



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

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

5th October 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Years 3 and 4 Outdoor Learning

We recognise that the transition back into school after the summer holidays, along with the transition from Key Stage 1 into Key Stage 2, can be a significant step for children. For some pupils, adjusting to the increased expectations, routines and independence that come with KS2 can take a little longer.

We want to ensure that every child feels confident, supported and ready to learn. With this in mind, we are excited to introduce a new opportunity for our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils.

Weekly Outdoor Learning

From **Thursday 8 October**, each Year 3 and Year 4 class will take part in a **weekly outdoor learning session**.

These sessions will be carefully planned to complement and enrich the learning taking place in the classroom. They will provide pupils with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through practical, hands-on experiences and in a different learning environment.

Outdoor learning can provide many benefits for children. It can help pupils to:

- build confidence and self-esteem;
- develop independence, resilience and problem-solving skills;
- encourage teamwork, communication and positive relationships;
- learn through practical, hands-on experiences;
- support physical activity, health and wellbeing;
- develop a greater connection with and understanding of the natural world;
- apply classroom learning in meaningful, real-life contexts; and
- make learning engaging, memorable and enjoyable.

The sessions will be linked to the **National Curriculum** and to the areas of learning that children are currently studying. Outdoor learning will therefore not be an additional curriculum burden or a reduction in learning time; rather, it will provide another way of delivering, reinforcing and enriching the curriculum.

For example, pupils may have opportunities to develop their understanding of science, geography, mathematics, English, physical education and other curriculum areas through practical activities and real-life experiences.

This approach also supports our commitment to children's **physical and mental wellbeing**. Time spent outdoors, being physically active, working collaboratively and developing positive relationships can contribute to children's confidence, resilience and overall wellbeing. It complements our wider work to ensure that children develop not only academically, but also socially, emotionally and physically.

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

Evesham Road, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

We are particularly excited about the opportunities these sessions will provide for children to **learn, explore, collaborate and challenge** themselves in a supportive environment. We hope that these experiences will help children develop greater confidence in themselves as learners and strengthen the skills they need to thrive throughout Key Stage 2.

What should children wear?

Please can all Year 3 and Year 4 children come to school in **their own clothes every Thursday**, starting on **Thursday 8 October**.

Clothing should be:

- suitable for getting **wet and muddy**;
- comfortable and appropriate for outdoor activities;
- suitable for the weather conditions; and
- accompanied by suitable footwear for outdoor learning.

We would recommend that children bring a waterproof coat and, where appropriate, additional layers. Please also bear in mind that outdoor learning can be messy!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing the children embrace these opportunities and enjoy **learning beyond the classroom**.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bargh and the LKS2 team.

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

Evesham Road, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk