



Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week, we have celebrated the feast of All Saints' Day. Children attended and participated in Mass on Wednesday at Sacred Heart church. Some of our school chaplaincy team represented our school at a Mass at Our Lady Queen of All Creation church for all the ASCAT schools to celebrate the All Saints Academy Trust patronal feast day which was also livestreamed so we could join in.

In Years 1-6 this week, children have been learning about 'other faiths', focussing on Judaism. Children shared their learning in Friday's assembly, recognising our shared books and stories from the Old Testament as well as some similarities in feasts and celebrations.



OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning - *Amazing play, every day, for every child*

We are delighted to share that we are the first school in Berkhamsted to begin the process of becoming an OPAL school. OPAL is an award-winning, mentor supported school improvement programme that addresses all the areas that schools must plan for if they want to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities. OPAL is the only programme of its kind that has been independently proven to sustainably improve the quality of play in British primary schools. To find out more about what OPAL is and how playtimes will begin to change, click the link [here](#). If you have a few minutes, we would appreciate your response to our baseline parents' survey to allow us to measure playtimes in their current state before we embark on this journey. The survey can be found [here](#). Thank you.

Cross-Country

Shortly before half term, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 partook in a cross-country event. The results were as follows: (*compete = longer race, aspire and develop = medium length race*)

Year 3	Year 4
Compete overall - 3rd Aspire and Develop Boys - 3rd Aspire and Develop overall - 3rd	Compete Girls - 3rd Compete overall - 2nd Aspire and Develop Girls - 3rd Aspire and Develop Boys - 3rd Aspire and Develop overall - 1st
Year 5	Year 6
Compete Boys - 3rd Aspire and Develop Girls - 1st Aspire and Develop Boys - 3rd Aspire and Develop overall - 2nd	Compete Boys - 3rd Aspire and Develop Girls - 2nd Aspire and Develop Boys - 2nd Aspire and Develop overall - 2nd

Well done to all those who took part and thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied the children.

Reception Tours – September 2024 start

Come and see our wonderful school! Our remaining school tour for Reception children beginning September 2024 will be running on Friday 1st December @ 9.15am.

Please contact the school office via admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk if you wish to attend, arrange an alternative or if you have any further questions about the application process.



Site Access

Thank you for your understanding with the recent gate closure letter shared by both St Thomas More and Greenway schools and their governing bodies. The safety and security of our school site and pupils is of paramount importance and it is therefore necessary to limit access to our school site where possible.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week is **95.9%**

Reception	94.37%	Year 4	93.49%
Year 1	92.78%	Year 5	96.58%
Year 2	98.25%	Year 6	97.78%
Year 3	96.55%		

Congratulations to Year 2 who achieved the highest attendance this week.

Thank you

Thank you to the STMSA for their planning and organisation for this evening's Glow Party to help raise money to enrich the school lives of our pupils. Thank you to all those who attended and supported this event.

Anti-Bullying Week

On Monday 13th November we will begin our Anti-Bullying week. On Monday 13th November, we invite all children to wear odd socks, to highlight how we are all different and unique. In this week teachers will be covering different scenarios and activities connected with Anti-Bullying week. This is a national initiative and this year's theme is 'Make some noise' to prevent bullying.

STMSA News

We hope that the STM community enjoys the Glow Party this afternoon and thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to make it happen!

Bags2School

Thank you to all families who donated bags last week - we raised £100 for the school!

School Tidy - Sunday 12th November from 1pm

Calling all volunteers to join us in a school tidy for a couple of hours on Sunday 12th November, We would like to sort out the PTA cupboard and shed to make both more accessible and aim to do a general rake / sweep / tidy outdoors. We will also plant the 100 bulbs donated by Berko council along the driveway. No previous experience required! Tea and cake will be served and the whole family is welcome to get stuck in!

Reception Tours - last date Friday 1st December at 9:15am

Over the last few weeks the school has hosted tours for prospective parents for reception 2024/25 and the PTA have taken part in the tours to provide a parent and PTA perspective. If you know of any parents looking for schools starting in that year, please invite them along to the morning in December. Bookings can be made via the office.

Community News:

Prayer at Home

Hopefully you and your families are enjoying the Prayer at Home resources. They are all available on our school website [here](#). For this week's Family Prayer At Home, Deacon Liam has created a video which can be accessed by the link [here](#) or via our website.



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



Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

November

9/11/23 Individual and sibling photos
13/11/23 Anti-Bullying Week – odd socks day
14/11/23 Year 5 & 6 visit to JFK for Gym & Dance Display
27/11/23 Occasional Day – *school closed*
28/11/23 **Santa's Sleigh (STMSA)**

December

1/12/23 Reception Tour @ 9.15am – 2024 cohort
1/12/23 **Wreath Making (STMSA)**
4/12/23 KS1 Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (*families welcome, limited capacity*)
6/12/23 KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am (*families welcome*)
8/12/23 Year 2 & KS2 Pantomime Trip
9/12/23 **Christmas Fayre (STMSA)**
11/12/23 EYFS Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (*families welcome, limited capacity*)
12/12/23 EYFS Nativity @ 9.30am (*families welcome*)
13/12/23 KS2 Carol Concert Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (*families welcome, limited capacity*)
14/12/23 KS2 Carol Concert @ 6pm (*families welcome*)
18/12/23 School Christmas dinner – *children to wear school uniform with a Christmas jumper on top if they wish*
19/12/23 EYFS and Year 1 Pantomime Trip
20/12/23 End of term – school finishes at 1.30pm

January

4/1/24 and 5/1/23 INSET Days – school closed
8/1/24 Start of term – children back to school

Have a lovely weekend,
Miss Lally
Assistant Headteacher



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