a tricky thing to navigate with a compass - so practice makes perfect.

Ms F McEwan and 7KL3



DRAMA

As the A-level Drama students cannot go to the theatre, the theatre came to them this week as they watched The National Theatre's production of Small Island, the adaptation of Andrea Levy's novel which focuses on post war Jamaica and the arrival of MV Empire Windrush to Britain.

PREP

Please note that Prep has started this week. Each year group has their own space and social distancing is followed.

Words of the Week

Monday- Blandishments - (Noun) - A flattering or pleasing statement or action used as a means of gently persuading someone to do something.

Tuesday- Untenable - (Adjective) - (Especially of a position or view) not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection.

Wednesday- Cogent - (Adjective) - (Of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing.

Thursday- Abridge - (Verb) - Shorten (a piece of writing) without losing the sense; (or in Law) curtail.

Friday- Panorama - (Noun) - An unbroken view of the whole region surrounding an observer; A picture or photograph containing a wide view; A complete survey or presentation of a subject.