



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Families,

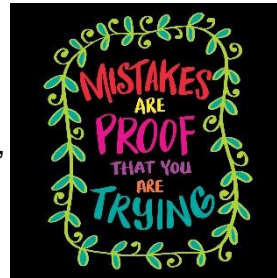
Catholic Life of the School

We began our week with a big welcome back to school. It is lovely to see lots of happy children returning to school looking very smart in their school uniform.

On Monday, we listened to the Gospel of Matthew. Peter tells Jesus he cannot suffer and die. Jesus responds saying, 'Get away from me Satan!' The word 'Satan' literally meaning 'adversary' or 'enemy'. Jesus explains that is Peter's wish, not God's plan.

We spoke about how tricky it can be to trust in God's plan, but that like Peter, we too will make mistakes and they help us to learn. We shared some mistakes which had already happened – such as walking into the wrong classroom!

This week our mission is to share and delight in our little mistakes, knowing that St Peter the disciple made them too. Let us offer up all of our mistakes and learning at the start of this new school year.



Matthew 16:21-27

Welcome

This week we are delighted to welcome some new families to our Nursery and Reception classes as well as in some other year groups. We know they will be warmly welcomed into our school community.

Thank you to the STMSA for the coffee mornings organised this week for new parents dropping children off at St Thomas More for the first time. Thank you for the warm welcome provided.

Meet the Teacher

In the coming weeks, you will have an opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher and visit your child's classroom. This is a chance to hear about the coming year and any class-specific information. Slides and handouts will be shared for those unable to attend. The dates for each year group are as follows:

Date	Year Group	Time
Monday 11 th September	Year 6	8.50-9.20am
Tuesday 12 th September	Year 1	2.45-3.15pm
Thursday 14 th September	Year 3	8.50-9.20am
	Year 4	2.45-3.15pm
Friday 15 th September	Year 5	8.50-9.20am
Wednesday 20 th September	Year 2	2.45-3.15pm

Nursery and Reception parents/carers had Meet the Teacher welcome talks in the Summer Term. Please see the dates at the end of the newsletter for a Stay and Play session this half term for your child/children.

School Day Reminder

Thank you for your punctuality with our adjusted school times. Just a reminder that classroom doors open at **8.40am** with the school day beginning promptly at **8.45am**. External classroom doors will be closed at **8.50am** at which time children will need to enter via the main entrance to be registered as they will be late. The school day finishes at 3.15pm.



Play Equipment

Just a reminder to please ensure children do not play on the play equipment at the beginning or end of the day whilst unsupervised by school staff.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at **98.48%**.

Reception	100%	Year 4	97.32%
Year 1	97.78%	Year 5	100%
Year 2	100%	Year 6	96.89%
Year 3	99.23%		

Congratulations to Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 who achieved perfect attendance this week!

In support of improving school attendance for all, Dr Chris Whitty has written to school leaders this week giving clear guidance about common respiratory illnesses and when children should/ should not be attending school. The full letter can be accessed [here](#).

Attached to the newsletter is the DSPL (Delivering Special Provision Locally) Autumn newsletter. This details courses, meetings and groups to support parents and carers including resilience courses and SEND Surgeries for further information and guidance.

Impact of Lateness

Being 15 minutes later each day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school



STMSA News

Welcome from the STMSA

Welcome back to our St Thomas More community and a particular warm welcome to all our new families. This week we hosted new parents to the Reception class (on Monday) and the nursery class (on Wednesday) with a coffee morning after their first drop offs. It was lovely to meet new families and also to see so many familiar faces, with siblings joining in the younger classes.

If any new parents have yet to connect with their class representative or haven't joined their class WhatsApp group, please don't hesitate to reach out to Cath Hammond at 07907159764.

We are looking forward to a great year and we will be hosting a PTA planning meeting in the next few weeks and hope to see many new faces there. Details to follow.

Quiz Night - Friday 13 October from 7pm

Our first social event of the year for our parent community will be the STMSA Quiz Night. Start getting your teams together (8 max) now and further details for booking will follow next week!

100 Club

Aug 100 Club	1st (£100) Daniel Trowbridge	Sept 100 Club	1st (£100) Marina Burke
Winners:	2nd (£50) Caroline McLoone	Winners:	2nd (£50) Frances Flynn
	3rd (£25) Michael Wall		3rd (£25) Sarah Hennis

If you would like to sign up please go to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

Community News:

Prayer at Home

Hopefully you and your families received the first Prayer at Home resource yesterday. These are produced by leaders within All Saints Catholic Academy Trust to support families in praying together at home. We hope you will enjoy sharing these together each week. They will also be available on our school website [here](#).



Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.



Secondary Transfer Open Events - John F Kennedy Catholic School

Applications for secondary transfer 2024-25 opens September 2023 and closes on 31st October 2023.

Please view our [2024-25 Admissions Policy](#) which details the application process and supplementary forms for completion and submission to JFK.

Open Evening – Tuesday 3rd October 2023, 6.00-9.00pm – tours of the school during the evening with 2 bookable presentations by the Headteacher, at [6pm](#) and [7pm](#). Due to limited seating, please to book in advance.

Open Morning – Wednesday 11th October 2023, 9.30am – an opportunity to see the school in action (limited availability and advised to only book if unable to attend Open Evening), [bookable in advance](#)

RAAC

Attached to this week's newsletter is a letter from Stephen Wheatley, ASCAT CEO, about RAAC, school safety and implications to Trust schools and funding.

Please see the attached flyer from the Diocese of Westminster. They are recruiting Catholic Governors and Directors within Catholic education.

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

September

11/09/23	Year 6 Meet the Teacher – 8.50-9.20am
12/09/23	Year 1 Meet the Teacher – 2.45-3.15pm
14/09/23	Year 3 Meet the Teacher – 8.50-9.20am
	Year 4 Meet the Teacher – 2.45-3.15pm
15/09/23	Year 5 Meet the Teacher – 8.50-9.20am
20/09/23	Year 2 Meet the Teacher – 2.45-3.15pm
29/09/23	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Stay and Play – 2.15-3.15pm

October

13/10/23	STMSA Quiz Night @ 7pm
18/10/23	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
20/10/23	Staff training day (All Saints Catholic Academy Trust schools) – <i>school closed to pupils</i>
23/10/23-27/10/23	Half Term

November

27/11/23	Occasional Day – <i>school closed</i>
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December

20/12/23	End of term – school finishes at 3.15pm
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Have a lovely weekend,
Miss Lally
Assistant Headteacher



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