

Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team
Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

KS2 Updates Autumn 2

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge well done to all of our children for a great first half term. It has been great to see everyone back and settling with the routines and new learning over the last few weeks.

A few celebrations to share from the past half term:

-Year 5 have been having their weekly swimming lessons.

-Year 3 and 4 have been having weekly outdoor learning sessions.

-Year 6 have been working hard on creating their books focusing on their own interests.

-All our KS2 children had the opportunity to draw a 'spooky' picture for a competition in our department – winners were announced today.

-Years 5 and 6 attended their Class Masses and were extremely respectful.

-Year 6 played their first football match with a great win!

-Years 3,4,5 and 6 took part in Cross Country and did amazing!



As we move into Autumn 2, I would like to share with you some updates of things we have arranged.

Forest School

As mentioned above, Years 3 and 4 have already been taking part in regular outdoor learning sessions. I am now pleased to inform you that each KS2 class will now have the opportunity to take part in weekly Forest School sessions after half term.

Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and complements the wider context of outdoor and woodland education. It is an inspirational process, which offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment.

During Forest School sessions, children are encouraged to work with others to carry out activities such as den/shelter building, role play, exploration, practical and creative skills and tasks.

Children will be outside in all weather conditions (within reason) so children can come in their own clothes. Please ensure this is appropriate for the outdoors – there is a suggested list below. The sessions will take place on a **Wednesday OR Thursday – please see below:**

Year 3 and 4	Year 5 and 6	Equipment/clothing we suggest:
Thursday	Wednesday	-Outdoor shoes – old trainers/wellies - Warm socks -A warm coat – waterproof -A jumper or fleece -Waterproof over-trousers if possible.

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Homework and Spellings

The standard of homework across KS2 was outstanding. The Stone Age topic homework was fantastic from Year 3 and 4 as well as the range of homework shown from Year 5 and 6 demonstrating their learning around Ancient Greece. A new learning project will be sent after half term. Well done to all the children who are consistently bringing in their Homework Diaries – dojos are awarded with a prize at the end of Autumn term.

All children in KS2 are receiving weekly spelling sessions focusing on our Read, Write, Inc Spelling Scheme.

Year 5 and 6 will be continuing their RWI Spelling Books as their homework.

Year 3 and 4 will begin to have RWI Spelling Books as homework. These books will be sent home after half term and will follow the spelling lessons the children have been having this half term. When the books are sent home, a letter will be included to show how they are used and the sections to fill in.

Bikeability

We wanted to make you aware in advance of the dates arranged for Bikeability this year. Bikeability supports Year 6 children to ride their bikes safely on the road. This year, we have also been offered the opportunity for Years 3 and 4 to have the chance to learn to ride their bikes on the playground. Arrangements will be shared nearer the time but the dates booked are:

Years 3 and 4	Year 6
WB 8th February – 12th February 2027	WB 15th March – 19th March 2027

Pupil Voice

Through our new pupil leadership roles in school, it has been highlighted through pupil voice that a number of our children would like to have comfortable shoes to change out of their school shoes in the classroom. If your child would like to bring in a pair of slippers/crocs to wear **INSIDE** the classroom, they are welcome to do so. This is **not compulsory** but a **choice** for those who would prefer.

Important Dates for Autumn 2:

Wednesday 4th November: Year 5/6 Cross Country

Wednesday 11th November: Remembrance Day

WB 16th November: Maths Week

Tuesday 24th November: KS2 Science Day

Thursday 3rd December: Christmas Pantomime Day

Friday 4th December: Reindeer Run Springhill Hospice

Thursday 10th December: Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Tuesday 15th December: Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party Day

Wednesday 16th December: Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party Day

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

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If you have any questions please contact the school office or email **dhughes@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk**

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Bargh

KS2 Manager