



“With Christ we achieve, believe and create”

St Thomas More Newsletter

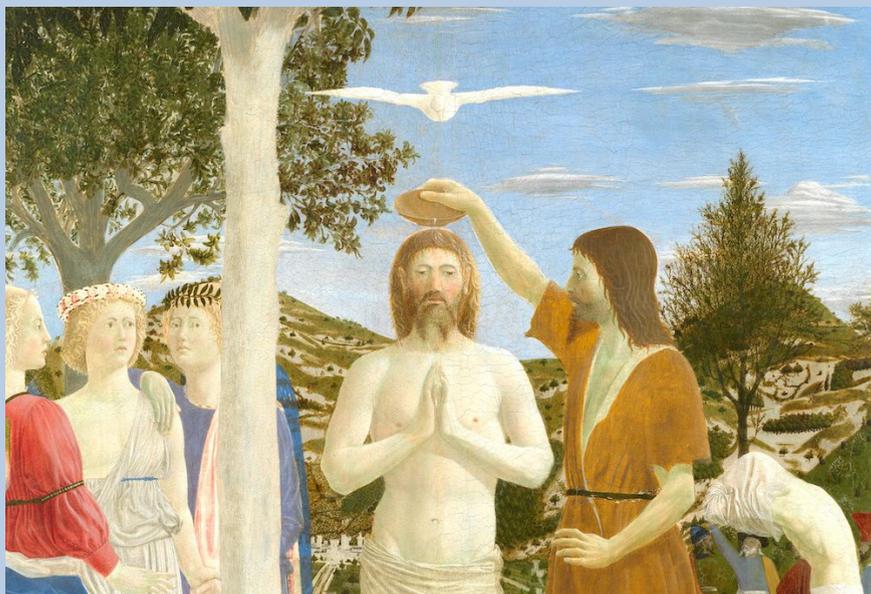
office@stthomas-more.org.uk Tel: 01865 373674 19th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a strange and worrying time we have had in this New Year. I realise that many of you are facing and strain due to Covid-19 and for all of us this will manifest itself in different ways: financial, home- schooling, health, bereavement, depression etc. Please be assured that we are with you, as our community, and that we understand the amazing job you are doing in having your children at home. The current survey will help us to help you as we go forward in these new ways of working; thank you so much for taking the time to complete it. We will discuss any common difficulties accessing the work or with printing and try to compensate. Thank you very much for all your positive comments to class teachers- it really means a lot when they are working so hard.

We have completed a review of our Remote Learning provision and the survey will help us in our next steps. Teachers are learning new ways of working every week, as are you I am sure- we are all demonstrating life long learning! The teachers are planning some meet-ups using Google, with small groups of pupils at a time. This will be rolled out over the next couple of weeks. There will be no whole class live teaching during this Lockdown. The reasons for this are many but include: not all parents can access live teaching if they are supposed to be working from home, each family can access learning when it suits their circumstances using SeeSaw, older children at home are having live lessons and this impacts on available devices. Ofsted have produced a document where they have reviewed remote learning and different methods used: <https://app.governorhub.com/document/6005a899fa6c2f349516687e/view>

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that God is walking with us and listens to our prayers so I hope that many of you are managing to access Mass either in person or remotely. We have celebrated the Baptism of the Lord and moved from Christmas time to Ordinary time. I particularly like this painting:





Please keep our school community in your prayers and hopefully we can all be together again soon.

God Bless

Mrs Tomkys

Important Dates

Half Term – 15-19 February 2021

February Half Term

Little Tommy's Nursery and St Thomas More school will be closed to all children for February half-term from Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2021. School will finish at normal time on Friday 12th February and re-opens on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Learning during lockdown

If your child is not attending school, they must login to Seesaw to complete their daily work every day. Teachers and leaders are monitoring pupils work accessed and completed. Please make sure your child attempts to complete all work set. If this is proving too difficult, or is taking longer than the times set out below, please contact the teacher through email or phone.

TEACHER EMAIL ACCOUNTS

If you have any issues to do with your child's work, please contact your child's teacher directly via email:

Nurserystm@stthomas-more.org.uk

Rec@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y1@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y2@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y3@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y4@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y5@stthomas-more.org.uk

Y6@stthomas-more.org.uk

Please remember, as always, that we are here in school to help you if we possibly can. Please e-mail office@stthomas-more.org.uk if you need help or if you feel other members of our community might benefit from some help from us.

Covid Safety:

During this time please can we remind you of the following steps to keep everyone safe:

- Keep a 2m distance when bringing your child to/from school & wear a mask.
- If your child or anyone in your family develops symptoms you MUST keep them off school and inform the office.

Please remember what the main Covid symptoms are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Do not send your child to school with any of the above.

Attendance for keyworker & vulnerable children

Please can we ask all parents of children in school that if your child is absent for any reason please call the school office 01865 373674

FSM / vouchers

The National voucher scheme from the Department for Education will open a national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers via an online portal as soon as possible. Further details will be published shortly and we hope that this will be available from January 25th. We are awaiting further information and will contact you as soon as we know more.

School Lunches

If your child is attending nursery or school then please ensure that school lunches are booked in the normal way using the school gateway. The menu will differ to what appears on the gateway. The school office will send you a copy of the revised menu options each week.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

We ask if you have any change of circumstance that could be relevant to school that you inform us as soon as possible. This could be as simple as change of address or telephone number, but also if you think you may now be eligible for Free School Meals or change in family dynamics that may unsettle your child in school. General changes can be reported to the school office either by telephone or email. Changes of a sensitive nature can be reported either to myself or the class teacher.

EU Settlement Scheme

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. You can also apply if you're the family member of an eligible person of Northern Ireland.

Please click on the link below for further information

[EU Settlement Scheme](#)

Balancing screen time

Internet
matters.org



5 top tips to support children and young people

1

Lead by example

Just like anything, **children copy their parents' actions and behaviour**. If you set boundaries for your own screen, it will be easier for your kids to do the same.

2

Set boundaries WITH your kids

Get them involved in the process of setting age appropriate limits on how long they can spend online, at what times and on which platforms. Set up screen-free times or rooms where screens are out of sight and therefore more likely to be out of mind. Review these as they get older and give them the space to take greater responsibility for their screen use.



3

Ensure a healthy mix of screen activity

Make sure they have a good balance of **screen activities** that encourage creativity, learning & education, connecting with family & friends, as well as using devices for passively engaging with content.

