



Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we continued to mark Remembrance and the month of Holy Souls. Children and staff have been adding names to our school book of remembrance during the month and we have been praying for them.

On Friday we had a special Remembrance service. The chaplaincy team, house captains and deputies led us in our prayers, gospel readings and reflections. Children who are members of the guiding and scouting organisations wore their uniforms as a mark of unity.

Thank you to the children for their reverent participation and beautiful singing.

Thank you to the families and parents who were able to join us for this special occasion.



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. To find out more about what OPAL is and how playtimes will begin to change, click the link [here](#).

Thank you to those who have already shared their experiences and opinions, if you have a few minutes, we would appreciate your response to our baseline parents' survey to allow us to see the impact on playtimes as we embark on this journey. The survey can be found [here](#). Thank you.

Getting in touch reminder

For child specific concerns or enquiries, in the first instance, please speak to the class teacher who will be able to help you. A telephone appointment or meeting can be arranged with them either directly or via the office through admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk. Thank you.

Table Tennis

On Wednesday, 8 year 6 pupils represented St Thomas More at a table tennis competition:

The children played fantastic table tennis which resulted in both teams convincingly winning their respective pools and a place in the final to determine the overall winner. However given the final was St Thomas More versus St Thomas More we decided to share the victory for the entire squad.

Congratulations to Benji, Freddie, Henry, Joseph, Max, Raphael, Sid and William and good luck in the County finals later this month.

Thank you to Mr Cartwright and Mr Grant for managing the teams and Miss Addison for your support.



Thank you

We now have beautiful signs lining the main entrance to our school site thanks to Ms Duggan, Mrs Rogers and our children's handiwork during Forest School to remind us to keep to the paths to protect the grass. With the addition of bulbs in the coming weeks, we cannot wait to see the entrance once it is in bloom in the spring.



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. During the 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.

Attendance

Whole school attendance has gone up this week and is at **98%**. Thank you for your support.

Reception	93.68%	Year 4	99.14%
Year 1	96.88%	Year 5	99.54%
Year 2	97.37%	Year 6	99.00%
Year 3	95.69%		

Congratulations to Year 5 who achieved the highest attendance this week closely followed by Years 4 and 6.

Fireworks tickets

As a school, we made £36 from families buying tickets for the fireworks via the school office. Thank you for your support.

STMSA News

The Glow Party last Friday was such fun and we raised £600. Thank you for all the support to make this wonderful event happen!



School Tidy - Sunday 12th November 1-3pm

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!

Christmas Cinema Cinema Clubs - 24th Nov & 1st Dec

The KS2 Cinema Club will take place on Friday 24th and the Reception and KS1 Cinema Club will take place on Friday 1st December. Please pop these dates in your diaries and further details will follow.

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

Spread the word about our wonderful little school and 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.

Wreath Making Evening (adults) - Friday 1st December from 7pm

Join our popular wreath making workshop and create your own fabulous Christmas wreath using the finest seasonal foliage, mosses and berries. Bring friends and family and enjoy a mince pie and a glass of Prosecco on arrival. RSVP by Monday 20th to contactstmsa@gmail.com

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 9th December 2-5pm

Our Christmas Elves are busy planning the fun and full details will follow soon. If you would like to support in the lead up to this fantastic event, or if you could support with the set up on the Friday before, please contact your class rep. Each class will be manning a stall on the day, so watch out for the details about helping out, even 30 min of your time would be hugely appreciated and is crucial to making events like this a success for our children.

Oct 100 Club Winners 1st (£100) Cath Hammond 2nd (£50) Suzanne Furmston 3rd (£25) Clare Trowbridge
If you would like to sign up, please go to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>



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



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.

Community News:

Feast of Christ the King / Youth Sunday – 26th November

Sunday 26th November is the feast of Christ the King and Youth Sunday. Families are warmly invited to join us at the 10am Mass at Sacred Heart church in Berkhamsted to celebrate this joyful occasion.

Celebrate Nativity Event – our parish event with a difference

Saturday 2nd Dec 2:30pm – 5pm at St Thomas More School

Join us for an afternoon of fun activities for all the family: live music, team games, prizes, a feast, mulled wine and a take home party bag! £15 for a family ticket, £7.50 per person available [here](#). See full size poster attached for information.



Prayer at Home

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

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

November

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 – <i>school closed</i>
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 (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
6/12/23	KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome</i>)
8/12/23	Year 2 & KS2 Pantomime Trip
9/12/23	Christmas Fayre (STMSA)
11/12/23	EYFS Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
12/12/23	EYFS Nativity @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome</i>)
13/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
14/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert @ 6pm (<i>families welcome</i>)
18/12/23	School Christmas dinner – <i>children to wear school uniform with a Christmas jumper on top if they wish</i>
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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