



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

23rd October 2020

INTRODUCTION

As we come to the end of our half-term, I can reflect, with a sense of great satisfaction, that we have been able to return together as a school community. Our daily routines have pretty much returned to normal; pupils have been able to have an enriching education and have had opportunities to grow in their faith. Our 'Moment for Jesus' lunchtime sessions and the start of term Year Group masses have set the tone for this year. The extra interventions, Homework Club, Prep and Period 6 sessions ensure that all pupils are on the right track to success at St Thomas More. It has been a very productive start and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

I wish you and your child a safe and restful half-term break. Our thought for the week has been about the value of education; knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice. From the book of wisdom: Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.

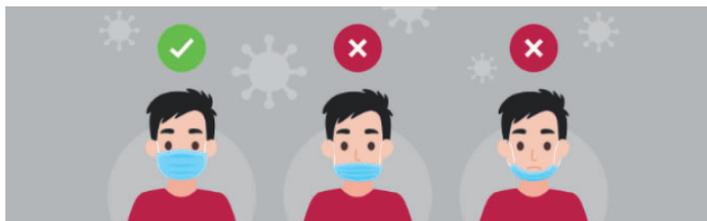
A reminder for all pupils to complete work set over the half-term and to attend any interventions in school. A half-term plan has been handed out to those pupils involved.

God bless
Mr Rosen
Acting Head of School



HEADTEACHERS AWARD

This week's winners of the Headteacher's Award for outstanding work in Maths are: Rachel Manful (10BK2), Gabriela Timoszuk (10BK1), Natalia Bastidas Morales (10KL2).



FACE MASKS

Please note that pupils are required (unless exempt), to wear a black, blue or surgical mask at all times when inside the school buildings. Please remind your child to wear their mask correctly, fully covering both their nose and mouth. Thank you.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 2nd November
Year 7 & 8 Debate Mate launch meeting (15:45-16:45)
Tuesday 3rd November
Year 12 Mark Evison Workshop (16:15-17:15)
Thursday 5th November
Year 7 Into University Workshop (09:10-11:10)
Year 11 Into University Workshop (11:30-13:30)



HEAD OF YEAR BADGES

The Head of Year Badge is a prestigious accolade given to pupils who demonstrate exceptional qualities within the school. Pupils from all year groups have the chance to obtain a Head of Year Badge throughout the academic year. The following achievements qualify for a Head of Year Badge:



- Receiving no Xs in a half-term.
- Journals kept in excellent condition.
- Collecting multiple Epraise points and postcards.
- Consistently producing outstanding classwork/homework and making good academic progress.
- Exceptional acts of kindness towards peers and members of staff.
- Excellent contribution to Catholic Ethos.

If pupils accumulate 4 different coloured badges during their time at St Thomas More, they will receive the platinum badge. Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils who have received a Head of Year Badge for their efforts this term: Nevarsana Antonymuttu and Marcus Clariza Musni (7BK1), Gabriella Cattuzzo and Lance Abante (7MC1), Sienna Boateng and Elkings Samuel Amankwah (7DX1, Alejandro Rojas Cifuentes and Samah Wahr (7KL1), George Adeluwoye and Azja Janowska (7BK3), Ozioma Okpechi and Christopher Silva Rosa (7BK2), Julia Palak (7MC2), Rosalia Kargbo-Montoya (7DX2), Cindy Maina (7KL2) and Levi Stoute-Gill (7KL3).



DEBATE MATE

The first meeting for this year's Debate Mate, for Years 7 and 8, will be held in the Glendale Hall from 15:45-16:45, on Monday, 2nd November.

RE

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year:

Gospel reading Matthew 22: 34-40

Gospel Reflection: Living Love

There is always the danger that when we hear a song too often that we become complacent and take it for granted. The same can happen with the readings and gospels we hear when we come to mass.

No one ever said the being a follower of Jesus was going to be easy! We are not only asked to have a relationship with God, we are also called and challenged to be aware of and concerned about those with whom we live and work. We are to love our friends and family as we love God and ourselves. We are reminded of this when we read in the bible: "how can we love God whom we cannot see, and not love our brother or sister whom we do see?"

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus reminds that whatever we do for each other, we do for and to Jesus himself. Whatever we fail to do for each other, we fail to do for Jesus. The smallest gesture of love can often have the greatest of impacts. It is often through very small, seemingly unimportant deeds, actions and gestures of love, that our love for others, and our faith, can be seen and made visible. One poet wrote that "God is the bits and pieces of every day." We should never underestimate the power of a small gesture such as a smile, a hand on a shoulder or a kind word. These small acts of kindness are how in our daily lives how we love God and our brothers and sisters and ourselves with all our heart, mind and soul.

This week, may we be more aware that God is in the bits and pieces of our ordinary daily lives. May we love God with all our heart, soul and mind. May we love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Prayer:

Lord, I have only one life, and shall not live this day again. Help me to remember that everyone is my neighbour. If I can do something good or show my kindness, then help me to do it today, for unless love is shared it cannot grow. Amen.

A God Who Speaks: 'The Year of the Word'

God tells us in the Bible, "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). It does not matter how far you try to run from Him, He loves you and wants to forgive you where you have gone wrong. He created you and cares about you.

The Angelus:

After the half-term holiday, we are pleased to announce that at 12 noon Mr Lusardi will be leading the school in reciting the Angelus, followed by a blessing, before we have lunch.

PSHE

This week all pupils had an extended assembly on PSHE. If you would like to access further information or advice please use the following websites CEOP, childline or NSPCC. You can also contact us on parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

Thought for the Week

Fill your thoughts with words that invoke strength and success. Focus on words that can make you happy and strong...



NEW PEER MENTORS!

Congratulations to the new Year 10 Peer Mentors who completed their training before half-term and who began their peer mentoring this week!

HALLOWEEN AND FIREWORKS

Halloween this year will be different. Social gatherings are discouraged, and children must be dissuaded from going round trick-or-treating and knocking on doors asking for sweets, due to the Coronavirus. Please remember that costume masks cannot be used as a substitute for a proper face covering. Face coverings must be worn and you must follow the local guidelines on social gatherings and family bubbles.

Could I also please remind you that, as 5th November approaches, fireworks will be on sale in shops. The shops have to have special licences to sell fireworks and they are checked regularly by trading standards to make sure they do not sell fireworks to persons under the age of 18 years. If the law (Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) regulations 2020) is broken you can be fined up to £5,000 or sentenced to 3 months in prison.

Please keep an eye on your children and make sure they do not get involved in setting fireworks off in a public place. This is not only extremely dangerous but is against the law and can cause a lot of damage and distress. There are four Categories of Fireworks and they are:

Cat 1 - Can be sold to Over 16s – toy shops sell caps for cap guns and fun snaps.

Cat 2 & 3 - Can be sold to Over 18 only – it is an offence for under 18s to have them in public except party poppers and sparklers.

Cat 4 - Not to be sold to the public. For licenced displays only, these are the type you see at organised events and in New Year's firework shows such as the London New Year's celebration.

Please remember that you have to be over 12 to buy Christmas crackers.

I hope you stay safe and have a restful and happy half-term.
PC Frost

Words of the Week

Monday- Illustrious - (Adjective): Well known, respected, and admired for past achievements.

Tuesday- Penultimate - (Adjective): Second last; Last but one in a series of things.

Wednesday- Sporadic - (Adjective): Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated.

Thursday- Remorse - (Noun): Deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.

Friday- Deterrent - (Noun): A thing that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.