



Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we have been thinking about how unique and precious each of us are to God whilst we have been learning during anti-bullying week. We know we are loved by God and he knows each of us. We shared acrostic poems and reminders to 'stand up for one another' and 'remember who we are'.

We have begun rehearsing in earnest for our Nativities and Carol Concert. We cannot wait to share these with you in a few weeks. Please see dates and times at the end of the newsletter for the performances.

Anti-Bullying Week

This week, across the school, children have been learning about anti-bullying with this year's initiative of 'make some noise' to prevent bullying. Miss Gabbitas launched Anti-Bullying week with our assembly on Monday as children across the school were invited to wear odd socks to highlight how each of us are unique and made in the image of God. Throughout the week children have joined in role-plays, worked through scenarios, made posters and written explanations. Thank you Miss Gabbitas for your work in organising this.



Sports Update:

Girls Football vs. Broadfield

St Thomas More 2 - 1 Broadfield

Miss Addison: *The girls put on a fantastic effort in their first match of the season, securing an important win against Broadfield. STM put up a fight against a strong opponent, showing their resilience and fantastic teamwork throughout the match. We are looking forward to our next match on 5th December.*
Scorer - Alice x2

Boys Football vs. Chambersbury

St Thomas More 7 - 3 Chambersbury

Mr Cartwright: *STM produced a very strong attacking display against Chambersbury in their second match of the season. Running out 7-3 winners, the score could have been twice as many but for a brilliant goalkeeping display by the Chambersbury goalkeeper. There were some brilliant individual performances from a number of players in the team. STM should have very confidence going into their final group game against South Hill. Scorers: Max P (x3), Nathaniel, William G, Benji G, Henry C*

Thank you to Miss Addison, Mr Cartwright and Mr Grant for your support of our sports teams.

Referee Needed – Miss Addison is in need of a referee for the girls' team home football match on 5th December. This will take place after school. Please contact Miss Addison or the school office if this something you could help with. Thank you



School Photography – Viewing Cards

Following Pret-a-Portrait's recent visit to take school photographs, a viewing card explaining how you can view and order pictures, will be sent home with pupils.

Please ask your children to give it to you as soon as possible so you have a chance to order any pictures you would like at a discounted price before the Early Bird Deadline 23/11/2023

If for any reason your viewing card doesn't make it to you in the next few days, please contact Pret-a-Portrait directly on 0800 021 7626 or customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net

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 the **7 families** who have 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.

School Tidy Team

A huge thank you to the families who gave up some of their weekend to weed, clear and tidy our school to make it a lovely place to be. They have also planted 100 bulbs up the grass verges in the drive – we cannot wait to see the beautiful flowers once they bloom in spring. Thank you to the Hilsdon, Jaggs, Trowbridge, Kelley, Hammond, Nichol, Hennis, Groom, Furey, Lee, Dempsey, Sharma-Painuli and Moshakis families for their time and effort in caring for our school environment.

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.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **95.60%** this week. Thank you for your support.

Reception	97.05%	Year 4	94.48%
Year 1	91.00%	Year 5	95.19%
Year 2	98.85%	Year 6	96.00%
Year 3	97.58%		

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

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.



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



Prayer at Home

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

STMSA News

Thank you to the following families who gave up time on their weekend to join in our school tidy up on Sunday afternoon: Hilsdon, Jaggs, Hammond, Trowbridge, Hennis, Nichol, Groom, Furey, Lee, Sharma-Painuli, Kelley, Moshakis and Dempsey. We did a clean-up of the PTA cupboard and shed and a general rake / sweep / tidy outdoors to make the walkways less slippery to walk on. We also planted the 100 bulbs donated by Berko council along the driveway and can't wait to see how these turn out in spring!

Christmas dates to remember:

Christmas 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. We still need parent volunteers to make these events possible - please can you let your class rep know if you can help. Without the support of parents events like this cannot take place.

Christmas Fayre Donations - w/c 27th November:

Our Christmas Elves are busy planning the fun, and there are a few things we need from you please to make the day even more successful! Please drop off any of the below donations to the office during that week. Thank you so much!

Items to be donated:

- Hamper items (year specific details to follow on the WhatsApp groups next week)
- Lucky Jars (a jar filled with sweets or bags of sweets)
- Decorations or lights that you no longer need
- Secrets Room (new/unused regifted items for adults)
- Bottle Tombola (from shampoo to whiskey!)
-

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

Last weekend to sign up to our popular wreath making workshop to 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 3-5pm

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 (1:45pm until 7pm) or Saturday morning (9am-2pm), 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.

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

November

24/11/23	Cinema Club (Reception and KS1 – STMSA)
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	Cinema Club (KS2 – STMSA)



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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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