



Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we heard the Parable of the Worker. We listened to the story and considered why the worker who had worked all day felt it was unfair that the worker who came in the evening was paid the same. We spoke about times we have felt happy with the things we have such as our toys or our games. We then thought about times we might feel envious of things our friends have. This story reminds us that God is generous and gives us what we need, we shouldn't compare with others.



On Thursday, our Year 6 pupils in the Chaplaincy Team attended an ASCAT Chaplaincy Retreat Day. They had a fantastic time meeting other primary school Chaplaincy teams and learning about different ways they can use their faith to inspire and support the faith of others in our school. We look forward to seeing the many ways in which they will help enrich the prayer life of our school. Thank you to Mrs Cosgrove and Mr Coward for volunteering with lifts and supervision and well done to our school representatives for representing St Thomas More so well and reading in the Mass so clearly.



JFK Visitors

On Friday morning, we were delighted to welcome Mr Neeves, Headteacher at John F Kennedy Catholic School, and several of our past pupils for a visit. It was lovely to hear how they are getting on at secondary school and what they have been up to since leaving our school and transitioning to JFK. Mr Neeves was inviting us to the **JFK Open Evening on Tuesday 3rd October**. Further information about visits to JFK can be found below.

Open Evening – Tuesday 3rd October 2023, 6-9pm – there will be tours of the school during the evening with 2 bookable presentations by the Headteacher, at [6pm](#) and [7pm](#). Due to limited seating, please 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](#) via links in blue.

Reception Tours – September 2024 start

Come and see our wonderful school! School tours for Reception children beginning September 2024 will be running on:

- Wednesday 18th October @ 9.15am
- Monday 30th October @ 9.15am
- Friday 1st December @ 9.15am

Please contact the school office via admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk if you wish to attend any of our tour dates.

Afterschool Club Wednesday 4th October – Cancelled

Following on from the previous letter, just a reminder that there will be no afterschool club on Wednesday 4th October due to whole staff training. Thank you for your understanding.



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





Year 2 host a Macmillan Coffee afternoon – Friday 13th October

Year 2 would like to invite their family, friends and relations from 2.30pm to join them in the school hall for this fundraising occasion. At the end of the school day, from 3.15pm, all are welcome to join in the school hall to buy some yummy cake and a drink to support this cause. Mrs Simpson would kindly like any donations of cake to be brought in on Friday morning (13th) please.

Updated Photo and Video Permissions

Thank you to all of those who have already read and responded to our updated photo and video permissions. This helps us in ensuring we can capture and share children's learning and progress more readily within school and with you as their families. You can access the form by scanning the QR code to the side or by clicking [here](#). Thank you.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently **92.52%**, thank you for your support.

Reception	95.30%	Year 4	93.79%
Year 1	98.50%	Year 5	94.23%
Year 2	87.89%	Year 6	87.31%
Year 3	93.67%		

Congratulations to Year 1 who achieved the highest attendance.

Thank you and welcome

Miss Addison has kindly stepped up as our new staff governor. She was welcomed to her first Governors' meeting earlier this week and we look forward to working alongside her in this capacity.

Class Representatives

Thank you to all year groups who have let the office know who their class rep is this year. We will be in touch to arrange our first meeting of the academic year.



STMSA News

Thank you to everyone involved in the first Cinema Club for the Reception and KS1 classes.

KS2 Cinema Club - Friday 6th October (3:15-5pm)

If you haven't booked for the KS2, we will be showing The Croods. Please book via <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stmsa/>. Hotdogs, drinks and snacks will be available (included in the tickets). £5 per child and £3 for siblings.

Quiz Night - Friday 13th October

Join us for an exciting quiz night! The event kicks off at the school at 7pm, and the quiz itself starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets are at £20 per person, which includes access to the quiz, a delicious curry supper, and a complimentary round of Heads or Tails. You can also purchase drinks at our in-house bar. Don't miss the chance to win fantastic prizes, both for the quiz winners and in our Heads or Tails rounds.

The maximum team size for the quiz is 8 people, so gather your friends for a fun evening! To secure your spot, please use the form below to book for your team, and make a bank transfer to the STMSA account below for the cost of your team's tickets. Please make your booking by Monday 9

October: <https://forms.gle/Yv8JXmpRT5GTGBzq5>

STMSA bank account details:

Account number: 00684112 Sort code: 30-94-08 Account name: St Thomas More School

We're looking forward to having you with us at the quiz night!

Bags2School - Thursday 19th October

Having a clean out as we go into winter? Please keep your unwanted items for the Bags2School drop off - the full list of items that can be donated can be found here: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. All bags can be brought into the office from Monday 16th October.



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Reading Volunteers

Thank you to the adults who volunteered to listen to our children reading on a weekly basis during the summer term. It is great to have additional adults to help listen to children read aloud. If you have any time which you could volunteer to listen to readers, please complete the link [here](#) and we will be in touch. Thank you.

Community News:

First Holy Communion

If you have a child in Year 3 or above who has not made their First Holy Communion and you would like them to, please contact Fr Joseph at Sacred Heart Parish via josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk to arrange a meeting and find out more.

Prayer at Home

Hopefully you and your families are enjoying the Prayer at Home resources. They are all available on our school website [here](#).

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.

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Mrs Manning is walking 100 miles in October!

Mrs Manning is going to walk 100 miles in October to raise money for Cancer Research UK. If you wish to donate to this cause, please see the link attached, thank you -

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/carolines-giving-page-20132>

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

October

04/10/23	No afterschool club – staff training
13/10/23	Year 2 host Macmillian coffee afternoon @ 2.30pm
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) – school closed to pupils
23/10/23-27/10/23	Half Term

November

27/11/23	Occasional Day – school closed
28/11/23	Santa's Sleigh (STMSA)

December

1/12/23	Wreath Making (STMSA)
9/12/23	Christmas Fayre (STMSA)
20/12/23	End of term – school finishes at 1.30pm (change of time)

Have a lovely weekend,
Miss Lally
Assistant Headteacher



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